

Purton *Magazine*



Horses in the Frost
Photo: Bob Stimpson

We wish all our readers a Happy New Year!

January 2014

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
<i>(Closed 21 Dec to 22 Feb 2014, otherwise open Weds 2 - 5pm; Sats 10am - 1pm.)</i>		
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	771718
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Maurice Card	770338
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141 or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

<i>Vicar:</i>	<i>Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Priest-in-charge), tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031) email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Curate:</i>	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Wardens:</i>	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
<i>Administrator:</i>	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Web site:</i>	<i>www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	See Diary Page in this magazine	

METHODIST CHURCHES

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev David Perkins tel 853197 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine BRAYDON Sundays 6.00 pm Evening Worship</i>	

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT		
<i>Parish Deacon</i>	<i>Reverend Terry Aspell tel 325681 Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>Holy Days 7.30 pm Sundays 10.30 am Mass For times of weekday services please see Church notice board</i>	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

<i>Priest</i>	<i>Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586 St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade</i>	
<i>Holy Days</i>	<i>7.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Sundays 9.30 am Mass</i>

From The Editors

As we enter 2014 we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the start of the 1st World War. How many of us have looked at the horribly long list of names on the Cenotaph in the High Street and wondered about the circumstances behind that roll call? In this issue you will find news of events marking that centenary.

On 20 January, the [Historical Society](#) is holding a meeting at the Red House for all those individuals and organisations interested in being involved in their plans for the commemoration – all are welcome to attend.

A few days later, their monthly meeting will have Bob Lloyd speaking on “Purton & the Great War”. Bob has already produced 2 very detailed books on this local subject and his talk promises to be an insight into this period of our history. Non-members are welcome to attend ... but note their new permanent venue is the Village Hall.

Rick Dixon's series on the [Great War](#) this month shows how it very nearly started in 1906 ... and again in 1911.

This new year also marks 10 years since Purton Magazine was first published in its current form. To mark this we have started a series looking back at articles and issues raised in the Magazine “10 Years Ago”. The first of these is on [page 21](#).

New Year resolutions are in the air! If you are desperate to give up smoking, there is advice and help available from Purton Surgery on [page 10](#). There's also help and advice available for carers both from Wiltshire Good Neighbours and Carer Support Wiltshire. See their articles on [page 16](#).

Good news comes in the form of St Mary's School's accreditation of Bookstart Reading for Pleasure. They have also worked hard in fund raising for worthy charities. We congratulate them for all this. Have you ever considered becoming a school governor? Details on [page 10](#).

Purton Museum has been re-accredited with the Arts Council and thanks are due to a team of volunteers who have steered the museum to this standard as well as those who fought the mountain of paperwork required for the accreditation. Such a good local museum must be worth a visit when it reopens in February. We'll keep you posted.

We wish all our readers, contributors, distributors and advertisers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

12

watercolours graced the relaunched Magazine's front covers in 2004
– see [page 21](#)

£7008.05

raised in Purton for the Royal British Legion 2013 Poppy Appeal
– see [page 26](#)

90,332

miles covered on foot by Purton preacher George Fowler
– see [page 31](#)

CONTENTS

[10 Years On](#)
[After 8](#)
[Age Concern](#)
[Bowls Club](#)
[Bradon Forest School News](#)
[Breast Cancer Care](#)
[Carer Support Wiltshire](#)
[Carnival News](#)
[Church Floodlighting](#)
[Coffee & Chat](#)
[Cricket Club](#)
[Cricklade Country Market](#)
[Darts League](#)
[Diary Pages](#)
[Elizabeth Ward MBE](#)
[Evening WI](#)
[Football Club](#)
[Gardeners' Guild](#)
[Great War Project](#)
[Guide Dogs](#)
[Historical Society](#)
[Jump for Justice](#)
[Library Hours](#)
[Mr Derek Giles](#)

[Obituary Contacts](#)
[On the Lighter Side](#)
[PADS](#)
[Parish Council News](#)
[Ploughboy Preacher](#)
[Poppy Appeal](#)
[Prayer for Purton](#)
[Purton Medical Practice](#)
[Purton Methodist Church](#)
[Purton Museum](#)
[Purton Placard](#)
[Purton Postbag - Letters](#)
[Purton Probus Club](#)
[Purton Profferings](#)
[Purton United Charities](#)
[Rainbows, Brownies & Guides](#)
[St Mary's School](#)
[Tae Kwon Do](#)
[Tennis Club](#)
[Transforming Purton](#)
[We Record](#)
[Wiltshire Good Neighbours](#)
[WW1 Centenary](#)
[Your magazine Delivered Free!](#)

The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' written in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

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Magazine Committee

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[John Creasey](#)

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News

The Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a Happy New Year.



Telephone Box at Purton Institute (outside the Library):

From Alexander Graham Bell to the World Wide Web

Is there a place for the humble phone box in a modern world?

All over the UK you can see them in a sorry state – neglected, vandalised, and almost forgotten; an international icon that seems to have no place in the modern world, a relic of Alexander Graham Bell. The humble red telephone box.

However Purton is going to buck this trend through the cooperation of the Parish Council and local data communications company Lde Digital Services who are based in Braydon. The phone box has been transformed into a 21st century communications platform which we hope will become a valuable asset to the community.

- You can still make phone calls from it (which, as it is sponsored by Lde, are free within reason) but it does much more:
- It will provide passersby with high speed WiFi Internet access;
- The phone box will send your mobile phone a message welcoming you to the village;
- Need a map of the village? An information screen in the phone box provides this and much more information on the locality;
- A village webcam in the phone box gives the world a little window on to the centre the village, (through the Internet of course!)

The Parish Council's Chairman Cllr Ray Thomas said, "It was clear that BT had no interest in the phone box and it was deteriorating rapidly. The Parish Council considered its adoption from BT but we could not find a suitable use for it; a book swap or art gallery were not suitable for a listed phone box. We were then approached by Lde with this very interesting proposition."

Ben Wildeboer from Lde added, "In its time the traditional red telephone box was a leading edge communications platform, and throughout the 20th century was gradually updated as technology improved. However, with the advent of mobile phones and the Internet, it was clear to us that the role of the red phone box had to change significantly and we feel strongly that it should retain its designated role as a communications facility."

The phone box has now been completely restored back to its former glory with a fresh red paint job, new windows and new floor, for its new role in the community.

Something that has traditionally plagued phone boxes all around the country is antisocial behaviour; especially vandalism. We are not overly concerned about this because this phone box can "bite back". If anybody takes liberties it will use its cameras and phone line to quickly summon assistance. "This is a phone box not to be messed around with".

All in all this is a phone box fit for the modern age – come and see it, better still come and use it; its post code is SN5 4AA.

A grand opening is being planned for 17 January at 1.15pm when James Gray

MP will be present to carry out the official opening. All are welcome to attend.

For further information contact:

- Purton Parish Council – Tel: 01793 771066, Email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk
Web: www.purtonparishcouncil.co.uk
- Lde Digital Services – Tel: 01666 800800, Email: info@lde.co.uk Web: www.lde.co.uk

Planning Matters:

Widham Farm Planning Appeal – the Parish Council is pleased to inform you that the Planning Appeal for up to 50 dwellings, access and associated works at the Widham Farm site has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

Kempsters Court Planning Appeal for the conversion of Barn/Cart Shed to Dwelling has also been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

The following planning applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

N13/02997/FUL & N13/02999/LBC 27 High Street, Demolition of coal store, external WC and store to rear of house and erection of a single storey rear extension. Conversion of existing coach house into ancillary accommodation and improvement to vehicular access.

N13/04032/FUL 15 The Fox, First floor rear extension and change from flat roof to pitched roof.

N13/02380/FUL Bray Farm, Stoke Common Lane, Retain temporary dwelling as permanent dwelling (Resubmission of N12/03478/FUL)

N13/04323/FUL Mill Farm, The Fox, Rear extension.

N13/01865/TCA Holly Lodge, 4 Church Street, Fell one eucalyptus tree and crown lift two beech trees to 8 metres.

N13/02552/FUL & N13/02788/LBC 4 Church End, Re-roof property and repairs to chimney.

N13/01141/REM Ridgeway Farm, Construction of Phase 1 Primary Infrastructure including Roads, Drainage and Structure Landscaping (Reserve matters to N10/04575/OUT.

N13/01615/REM Ridgeway Farm, Reserved matters application for first Residential phase of Development including the Erection of 218 Dwellings, with associated Access, Car Parking and External Works including Open Space, Landscaping and Associated Site Development.

The following planning applications have been refused by Wiltshire Council:

N13/04340/FUL 1 Station Road, New doorway to south elevation and provision of 2 new parking spaces and bin storage area.

N13/03578/FUL 15 Thompson Court, Resiting of garden fence to boundary line

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council's letter box is on the wall adjacent to the side door (entrance door to the Parish Council offices) to the rear of the Library/Institute.

On our new web site you can join up to receive regular updates and newsletters which will keep you informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site we currently have over 80 people signed up and we have been getting some very good feedback. Go to www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Purton United Charities

The distribution of the charity funds will be made on
Saturday 25 January 2014 at Purton Village Hall
Between 2 pm and 3 pm

Qualifications to receive the Charity are:

1. Only one payment per household.
2. In the case of a married couple this will be paid to the husband providing he is of retirement age.
3. Widows and single women providing they are of retirement age and are unable to work. (Evidence of inability to work must be supplied)
4. Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year to qualify.

If you are unable to attend on the day due to illness or disability only, you may apply in writing by no later than 20 January 2014 to:-

- Christopher New, 52 Byron Avenue, Wootton Bassett SN4 8HA or
- Neil Miles, 5 College Road Purton Swindon SN5 4AR
- Or any other Trustee.

*CHRISTOPHER NEW,
Secretary: Purton United Charities*

Breast Cancer Care Charity Fashion Show

A fashion show where brand new clothes from the High Street are modelled and sold at bargain prices. Purchases can be taken home the same night!

At Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall

Monday 17 March 2014

Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start

Tickets £5 each

Please call Kirsty on 770094 to order tickets.

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 24 January from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Purton & District Age Concern



Sadly we have lost one of the village's most treasured assets and the President of Purton and District Age Concern – of course I am talking about Miss Elizabeth Ward MBE. Having a president such as Elizabeth was an inspiration and she certainly led by example and was loved by us all. She was someone who was unique and irreplaceable and our thoughts are with her family and friends who were so many. The loss of Elizabeth will leave a big gap in their lives and also in our village. She was our street warden in Braydon for many years as well as being our president and also a very active supporter of our organisation. Time is short this month but I would like to give you some of my reflections in next month's magazine although, quite honestly, there does not seem to be the words to describe such a lady as Miss Elizabeth.

We have certainly had an early Christmas present in the form of two cheques, one for our general fund of £840 and another for £840 for our minibus fund. I only hope we can use this money to help people like the Purton Medical Aids did. The Purton Medical Aids are finishing basically because few people require this help that is needed on a temporary measure. It comes through the NHS now and, of course, you have all the health and safety rules to contend with. We have two stalwarts of this organisation to thank for this kind donation – Mrs Glenis Hill and Mrs Lucy Webb, so many thanks ladies for thinking of us, along with the Silver Threads but more importantly the help you have given people over the last fifty years with the service you have provided.

Another thank-you that seems to be quite a regular occurrence – that is the gentleman who gives Sheila a donation and always says 'give it to him indoors, he knows what to do with it'. Well, I had a nice meal at the Pear Tree Hotel (just a little joke!). Seriously though we did have a nice lunch at the Pear Tree but not with his money! Then we had another nice cash donation put through the door thanking us all for what we do with no name on it, so many thanks to this kind person.

Could I thank all the kind people who donated raffle prizes, also money to buy raffle prizes, sold the tickets and, of course, bought them, for our Christmas Draw. It will certainly be another excellent draw as you will be able to see lists of the prize winners around the village in various shops and notice boards.

Our first party at the Silver Threads went very well for the less able and their carers – the entertainment and the tea were excellent. What was very pleasing was seeing Cyril Walters there – he is now at Ashgrove House and we made him our guest of honour. Cyril, and his wife Jackie, have done so much for us over the years, which we greatly appreciate. Following on from that we had our other party in the Village Hall which seems to have been enjoyed by the reports we have received. We had the same entertainment and the principle guests here were our minibus personnel, who do such an excellent job for us. The food was very enjoyable, so our thanks go to all concerned for making it all possible. There are lots of people, too many to mention – you are all so kind. Thank you.

Do not forget our carols on Christmas Eve outside the Institute with the Purton Band at 7 pm with hot punch and mince pies during a short break. This is a little

thank-you to the village for the way you support us through the year. Please do join us – it is all free – there's not even a collection.

We had a delightful warm up for these carols at the concert by the Sing 4/4 Community Choir at Cricklade Town Hall. It was some concert and we were able to sample the music not only by the choir and their guest artist Erin Hughes but the Purton Hand Bell Ringers – what a lovely Christmas sound, very appropriate to go with the carols. It certainly put everyone in the festive spirit. The final carol with Erin Hughes – the choir was brilliant especially as this one was unrehearsed and what about the Carollers' Brass who put the icing on the cake – they were under the baton of Graham New and, of course, these same Carollers' Brass will be the ones playing under the tree on Christmas Eve. The concert was all put together by that talented lady Mary New. What foresight Mary had to form a community choir like this, bringing people together who love singing. It is not only the singing but the friendship and comradeship it brings. So thank you Mary and all concerned for such an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

We sincerely hope you have treated yourself to something special for Christmas with your Christmas voucher. We will be celebrating fifty years next February – that is why we increased them this time as a little token of our appreciation for all the support you and others give us so please enjoy it. A special mention to that great part of Age Concern – our street wardens – who have delivered everything for us. Do not forget to keep your newsletter with your street warden's contact details at the top, plus you have all the dates of our events. It is no good saying you do not know what is on when you have this newsletter so many thanks to our street wardens.

Do not forget our first fundraising event after Christmas – the Burns Night on Saturday 25 January 2014 at the Village Hall. This is a lovely evening where the haggis is played in by the bagpipes and addressed in gaelic before being toasted with a 'wee dram' and played out and cut up for all to have a piece with 'neeps and tatties'. The meal begins with soup and ends with a sweet and is followed by the ceilidh – all this for £20 and, of course, there is a licensed bar. If you would like a ticket, please contact Ron and Heather Harris on 770850. It is quite easy to see why it is usually a sell-out – such good value for money and it is a lovely way to start the new year.

I am sorry to have to give you this warning just before Christmas but there are con men about so be careful. You know where we are so, if in doubt, give us a shout. If strangers call on you ask them to come back when you have someone with you – genuine callers will not mind that and remember, don't answer the door without putting your door chain on first.

Doesn't the Christmas tree look lovely outside the Institute – quite a few people are saying it is the best yet and we have had a tree there for thirty years. We have Robin Gough to thank for the tree and Mr and Mrs Orr Ewing to thank for the new lights we have on it this year. I am almost certain they have been sponsoring the tree or additions to it for the thirty years, in fact if we didn't need anything they would say 'put the sponsorship in the general fund'. We are indeed grateful for their continued kindness.

As I have said, Christmas certainly came early for us as the Purton Artists gave

us a very generous cheque after their exhibition for our minibus fund. I think it was one of the best exhibitions they have had as there seemed to be such a varied selection and all to such a high standard. The talent of these people is amazing – you can see how people improve over the years, reaching the high standard achieved today.

I would like to end by thanking all the people who run the Magazine and do such a good job for us all and wish them and everyone a peaceful and healthy new year.

TONY PRICE

Purton Medical Practice

“2014 Was The Year I Gave Up Smoking”

Could this be you?

- Fact – 10 million people in the UK are addicted to nicotine;
- Fact – 1 in 2 smokers will die prematurely from their addiction.

Do you know that stopping smoking is the best thing you can do for your health? Have you ever thought of stopping or tried to stop before?

LET PURTON MEDICAL PRACTICE HELP YOU THIS NEW YEAR

You are up to 4 times more likely to stop with the support from this service.

Phone for your appointment with our stop smoking advisor today.

Purton - 770207 Green Gable (Branch Surgery) - 752633

St Mary's School

St Mary's School is delighted to be able to announce that it is one of only 13 Wiltshire schools to have been awarded the first ever Booktrust 'Reading for Pleasure' Schools' accreditation. Over the past year Booktrust has been collaborating with Wiltshire Council Schools on a pilot project to promote *Reading for Pleasure* in 30 of the county's primary schools. The achievement of this award is down to the dedication and hard work of Mrs Southern and the Literacy Team, who have helped ensure that the joy of reading continues to be embraced by the whole school. Well done everyone and keep reading!

At St Mary's we are so lucky to have the help and support of parents and children in many different fund raising activities. Since September you have donated £198.03 to Children in Need, enough food for over 200 meals to the Swindon Food Bank, £78.03 to the Poppy Appeal, and £500 worth of Book Fair books to the school library. The volume of donations to the Philippines Hurricane Appeal was so great it required 2 collections! Your generosity to all these different organisations is greatly appreciated.

The Governing Body at St Mary's comprises a maximum of 17 governors who are drawn from parents, staff and the local community to assist in the running of the school. Their job is to provide support, advice and challenge to the Head Teacher and the team in all areas of the school, and regularly review the school's academic performance, monitor the budget and consider staffing, curriculum and facilities issues. If you would like to find out more about what being a School Governor could involve please contact the School Office at St Mary's.

Elizabeth Ward MBE

Founder of the Purton and District Luncheon Club

A minute's silence was held on 28 November at the Purton and District Luncheon Club when members grieved to hear the news of the death that morning of their founder and long term chairman, Elizabeth Ward MBE. She and a like-minded friend founded the club in the 1950s, with the aim of providing hot meals and a warm, friendly meeting place for local pensioners twice a week. In recent decades the number of meals served each year rose to well over four thousand. The club meets in the Silver Threads Hall, itself a 1970s replacement for an earlier wooden structure on the same site. Until the 1990s, as well as providing meals at the hall for those who could walk there, the club also sent out meals on wheels to people with mobility problems. At present four kitchen teams of volunteers work a fortnightly rota, under the able command of Pat Suddaby while the Purton Minibuses of Age Concern, with Maurice Card as transport organizer take the non-driving members. All this activity resulted originally from the single-minded determination and energy of Elizabeth Ward, whose eagle-eyed keenness in spotting a possible volunteer or member, and ruthless insistence in accepting no excuses until the person yielded helplessly was well-known.

I would like to share the following scene with readers who may have not witnessed Elizabeth's activities at the Luncheon Club: an ordered calm prevails in the Silver Threads Hall as members arrive and remove their coats; four or five volunteers work methodically in the narrow spaces the kitchen affords. Suddenly there is a flurry of movement and noise at the door and a small whirlwind erupts into the hall, flinging items such as dishes of apple sauce onto various tables while greeting members in a husky stentorian bellow that in earlier years would ring out across a local hunting field.

Elizabeth, for of course this is she, then rushes into the kitchen to disrupt all the focused concentration by hurling a large bunch of flowers from her garden onto a table previously cleaned for food serving, then hinders everyone's work by burrowing into cupboards for vases, scattering leaves haphazardly, but absolutely determined that each table should be dignified by the presence of flowers for the mid-day meal. Having created mayhem in the kitchen with the best of intentions, she would then go round each table, greeting all the members by name, remembering parents and grandparents, then enquiring warmly as to recent events in their lives. Her infectious high spirits, exhilarating sense of fun and lively interest in promoting the welfare of everyone she met will be so much missed.

DIANA THOMBS, Luncheon Club Committee

Elizabeth Ward

Elizabeth belonged to a book club that straddled Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. She joined in its early days many years ago and always took a keen interest in the books that were proposed. She was very perceptive and was quick to evaluate the worth of a writer. With an excellent sense of history at home and abroad she could always see the wider picture and because of her travels could bring many insights into what was under discussion.



Most of all she brought a sense of reality to the session. She could be airily dismissive ... 'this is absolute rubbish, I was tempted to throw it on the fire' ... and was pretty scornful of what she perceived to be a modern trend towards gratuitous violence and the overuse of 'bad' language. Most of all she was fun to have in the group and will be sadly missed.

CAROLINE McLEAN

Elizabeth Ward

Elizabeth, or Miss Ward, was a lady of many facets and has left a big gap in Purton life, especially Silver Threads. Following in her mother's footsteps, she has guided us for over 40 years and has given great joy, hosting parties at Red Lodge. She was also very proud of the Choir.

Elizabeth was a very independent and caring person and will be missed ... but she will be watching over us all.

God bless.

PAULINE WARD, *Secretary, Silver Threads*

Mr Derek Giles

Sadly we have lost a good friend in Derek Giles. I have learnt something – Derek was not a true Purtonian. I always thought he was so the tie I have that says 'Once I thought I was wrong but I was mistaken' goes to the next Age Concern jumble sale in February. Derek was born in Malmesbury but the family moved to Purton to a house in Blacklands, Pavenhill, after about four months so I wasn't far out. He was the eldest of six children – his mother and father were Dorothy and Arthur Giles and, when they came to Purton, Arthur, who was a butcher, took the butcher's shop opposite the Angel. Did he take over from butcher Osbourne? Arthur was a lively character, full of fun but none the less a good butcher. Derek never wanted to follow in his footsteps – butchery did not interest him – but Derek certainly had his father's character.

It is nice to know that, when they were children up in Pavenhill, they all loved to go across the fields, girls and boys all together. They would be away all day and parents didn't worry as there was no need to. We were so lucky in those days. Perhaps we didn't have so many material things but we had freedom. I wonder if, when they were away all day, they had refreshment from Goosegog Drink and I wonder if it is still there. I know when I lived at the Peak our watering hole was a spring in the moor and it was crystal clear. It is now all overgrown – sorry Derek I am wandering.

I would presume that Mr Lloyd was headmaster at St Marys when Derek was at school. However, he spent quite a bit of time away from school due to the poorly health of his mother so the children spent a lot of their childhood with their grandmother in Kent, which they loved, but it wasn't all play and no work as they had to go hop picking. Strangely enough they loved it, well as I have said, they loved Kent and gran would make a fuss of them.

Derek was interested in steam trains – would that be when he was down in Kent as I know, in those days, he would stand on a railway bridge watching all the trains,

getting smuts in his eyes and smelling of smoke. There was one special train for Derek and that was the Golden Arrow boat train to Dover. When you got to Dover they would shunt the carriages onto the boat and away to France they would go.

Grampy Giles used to tell the children stories with such enthusiasm that they did not know whether they were true or not. Talking of Grampy Giles, his claim to fame was that he used to blow the old GWR hooter. I wonder if that encouraged Derek to go 'inside'. He was only in there a few months before he left to join the Merchant Navy, or should I say he went to a Sea School in Sharpness and, when he had finished, he went to sea and was mainly assigned to oil tankers. During his seven years in the Merchant Navy he travelled all over the world – Australia was his favourite place I believe.

Derek loved cats and one day the sailors went ashore in Singapore for a few days. He noticed this cat that appeared to be a stray and so, loving cats, he put it in his tunic to take it back to the ship. All was fine until he fell into the sea out of the little rowing boat he was going back to his ship in (how did he come to fall in?). Anyway the cat went berserk and scratched Derek – his chest was red raw and bleeding but he kept the cat and they became great friends.

When Derek came home on leave to Blacklands in Pavenhill there was a new neighbour because Sheila Selwood was now Mrs Phillips and, along with John, was living in Blacklands. John and Derek soon became friends, inasmuch that Derek would give John a hand in decorating sometimes when he was home. John, I believe, taught Derek to drive, which was good because, when he left the Merchant Navy, he drove for BRS. His work usually involved driving for Marks and Spencers and Wises. Am I right in thinking that Wises made the cakes for Marks, then Marks dropped them, consequently closing Wises? Derek took early retirement and continued to work with John on the decorating.

Derek's family was the most important thing in his life and Derek and Janice knew each other from school. Janice always wanted to go up the village shopping with her mother and, of course, to get the meat in Butcher Giles shop – he, as I've said before was Derek's father. Derek would be in the shop making the sausages and there was a bit of leg pull. They started going out together – I think we've found out why Janice always wanted to go shopping – perhaps it was a little flame from school days! They were married in 1959 at St Mary's Church, with the reception after at the Red House – always a popular venue when they had the big room over the top. Derek and Janice went on to spend fifty-four happy years together with their family – Mike, Alan and Debbie and their partners and, of course, their beloved grandchildren.

It does not matter who you speak to, everyone always comes up with the same answer – how kind and helpful Derek was, like when decorating for someone he would always do any other little jobs that needed doing or advising them. He called on a lady to do some decorating and the lady said her gardener had been taken ill and would not be coming back. Derek said 'Don't worry – I'll sort something out' and within two days he was back with a man. After a chat the man started work on this lady's garden and has been there ten years. His workmanship, expertise and finish were first class and he was someone it was a pleasure to have doing work for you.

It was not all work and no play – Derek enjoyed family holidays, especially those

spent with John and Pat Vincent. What the children loved was for Derek to dig a deep hole in the sand, and I say deep because Derek would get in there and you would have a job to see him. This was one of the first things he had to do when they arrived. I don't know whether they threw water over him or covered him with sand – Derek being tolerant like he was would not worry what it was. You can imagine the fun they all had with laughter all the way. I think it was Derek carrying Lee (John and Pat's son) on his shoulders and walking along a cliff edge with quite a drop. Lee, who was three, said 'If you drop me I will squeal like a badger' ... well they all nearly fell off the cliff laughing.

What about the time Derek, Janice, John and Pat went out for a ride in Derek's first car to the Horse and Jockey at Ashton Keynes. On the way back the car ran out of petrol just by Gospel Oak. However Derek knew where to go to chat up a farmer to let him have some petrol but it was a long time before he was allowed to forget what happened, especially with him being a lorry driver. The two families' friendship carried on for the rest of their lives. In fact, Derek and Janice made it their business to call on Pat every Saturday after John had died, but there you are, they are all such kind and caring people.

Derek was a true family man and loved nothing more than to watch his two grandsons Kevin and Martin play football. He would go to see them in all winds and weathers, secretly hoping they would be another Steven Gerard – his favourite player. Let's face it, there are not many better, sincere players than he is. In saying who Derek's favourite player is, he has a signed photo of him which he received when the family took him to see Liverpool (his favourite team) play as a birthday treat. I bet he enjoyed that, still Derek was the type of person who would appreciate anything whether in the atmosphere of Anfield or the peacefulness of the High Hills.

His favourite pub was the Royal George and who could blame him for that with the likes of John Phillips, Harry May, Colin Bastin, Phil Little, John Vincent, Reg Roberts and George Driscoll and, of course, there were the older characters there as well. It was a real local pub and it would appear that the new landlord and landlady there now are trying to bring this atmosphere back. We wish them well on achieving this.

When away on holiday Derek would always make a point of going in to the RNLI shop and would buy something or just give a donation. It was the same when he saw anybody collecting for them. Would his appreciation of them stem back to when he was in the Merchant Navy, or maybe he had experience of action or the fact that they were always there for him if needed – I don't know.

Derek was a lovely person, full of fun and humour – in fact he could never tell a joke as he would never get to the punch line because he would be laughing too much. I spoke earlier about the cat he took on board ship well his love of cats continued – in recent years he had one who would sit on his lap while Derek read one of his favourite books which would either be on war, railways or history. He would never move the cat out of his chair and Janice is carrying on the same as a mark of respect for Derek.

Derek was a perfectionist in all the work he did, a hard-working man enjoying life, especially his family and to the family, friends and neighbours we offer our deepest sympathy and thank them for money in lieu of flowers coming to Age Concern.

My parting shot to Derek, something I am sure he would enjoy but would not be able to get the punch line out for laughing – ‘What do you give a man who has everything? Antibiotics! Goodbye Derek you will be so much missed but you are leaving lovely memories behind.

TONY PRICE

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always happy to include obituaries. If you wish to have us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it via the contacts on [page 4](#) of the Magazine.

We Record ...

Funerals:

29 November Frances Mary Verity at *St Mary's Church*

Deaths:

28 November Elizabeth Anne Ward (88)

To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on [page 4](#). We are happy to include births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays and anniversaries, exam successes ...



After 8

Our meeting in November was hosted and organised by Barbara Gosden. The subject was Art Appreciation or Interpretation. Barbara focussed on modern art and explored the questions that many of us ask ourselves when looking at this type of work “What is it?”, “Why has it been done?” and “What message does it have?”.



She took us through Impressionism, which is easy to look at now but caused much concern when first introduced in about 1870, Pointillism, Symbolism, Cubism, Expressionism, Futurism, Neo-Plasticism, Surrealism, Primitivism, Modernism through to Pop and Op Art in the late twentieth century. We never knew that there were so many types of modern art!

We looked at works by Manet, Munch, Cezanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Braque, Balla, Mondrian, Ernst, Picasso, Bacon and Burra to name a few. We looked at length at their pictures, often from many angles and most, when discussed became at least a little more discernible and understandable!

It appears that the invention of photography which recorded accurate ‘real’ images allowed artists to explore deeper meanings and representations, often influenced by personal turmoil or national strife.

It was a fascinating session, opening our eyes to an area previously which had puzzled many! If nothing else, the group felt that they would not dismiss so called modern art quite as quickly as they may have done in the past. Many thanks to Barbara for an informative and very interesting meeting.

Our January meeting is Jan's New Year Quiz on Tuesday 21 January at Jan Walker's house.

CHRISTINE GILL

Wiltshire Good Neighbours



DO YOU **LOOK AFTER** SOMEBODY?

- Do you help someone to wash or dress?
- Do you help someone to move about?
- Do you help someone take their medicine?
- Do you help with shopping, laundry, cleaning or cooking?
- Do you help with managing money and finances?

If any of the above apply...

WE CAN HELP TO **LOOK AFTER** YOU TOO!

Ask me about:

- Needs Assessments and Carers Assessments
- Prescription breaks- £50 for you to spend on yourself!
- Carers Emergency card and the Wiltshire Passport
- Carers Allowance
- Carers Support
- Free complimentary therapies for carers

For more information please call for a free and confidential chat.

If you think we can help you to find the services you need then give us a call on 07557 110414 or e-mail rwbrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk

Help & Support for People who Care



According to the last census, there are 47,608 people in Wiltshire providing care and support to a relative, child, partner or friend who would not be able to manage on their own.

There are many reasons why someone may not be able to cope unaided including physical or mental disability, old age, long-term illness, special educational need, eating disorder or a problem with drugs or alcohol.

It is estimated that 3 in 5 people will become a carer at some point in their lives. The problem is that most people will not identify themselves as such – people simply consider themselves as a spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent or friend doing what they would be doing anyway. Many also confuse the word 'carer' with those providing paid care work in a residential home or domiciliary agency capacity.

Carer Support Wiltshire is a charity with a team of support workers who can provide information and support to carers living in Wiltshire, at the other end of the telephone, or face to face, along with accessing to counselling and advice relating to your role. All of our services are free and confidential for anyone aged 18 and over and we can offer you the chance to have a break through social cafés, days out, activities, craft groups and complementary therapies.

To find out more about us, or to register for some support, please visit our website www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk, email info@carersinwiltshire.co.uk or freephone 0800 181 4118 (01380 871690 from a mobile).

Something to Think About

Happiness is pleasure without repentance

Leo Tolstoy

Purton & District Probus Club

At our first meeting in November, David Seviour, a well-travelled local resident, gave a very interesting talk, "An Alphabet of British Churches" illustrated by photographs and including novel facts and figures about each place of worship. When the speaker claimed that a stained glass portrayal of an angel with bagpipes, in a certain church in Oxford, is unique in Britain, a knowledgeable visitor challenged with advice that there is an angel with bagpipes, on stained glass, in the Lady Chapel of our own St Mary's Church. It was an amusing and light-hearted moment enjoyed by everyone present.

Our second meeting was addressed by Tom Colb, a Probus member from Cirencester, who spoke on Thomas Huxley and parallel advances in 19th century Science, from horse drawn vehicles to powered flight. Thomas Huxley (1825-1895) became known as "Darwin's bulldog". He was self-taught; at 15 years he gained a medical apprenticeship at Charing Cross hospital. At 21 years he signed on from Portsmouth as Assistant Surgeon aboard HMS Rattlesnake on its voyage around the South Seas. His observations of sea creatures, including jellyfish, endorsed his belief in Darwin and gained him a Fellowship of the Royal Society. Altogether a riveting lecture!

Probus Clubs are directed at retired persons for interest and social exchange. Visitors and new members are always welcome. We meet at the Purton Red House lounge at 10 am every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the calendar month.

New year's programme – Jan 14 "Treasures of the Saxons" by John Clark.

Jan 28 "Walking the Thames path" by Bill King.

Our meetings cover a broad range; Travel, Art, History, Literature and Business. Please come along and further your interests.

R.J.STEVENS

Carnival

Happy new year to you all.

Now that the "Official" Christmas has been and gone, it's time to start thinking about "Carnival Christmas". 'Oh no!' I hear you cry!

Fear not as this time ... No Christmas Cards to write, no presents to buy, no Christmas dinner to cook nor Brussels sprouts to eat. Keep your decorations handy and get your money's worth by putting them up again between 21-28 June.

Why not enter a float? Talk to your friends and family. Need a lorry? Get in contact with Purton Carnival as every year we have generous community-minded companies and individuals that pledge the use of their vehicles.

We hope you have your FREE 2014 Purton Planner! If not please contact Purton Carnival for locations where you can pick up a copy.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation of the carnival or would like to pledge help with an event or marshalling then please get in contact.

We had a wonderful turnout of floats in 2013 – can we do even better for 2014?

Contact Kevin@PurtonCarnival.co.uk

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



F, G and H have been ticked off by the Rainbows on their alphabet-themed programme. For 'F' the Rainbows made flower cards, 'G' was a meeting of games chosen by the girls and for 'H' they used their heads to play a memory game and made crowns ready for their Christmas party. Amongst all this they have also welcomed Courtney to the unit and held a promise ceremony for Ellie and Eavie.

Being involved in the community plays an important part in our programme and there's been much evidence of this during the month. The Rainbows arranged flowers for the parade service at the Methodist Church. 2nd Purton Brownies went carol singing at Ashgrove House and made Christmas cards both for Lunch Club and for Ashgrove House residents. 1st Purton Brownies paid their Christmas visit to the residents of Hooks Hill taking gifts and cards and enjoying an evening of festive quizzes and singing. The eldest girls from 1st Purton Brownies also helped at St Mary's Church Christmas bazaar.

Preparations for Christmas featured in all unit programmes; crafts included Christmas trees, decorations, nativity scenes and reindeer bags.

In the Guide unit, Rosie and Sarah have started working on the Baden-Powell Challenge, the highest award a Guide can achieve, and so organised a co-operative games evening in the dark. The Guides also went on a night hike (via the chip shop!) and held an evening of celebrations for St Andrew's Day (re-arranged from Burns Night which had been cancelled due to snow in January!). Some girls had a weekend at Oxenwood residential centre with Guides from Royal Wootton Bassett and Lyneham. The weekend included a night hike, scavenger hunt and science-based activities including exploding volcanoes, launching rockets and solving a murder!

The two Brownie units had a very exciting event in November when they stayed overnight at Boomerang Soft Play Centre in Melksham. They had exclusive use of the centre and had a whale of a time, with a late night supper and play session. They slept really well (having worn themselves out!) and managed to fit in breakfast and more play before parents collected them the next morning.

The Brownies are also looking forward to 2014 when we will be celebrating 100 years of Brownies with The Big Brownie Birthday. Both units have been looking at The Big Brownie Birthday Challenge pack and the girls have been discussing what activities they would like to complete to gain their challenge badges. You will be hearing plenty about The Big Brownie Birthday and special events during the course of 2014. It will be an exciting time to be a Brownie.

1st Purton Brownies are delighted to welcome Juliet Coleman as a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer. Juliet is helping with the unit as the service part of her Gold award.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

PURTON POSTBAG

The Editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However those details may be withheld from being published if so requested.



■ FRANCES VERITY

Jean and the family of Frances Verity would like to thank all her friends for their cards and expressions of sympathy following her death. Special thanks to Judith Wells, Frank the organist, the British Legion and the WI Choir and to everyone who attended the cremation and service at St Mary's to celebrate her life. The family would also like to thank all those who made a donation to Silver Threads in memory of Frances.

Sue Hudson (Frances' Great Niece)

■ BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

Just to follow up last month's article on *Education in Purton*, I would like to clarify a couple of points about the school over the next few years on behalf of the Governing Body. Firstly, the school will not be moving to the Ridgeway Farm site. However we are aware that there will be a Primary School there, and there is a possible project for a school in the Tadpole Lane development. However, Bradon Forest is not involved with either of those directly.

Secondly we do not have any plans to significantly increase our intake. Governors are of the view that the school is comfortable with a population

at around the current level even though the "official" capacity is somewhat higher. In any case we do not have so much control over the school roll since it is largely up to parents where they choose for their children. So, if parents from new housing developments in the parish choose Bradon Forest, this does not necessarily mean that the overall number of students at the school will increase by the same amount.

Incidentally Swindon Borough Council recently held a consultation on secondary school capacity in their area and concluded there will be a significant shortage of spaces in coming years. One aspect they will need to consider is how many parents living in the Swindon area choose Bradon Forest and how they take account of this.

Lastly, the new developments do mean that some additional funds may be available to spend on the school's buildings. One thing that the school really needs is a new sports hall and we are currently considering some options in this respect. Other than that we do not have big expansion plans at present.

Will Webster

*Chair of Governors
Bradon Forest School*

Purton Profferings - *Recycle your unwanted items to a new owner here*

OFFERED: Indoor cat house with scratching post - hardly a scratch on it! - 770648.

To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine (address on [page 4](#)). Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

Church Floodlighting

With thanks to those who have sponsored floodlighting of St Mary's Church.



- 5 January Still missed by family and friends, **Ian James Freegard** on the 21st anniversary of his death on 5 January 1993
- 7 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**. 6 years have passed. Still sadly missed. Mum, Dad and family.
- 8 January **Bob Wightman MBE**.
In celebration of what would have been his 102nd birthday. Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family
- 14 January 5th anniversary for Val. St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Val Davies** on the 5th anniversary of her death. Forever in our hearts. Brian, Rebecca and family.
- 14 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert** on his 56th birthday. Mum, Dad and family.
- 20 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on the 2nd anniversary of his death. Very much loved and missed by Sue, Emma, Lucy, Jonathan and their families.
- 28 January St Mary's will be floodlit in remembrance of **Susan Morley**, whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

Please note: New Floodlighting contact: Sandra Horsnall for the next few months.

If the lights don't work, for any reason, we offer apologies and, of course, another floodlit evening for free, or your money back.

These things happen occasionally and it is really disappointing for all concerned. We can only try our best.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Pavenhill, Upper and Lower Pavenhill, and Paven Close*.

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

Wise Words

To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.

Chinese Proverb

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

Although the current version of Purton Magazine was first published in 1975, a new committee of volunteers took over the running of the magazine 10 years ago and the January 2004 issue was printed with 54 pages. Since then it has been published every month, sometime with 68 or even 72 pages – thanks to all our readers; our faithful band of distributors, many regular contributors and, of course, our advertisers. 10 years ago there were 85 advertisers and of the 120 advertisers in a recent issue, about 40 are still advertising in Purton magazine. Readers might like to know that, to avoid being swamped, we try to keep the total space for advertisements within an approximate maximum of 35% which often can create a small – and healthy – waiting list.

In the coming months we will be including a few snippets from each edition 10 years previously and, of course, the full original article can always be accessed on the magazine's web site at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

On the front cover of the January 2004 issue was the first in a series of 12 original watercolour paintings of places in and around the village, generously created and donated by Andy Le Poidevin. Although only reproduced in grey-scale, all 12 colour originals were auctioned at the Purton Artists' exhibition in November 2004 with the proceeds going to St Mary's church – so often a key feature in local scenes.

Inside, the Museum's Exhibit of the Month featured Home Words, a national magazine published in London but which came with a separate pink sheet entitled Purton Parochial Magazine which was also printed in London. Usually those Parish Notes were on a single side of a sheet of paper but in the bumper issue of January 1893, our vicar, Rev J Veysey wrote: "we have entered upon the ninth year of our acquaintance with Home Words as our Parish Magazine. When it was introduced I little thought that we should have kept company with it for so long and yet it is as popular as ever. It contains as good a pennyworth of wholesome and interesting reading as can be found anywhere."

121 years later we hope that our readers still feel the same and even if the price has increased more than 120 times, especially through inflation, the content has also increased some 60 to 70 times!

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

It seems very early to be writing this but by January we will be thinking about Pantomime. This year is "Trouble in Fairyland" at The Village Hall on Thursday to Saturday, 13 to 15 February so put the dates in your diaries. Tickets will be out early February and further details will be in the next magazine.



Purton Diary - January 2014

1	W		New Year's Day
2	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
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5	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
7	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club Social, at Silver Threads Hall
8	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship Meeting at Hooks Hill
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
<hr/>			
12	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Methodist Circuit Service at Shrivvenham
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
13	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
14	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
15	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: <i>Wood Turning</i> , with Jane Flippance
16	Th	8.00pm	Darts Competition at The Angel (see p32)
17	F	1.15pm	Grand Opening of "New Phone Box" by Village Hall
18	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (Guide Dogs)
<hr/>			
19	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	WPCU Joint service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Youth service at St Mary's Church
20	M	8.00pm	WW1 Centenary meeting at Red House
21	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club, at Silver Threads Hall
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: <i>Jan's New Year Quiz</i> at her house
23	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall : Bob Lloyd - <i>Purton & The Great War</i>
24	F	3.30pm	Communion at The Cedars at St Mary's Church
25	Sa	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm</i> : Purton United Charities funds distribution at Village Hall
		6.30pm	<i>for 7pm</i> : Age Concern Burns Night at Village Hall
<hr/>			
26	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

27	M		Holocaust Memorial Day
28	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: A.G.M. followed by Norman Jeffrey - <i>NGS Gardens of Gloucestershire</i>

February

1	Sa	7.30pm	Curry Evening, Silver Threads Hall
2	Su	10.30am	Gift Day Service at Methodist Church
8	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Village Hall

Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am:</i>	Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	7.30pm		Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i>	Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm		Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am:</i>	Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	11.15am	<i>to 1pm:</i>	New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
Th	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm:</i>	Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
Th	2.30pm		Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Moon Phases

- 1 January
 8 January
 16 January
 24 January
 30 January
-

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, let us know:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door.

For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £15 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information contact [John Creasey](#).

Coffee and Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits.

BOB TINSON

Transforming Purton Parish - Our Safety (Part 1)

Following the initial overview in this magazine of the *Ps and Qs* flagship project, *Transforming Purton Parish* which aims to address and improve the overall resilience of the parish concerning: water, food, energy, waste, health, education, safety, housing, transport, economy, recreation, connectivity and democracy, we have been summarising brief extracts. So far we have extracted key messages and options concerning transport, waste, water, food, energy, health, housing and education. This extract is about safety and is in three Parts (1) Policing and Speeding; with (2) Parking on Double Yellow Lines and on Pavements; and (3) Litter and Dog Fouling to follow.

BUT FIRST A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR REGULAR READERS

Although Wiltshire is one of the safest areas in the country, there is still a need to reassure and work with communities in relation to crime, drugs and alcohol and anti-social behaviour and to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system. It is the fear of crime that is the barometer of how safe we feel.

Policing

The aim of good policing should be to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the parish. This is done by paying attention to crime, community safety and substance misuse reduction and by assisting in strengthening the communities and dealing with issues as they are identified. This is done by various surveys and assessments or by matters raised locally through the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board for example.

Community safety is frequently measured on the level of crime within an area. When Wiltshire County is compared to a number of similar geographical areas across the country, it shows the lowest level of crime per 1000 of population. This figure has remained constant for a number of years substantiating Wiltshire's position as one of the safest counties in the country when it comes to recorded crime.

The key issues, below, were identified in the Community Safety Strategic Assessment completed in 2010.

1. Anti-Social Behaviour, criminal damage and deliberate fires
2. Road Safety
3. Violence during the night-time economy and domestic abuse
4. Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)
5. Integrated offender management

Each month at the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, the police give a monthly review of policing issues for the towns and parishes of the Area. Wiltshire is a pretty safe county. At the Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper presented at the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Board in June 2011, the statistics in the table at the top of the next page were provided.

Each year, the police give a summary for the parish, at the Annual Parish Meeting. In keeping with the county findings, the parish is a pretty safe place too. A crime map month-by-month is available from

www.police.uk/crime/?q=Purton,%20Wiltshire%20SN5,%20UK#crimetypes/. Even

Wootton Bassett	Crime				Detections	
	May 2009 - April 2010	May 2010 - April 2011	Volume Change	% Change	May 2009 - April 2010	May 2010 - April 2011
Violence Against the Person	153	126	-27	-18%	46%	54%
Dwelling Burglary	43	59	16	37%	7%	17%
Criminal Damage	282	202	-80	-28%	9%	10%
Non Dwelling Burglary	122	145	23	19%	2%	6%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	54	65	11	20%	7%	0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	22	16	-6	-27%	14%	13%
Total Crime	1043	988	-55	-5%	20%	25%
Wiltshire Police are compared against a group of 8 most similar forces. Wiltshire Police have performed better than peers in All Recorded Crime and Violent Crime for the most recently reported 3 month period (Feb - Apr 2011)						
*Total Crime comprises all Crime Groupings listed above and also includes Theft and Handling, Fraud and Forgery, Robbery and Sexual Offences						
** Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolution						

so, the fear of crime is a critical factor. The Wiltshire Police Authority carries out regular public surveys. Their most recent, to explore quality of life, reassurance and fear of crime across Wiltshire and Swindon, was completed in earlier this year. Its findings are available from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon. A key finding was to put more police back on the beat. Of course, day to day, most parishioners are irked by seemingly simple things which are apparently impossible to deal with; speeding, littering, parking on double yellow lines, parking on pavements and the ubiquitous dog fouling.

Speeding

Speed is not always what it seems but walking along the High Street or Station Road in Purton can often be an uncomfortable experience. It is necessary to find ways to respond to the growing volume of local traffic whilst at the same time there is an urgent need to protect and promote the attractiveness and viability of the parish. National policy has often resulted in standardised road layouts, signage and lighting which has eroded local distinctiveness.

During the years there have been many suggestions to tackle “speeding”; from the Lydiard Millicent style “sleeping policemen”, to speed restrictions (particularly near to the schools) and to street furniture that indicates speed (yet erodes the rural feel).

The first step in the longer term solution to speed is to look at the more innovative techniques that are available. As long ago as 1996, *Ps and Qs* was advocating that the parish council look at the Dutch experience. More recently, and closer to home (in Dorset) there has been some useful research on new ways to slow traffic and these are beginning to gain traction. For instance:

- Understanding and exploiting the quality and character of the built and natural environment to increase driver awareness and to influence driver behaviour;
- Avoiding the imposition of standardised highway measures that can erode the distinctiveness and quality of the villages and serve to isolate drivers from their surroundings;
- Signs, road markings, barriers should be kept to a minimum to reduce roadside clutter, and to engage drivers with the environment outside their car;
- Employing the principles of “psychological traffic calming” to influence driver speeds and responses;

-
- “Self-reading” roads that inform drivers appear to reduce speeds and improve drivers’ awareness of their surroundings by increasing interest and changing perceptions of time (research suggests that the more the brain engages with interpreting the immediate environment, the less time is sensed as passing. This seems in turn to promote lower speeds and a reduced sense of urgency);
 - Expanding the menu of measures available to local communities and local highway authorities beyond standardised highway measures. Such measures are intended to build on the principles of “place-making”, to make the villages more distinctive and recognisable, introducing elements of intrigue, uncertainty and interest to alert drivers to the specific context of their surroundings; and,
 - Redefining the boundaries for responsibility and management of village streets and spaces.

In the foreseeable future cars are here to stay and, given the ongoing development of Swindon on the parish perimeter, it should be assumed that cars and the sense they are speeding (or actually speeding) will increase year-on-year. *It is time for new techniques.*

The *Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan* called for a more radical approach to speeding and there is much innovative stuff that can be done for resorting to humps, bumps and flashing signs.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com and there is a hard copy in Purton Library. If you want to find out the latest on potential housing developments at Widham Farm, Restrop Road, and behind Jewel’s Ash, and much more simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and subscribe to my email alerts.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

RBL Poppy Appeal 2013

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal in Purton and Braydon. The grand total of **£7008.05** has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal, which is a wonderful result for our district. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work collecting house-to-house and during our four collection days at West Swindon Centre.

JOYCE BERRY, *Poppy Appeal Organiser*

Purton Guide Dogs

Happy New Year. I helped on three stalls for Swindon Branch in November and December, selling Trading goods and made a total of £426.19.

Our first venue for Purton is our *January Jumble* in the Silver Threads Hall on the 18th starting at 2 pm; hope to see you there.

Many thanks for everybody’s continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, *for the Purton Support Group*



Purton Historical Society



On Thursday 21 November 2013 Roger and Mary Bedells from the Swindon Family History Society gave a presentation 'Diaries of a Swindon Railway Man, W. J. Mealings.' Roger Trayhurn, historian and author brought the diaries 'alive' with his own dramatisation and gave details of the different local stations where Mr Mealings held the position of Station Master.

On Friday 6 December 2013 members and guests enjoyed the annual Christmas Social in a very festive Silver Threads Hall. An excellent quiz about Purton compiled by Jan Walker kept everyone busy for the first part of the evening. We were personally surprised that we have lived in close proximity to signs, landmarks etc and not always registered the detail! This was followed by a buffet supper and some very enjoyable and professional musical entertainment by close harmony singing group 'Encore'.

It was announced at the Social that Purton Museum has been granted re-accreditation to the Arts Council which is excellent news. Jan Walker, Museum Curator will be writing a piece for the February magazine.

Future Meetings

From January 2014 monthly meetings will be held in Purton Village Hall

Next Meeting, Thursday 23 January 2014: 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall - Purton and the Great War - Bob Lloyd

2014 will be the centenary of the start of the First World War and the year opens with a very relevant presentation. Included will be Military Service Tribunals, Purton Boy Soldiers and The Manor Farm Remount Depot.

Bob Lloyd has researched names on Purton War Memorials and has produced the book 'Village Sons and the Great War' which is sold in aid of Combat Stress.

Monday, 20th January 2014 8.00 p.m. at The Red House, Purton

For organisations and individuals interested in events being held in Purton to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War, see Jean Belt's separate article for details of the event.

. Contact Jean Belt – Telephone 01793 770331.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

JAN & TONY NEATE, tel: 770117

tjneate57@gmail.com

The Spring course (26 February to 2 April) will concern the 1950s and after. It will comprise a mixture of political, Social and economic history. Such topics as: the coming of television, the Korean War and political scandal. How many people remember Christine Keeler?. We shall start in the age of rationing (sometimes known as the age of austerity) and ending with Prime Minister Macmillan's, "never had it so good" Britain.

We shall meet, on Wednesdays in the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm. More details to follow in next month's magazine.

PAUL BOOY, tel 770755

Great War Project

Part 6. Empire, Entente & Alliance

So far we've looked at the major powers of Europe, individually and in context with their neighbours. It's now time to put their relationships together. Frictions between these large empires brought a major European War ever closer.

Looked at from the German and Austro-Hungarian perspective, they were pretty much tied to Europe while Britain and France had developed empires around the world in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and, in Britain's case, Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, strategic island bases in every continent and ocean, plus South Africa and virtually the full length of Africa from Cairo to Cape Town apart from a gap at German East Africa (modern-day Tanzania).

Russia was gaining spheres of influence in the south-east of Europe and in Asia, while even little Belgium owned the huge territory of the Congo in Africa.

Germany had little access to the sea. It had a long Baltic coast but this was inaccessible to the outside world without the tedious circumnavigation of Denmark. Its North Sea coast between Holland and Denmark was short, low-lying and too close to Britain for comfort. A canal linking Kiel on the Baltic to Brunsbüttel on the North Sea was opened in 1895, but mainly as a commercial link.

The German Foreign Minister, Bismarck saw threats of war especially from Russia and set up a system of alliances to prevent war or at least limit its effects. In 1879, Germany and Austria-Hungary signed the Dual Alliance agreeing to aid one another in case of an attack by Russia. It was quite a surprising alliance: though both countries spoke German, they were culturally very different. With a mix of nationalities within its borders, Austria felt that nationalism would destroy it; Germany was nothing if not nationalistic. But a common fear of Russia brought them together.

In 1882 this was extended into the Triple Alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy, each promising support in the event of attack by any other great power. Germany separately agreed the same terms with Italy in the event of an attack by France. Italy however specified that the Alliance would not be regarded as being directed against Britain.

This alliance left Russia feeling vulnerable. Also France, isolated since defeat in the 1871 Franco-Prussian War, needed a friend. From 1888, France provided cheap loans to Russia to allow it to rebuild its military and to build strategic railways that could bring troops to Russia's German border. The Franco-Russian alliance (1894) agreed that if one of the countries of the Triple Alliance attacked France or Russia, the other ally would attack that aggressor so, if Germany attacked either France or Russia, it would be fighting a war on 2 fronts.

Britain had maintained a state of "Glorious Isolation" from mainland Europe for many decades, but had a national loss of confidence after the long drawn-out Second Boer War ... an Empire struggling to conquer farmers. She was also feeling isolated against the growing power of Germany. At the same time, relations had been

improving with the “old enemy” France. In 1904 the Entente Cordiale was signed between UK and France. This was not an Alliance but a “Friendly Agreement” though it settled many long-standing issues including France recognising British control over Egypt, and Britain accepting French control in Morocco.

In response to the Entente, in 1905, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany landed at Tangier in Morocco declaring he supported the sovereignty of the Moroccan Sultan Abdelaziz, a major challenge to French influence. The Sultan invited the world powers to a conference to advise on reforms. Germany approved of the conference but Théophile Delcassé, the French Foreign Minister, declared it wasn't needed. The German Chancellor, Count Bernhard von Bülow threatened war, France cancelled all military leave, and Germany declared it would sign a defensive alliance with Morocco. The French Prime Minister, Maurice Rouvier, couldn't risk war with Germany, so Delcassé resigned, and France attended the conference at Algeciras, in Spain. Even as the conference started, Germany was calling up reserve units and France moved troops to the German border. With only Austria-Hungary supporting them, Germany accepted a compromise (1906), whereby France lost authority over the Moroccan police, but otherwise retained control of Morocco. Tensions between the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente were heightened.

This First Moroccan Crisis showed that the Entente Cordiale worked, as Britain had defended France's interests. Russia had also backed France leading to a thaw in relations between Britain and Russia. The Anglo-Russian Convention (1907) solved long-standing issues between the two in Central Asia, particularly over Russia's involvement in the Caucasus and its relationship with British India. It also created a political alliance against the growing strength of Germany. And it did little to calm a still-angry Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Since France was already in alliance with Russia, it was an obvious step to conclude the Triple Entente linking Russia, France and Britain, with additional agreements with Portugal and Japan. However ententes aren't alliances and those countries mainly agreed they would support each others' interests and wouldn't go to war with each other. But it was still seen as a strong political response to the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.

In 1911, a rebellion broke out in Fez, the capital of Morocco, against the new Sultan, Abdelhafid, elder brother of Abdelaziz. In April, France sent troops to put down the rebellion and protect European lives and property. In June, the Spanish army occupied Larache and Ksar-el-Kebir. In July, Germany sent the gunboat Panther to Agadir supposedly to protect German trade interests.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, believed that the Panther's presence showed German ambitions to turn Agadir into a naval base on the Atlantic as a provocative challenge to the Royal Navy's base at Gibraltar and sent battleships to Morocco in case war broke out. While this was going on, a German stock market crisis resulted in a fall of 30% in a single day, there was a run on the banks and the Reichsbank lost a fifth of its gold reserves in one month. The crisis at home forced Germany to back down and let France take over most of Morocco.

In 1912, the Treaty of Fez recognised Morocco as a French Protectorate while Germany received French territories in Africa: Middle Congo (now the Republic of

the Congo or Congo-Brazzaville), New Cameroon and Togoland. Abdelhafid was far from happy.

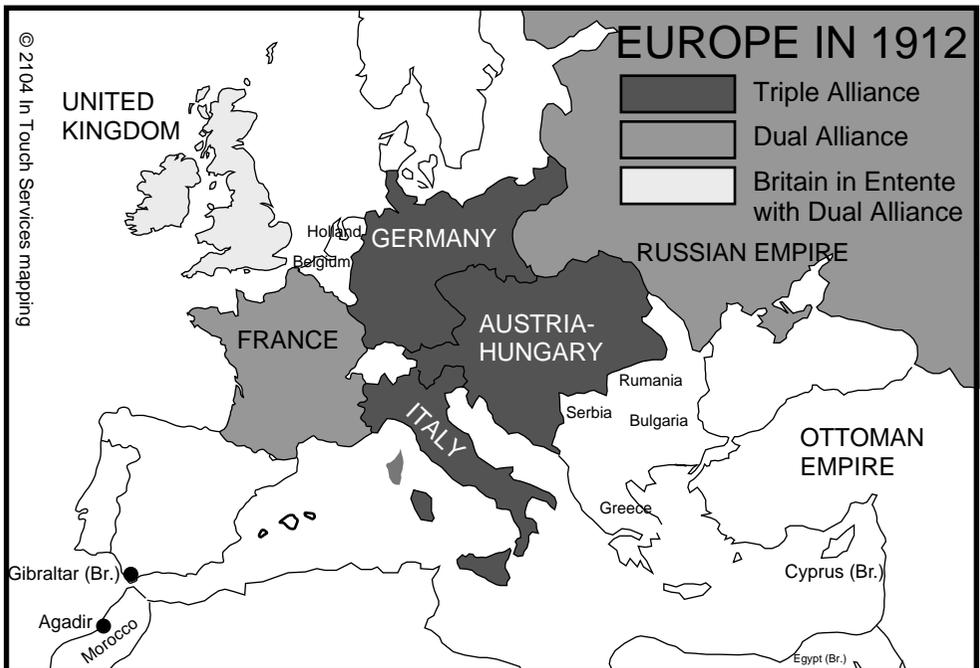
Britain and France made a naval agreement with the Royal Navy promising to protect the northern coast of France from German attack, so France could concentrate her fleet in the western Mediterranean and protect British interests there. France was better able to support her North African colonies, and Britain could concentrate more force in home waters to oppose the German High Seas Fleet.

Abdelhafid abdicated.

By 1912, the world was split into 2 major power blocs: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy were bound into the Triple Alliance of Central European Powers, with only a few overseas possessions to give them a presence outside Europe. They saw themselves surrounded by the alliance of France and Russia ... and their friend Britain ... together with substantial worldwide territories.

Each side's international treaties were seen as a threat to the other ... and vice-versa! War had been narrowly averted in 1906 and 1911, but the world was still living on a powder keg.

RICK DIXON



Purton Museum

A reminder that the Museum will be closed from Saturday 21 December until Saturday 22 February. The museum can be opened by special arrangement with the curator by telephoning 01793 770124.

JAN WALKER, Museum Curator

First World War Centenary

Wiltshire's Great War Community Event

Last month we outlined some of Purton's plans to commemorate the centenary of the Great War, beginning next August.

A meeting is to be held on 20 January 2014 in the Red House at 8.00 pm for all those interested in becoming involved or who want to hear what we intend to do, have ideas of their own to share or are keen to ask questions.

I was intrigued to read in the December Magazine that the After Eight group is considering a session on "Women's Role in the First World War". That is exactly the sort of participation we would like to encourage in the village so as many organisations as possible research different aspects of life in the early 1900s and share their findings with the community in whatever way they think is appropriate. Perhaps the WI could investigate food; the ingredients that were available and the kinds of meals eaten by families, rich and poor, before and during the war. We would like the Purton Artists to share their knowledge of the popular art of the day. What sports were being played in this area?

Several speakers will explain what form their contribution is going to take and Sue Richardson will talk about the role of PADS in the project.

Come along to represent your group. A warm welcome awaits you!

JEAN BELT

THE PARISH IN THE PAST

From the Kilmore Free Press, Victoria, Australia, Thursday 5 December 1912.*

Ploughboy Preacher

There have been few more remarkable men in the Primitive Methodist Church than the octogenarian Rev. George Fowler, who has recently died at Purton, Wiltshire.

During the fifty-three years of his ministry he kept a diary with almost astounding minuteness. Day by day, every service he attended, every address he gave, and even every letter he wrote and received, were noted down.

The result is a unique collection of facts and figures relating to the life of a country minister.

The records show that he covered on foot 90,332 miles, to preach 13,557 sermons, to deliver 1,443 temperance addresses, and baptise 25,000 persons.

This work was carried on on fifteen circuits, nearly all of which were represented at his funeral at Purton.

The son of a farm labourer, Mr Fowler commenced life in his father's station at Swinefleet, Yorkshire, and took himself from the plough to the pulpit by his own efforts.

** Editor's note: it was common in those days for newspapers around the Empire to publish snippets of news from Britain and the Dominions. The same article also included stories from Canada and elsewhere in England. Spelling errors are nothing new ... We've corrected a few!*

Purton & District Darts League

As it is well and truly January, we would hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and a celebratory New Year.



Due to the early Magazine issue dates, we have been unable to post the winners and runners up of the Charity Darts, played on 19 December, but we will do so in the next issue.

That is the end of the first half of the season and we have seen some fabulous darts, some extremely high calibre finishes and lots of 180s. Well done to everyone who has supported us so far.

Just to let you know, the Darts Fees will be due and it is £60.00 per team and an additional £10.00 per team for competition fees. These fees need to be paid to Lisa by end January at the very latest.

Also we have another competition running on 16 January – The Leatherbarrow Cup, which will be held at The Angel. Competition to start at 8 pm and will consist of a team of 3, one of those must be a woman but she does not have to be signed on in the League. Hope to see as many of you there as possible for a night of fun and frolics and great darts.

Thank you again from the Committee for all of your support during the last half of the season. We have seen some great matches and we hope to see many more up to and including The Finals in May 2014.

Good luck one and all and enjoy the game.

LISA MARTIN, Secretary
0776 499 4933

Purton F.C.

It is with deep regret that the Club has had to withdraw its Purton Reserve side from the Wilts Premier league due to Tony Webb and Ben Lewis, brought in at the start of this season to run the side, having resigned their posts in mid-November due to the poor response by their players in failing to turn up for matches and the poor run of results. The club will be looking to re-enter next season if a new management team can be found.



Our Hellenic side that remains are having a good season currently lying 5th in the table and interest still alive in the Wiltshire Senior Cup and the Hellenic Bluefin Insurance Challenge Cup after knocking out Chippenham Park in the Wilts Senior Cup and Beversbrook in the Hellenic Bluefin Insurance Cup. Manager Chris Pethick is hoping his side can keep things going and progress further up the table and progress still further in the cup matches.

Sadly the team have lost the services of Ashley Gooch who has moved to Canada to work. Ashley was a great servant of the team and netted 49 goals in his time with the club. We have also lost keeper Gary Stevens who has been in brilliant form all season (Highworth Town) of the Hellenic Premier league securing his services.

Our Youth sides are all well under way with their fixtures and some have made progress in their league Cups and the County Cup competitions. All the sides apart

from the under 18s (White) are at the top end of their respective leagues and so if current form is maintained we could see more Youth silverware in our hands at the conclusion of the season.

ALAN EASTWOOD, *Chairman/Hon Sec*

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The Wiltshire League Committee has confirmed that Purton 3rd XI will play in Division 8 next season. This decision will enable the club to offer cricket to more players especially in the age bracket of fifteen to eighteen when traditionally many youngsters stop playing because of lack of opportunity. The team will play at Lydiard Millicent where during the last three months much preparation work has been carried out on the square. In this respect thanks go mainly to Dale Bowler, Mark and Gus Gardner. We hope this venture will succeed so that we can extend our agreement to use the ground and facilities in subsequent seasons.

The recent AGM was well attended and the main changes on the committee were that Matthew Bull was appointed Chairman, John Doyle becomes Membership Secretary and Aaron Lee takes on the position of Social Secretary.

Unfortunately our successful season was marred by two break-ins; one in June and one on the night of 31 October. Little was taken but the wanton vandalism was considerable. We would like to thank those members of the Purton public who inform us of any damage or suspicious circumstances. Please keep up your vigilance.

From the Archives

Season 1909 Chairman's Report

Prosperity to the 'Purton Cricket Club' was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, who coupled with the toast the names of the Captain, Secretary and Treasurer. After reviewing in general terms the position of county and general cricket Mr Sadler said he was indebted to Mr Drew for some information in regard to their own club. The past season had been a successful one. The first eleven played 16 matches of which 11 were won, 2 lost and 3 drawn (applause). The second eleven played 12 and 9 had been won, while three were lost. Their success was attributable in a large measure to the regularity of practice and the attention paid to the instructions of their coach who had tried very hard to improve their cricket during this last season. Mr T.C. Hastings had devoted a great deal of time and attention to the maintenance of a level and well kept patch. Mr Drew had worked very hard as secretary and he was sure they appreciated his services.

As reported Evening Advertiser 8 October 1909

P.S. Note that 'the coach' (a professional) was not accorded a name, neither surname nor Christian name. I wonder what this year's members would make of the square being described as 'well kept patch'.

JOE GARDNER

A View on Life

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

Dolly Parton

Purton Bowls Club

Happy New Year to everyone. Please take some time to read this, our new monthly bulletin.



We, as a bowls club, are very aware that our presence in the village does not go unnoticed, but we are increasingly concerned about whether people really understand what goes on behind the gates to the green. We are heavily involved in games throughout the season, April to September, in all levels of the sport. We have league games: S&D (Swindon and District) and Wiltshire, which are two strongly contested league contests where we are playing against all the top teams in Swindon and Wiltshire. We, as a small club, play against the strongest teams in the area, and to not blow our own trumpet too loudly, do rather well in both of them.

At the weekends we play 'friendly' games, normally on both days, against bowls clubs throughout the County, and some times beyond. Our Ladies section is also strongly involved in league matches and has a very full calendar. We can boast players from both sexes playing at National level every year.

The picture shows all of our Club competition cup winners at the recent presentation evening at The Club at Cricklade, attended by more than 60 people.

Bowls has a stigma of being played only by older or retired people, this couldn't be farther from the truth, as the TV coverage shows these days, the only players who do really well start at a very young age.

It is true that retired people have more time to play, and bowls seasons can be quite hectic with the calendar very full throughout the season. But there are always games that can accommodate full-time workers, for example weekends and mid-week evening matches.

Our schedules are becoming so hectic that we need some new members, and we would really like to encourage younger people to come and play, therefore we will be making plans during the closed season to provide introductory sessions and coaching sessions at the beginning of the season. This will enable anybody to try their hand at this fascinating sport.

The green will be open from the middle of April, please come along, most evenings there will be something going on, come and see what we do, bring some flat soled shoes and you can have a go. More details to follow in next months' issue.

PETER BERRY



Purton Tae Kwon Do

We are Purton Tae Kwon Do and our Junior Tae Kwon Do are between 6 and 11. We meet on Wednesdays in Purton Village Hall at 5.15 and finish at 6 pm. We are part of the TAGB which is the Tae Kwon Do Association of Great Britain, the largest TKD organisation in the country. Our members follow either the junior curriculum or, depending on age, attitude and previous experience, the adult syllabus. We have recently had a belt promotion for both groups and in the junior one both Ralph and Leon were promoted to Green Stripe. Miles recently started the adult syllabus and in his recent Grading got a Plus Pass (which is equivalent to Merit) and was promoted to Yellow Belt, so congratulations to Miles. We also welcomed back Ella, and she has also started on the adult syllabus. We had 30 students taking part in the senior grading, from our clubs in Cricklade, Purton and Wroughton, and they all did well.

If you would like to try Tae Kwon Do, and are aged between 6 and 11 please come along and have a go (contact Mr Greenwood at roger.k.greenwood@btinternet.com) or call on 07769 214655. If you are over 11 and under 100 we also meet in Cricklade Leisure Centre on Wednesdays at 6.30 and Fridays at 7.30, and also Wroughton in the Ridgeway Leisure Centre on Mondays at 7 pm. It is a fabulous family activity and is something that you can do as often as you like, progressing at your own pace with no pressure.

We look forward to hearing from you to arrange your free trial lesson.

*Mr GREENWOOD, 3rd Dan Instructor
Mrs JONES, 1st Dan Assistant Instructor*

Purton Tennis Club

After a very successful season, we went to the Swindon & District Tennis League Annual Presentation and collected all our trophies! (see photo)

We are now playing in the Winter League with our A, B, & C teams currently in top position in their divisions, and the D team 2nd – hopefully this will continue until the end of winter!!

Social tennis is Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday mornings if anybody would like to come along and play (you don't have to be a member to try it out!) We also hold a Cardio Tennis session, Wednesdays 6 pm - 7 pm if anyone feels energetic enough to attend.

The juniors are enjoying coaching after school and Saturdays – if anyone is interested in coaching please contact our head coach Phil Kerley on 07711852222.





Past Year 11 Awards Evening

On November 21 our ex-Year 11 students were invited back for our annual presentation evening. It's always a lovely opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our past students and to catch up on their post-Bradon careers. As well as a chance to collect their examination certificates, subject specific awards are handed out as we recognise the hard work of the year group. The evening is rounded off with a selection of special awards given to

outstanding students (*pictured*): Robert Mills and Bethany Richards were acknowledged for Head Boy and Girl, Emma Hobbs won the Duncan Bamford Memorial Award for Languages, Elliot Gunton won the Kirk Cup for Maths and Thomas Award for Music, Amy Meriedith was awarded the Margaret Brand Memorial Award for Technology, Joe Pettit had the Twins Cup for Sport, Jake Burnside won the Michael Iles Memorial Award for Drama, Juliet Coleman won the School Cup for Sport and Hannah Curtis won the Corbett Cup for Outstanding Achievement. Congratulations to all our past students and we wish you all the luck for the future. Don't forget to keep in touch!



Romeo and Juliet

During December, once again our students excelled and made us all proud to work with them on a daily basis with their performances of Romeo and Juliet. It was great to see all of Year 9 and 10 in attendance at the start of the week along with forty students from St Mary's Primary School. The second half of the week saw the public performances with students playing to full houses. Many thanks to all of you who supported the show and once again congratulations to all the staff and students whose hard work paid off spectacularly.



Here's just a snippet of what the audience were saying!

"To all the staff and students involved in the Romeo & Juliet production. Last night I watched your production of Romeo and Juliet. May I just say that I was amazed! I have seen many productions of this wonderful play, including the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Company and other secondary schools, but I have never been so 'blown away' by the professionalism, enthusiasm

and quality of the performance – you are a credit to your school (and that is staff as well as students!). Well done – enjoy it on every performance and I look forward to

seeing more in the future.”

“I just wanted to pass on my thanks to you and the cast. I've seen Shakespeare at Stratford (including one production of R&J when I nearly didn't stay to see the second half it was so rubbish), the Globe and in the West End (Dustin Hoffman as Shylock) so I do have something to compare it with(!) and I was so impressed with the performance cast and crew. To have secondary school students speak the lines with maturity, understanding and the feeling that this is real dialogue, is a brilliant achievement – and one not always managed by professionals! The hours you have all put in are immense. Thank you all again; and enjoy your final performance.”

A MORRISON, *Headteacher*

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

For our November meeting, our last get together of 2013, members turned out in force for our ever popular *American Supper* and by 7.30 pm two large serving tables were brimming with a mouth-watering display of goodies with a third table commandeered to help 'ease the load'.



Before partaking of the delicious offerings, we were delighted to greet Paul Evans to entertain us with his diverse collection of poems and anecdotes. This was a welcome return visit for Paul and once again his wonderful attention to detail, together with his mastery of accents and his wickedly funny verses soon had the audience captivated, and for over an hour the food took second place.

Linda Roberts, our chairman, proposed the vote of thanks and members demonstrated their enjoyment of Paul's performance with lively applause.

As ever the American Supper was a delicious mix of yuletide favourites and member's own creations with plenty for second, and in some cases, third helpings. Judging from the animated conversation and laughter in the hall, I think I can safely say that a good time was had by all.

The speakers arranged for this year will cover a wide variety of subjects, so why not join us and see if there is something that appeals to you. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall with a speaker, competition and raffle.

Our first meeting of 2014 will be the AGM on 28 January, followed by a talk by Norman Jeffery on the subject of 'National Garden Scheme, Gardens of Gloucestershire'.

Let's get gardening!

MARGARET GOODALL (*Secretary*) & LINDA ROBERTS (*Chairperson*)

Bicycle

As it was coming up to Christmas a young boy is praying upstairs while his mother sits by him and his dad and grandma are downstairs. He prays "Lord I pray for a train set, a remote control car, and A NEW BICYCLE!!!

"You don't have to shout dear", says the mother "God's not deaf." "I know" said the little boy, "but grandma is."

On The Lighter Side

The Pilot and the Priest

A priest died and was waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him was a man dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. St Peter addressed this cool guy, and said: "Who are you, so that I may know whether to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The man replied: "I'm Jim, retired pilot from a low-cost airline based at Gatwick." St Peter consulted his list and smiled. "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom." So Captain Jim went into Heaven with his robe and staff.

Next, it was the priest's turn. He stood erect and said, "I am Reverend Bob, vicar of St John's for the last 43 years."

St Peter consulted his list. He said to the priest, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom."

"Just a minute," said the good father. "That man was a pilot and he gets a silken robe and golden staff, and I get only cotton and wood. How can this be?"

"Up here, we go by results," says St Peter. "When you preached, people slept. When he flew, people prayed."

Why?

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

English Stiff Upper Lip

On a train from London to Manchester an Australian was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment.

"You English are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us. Look at me ... I'm ME! I have Italian blood, Greek blood, a little Irish blood, and some Aborigine blood. What do you say to that?"

The Englishman replied, "Awfully sporting of your mother, old chap!"

PURTON PLACARD

Groups are invited to submit to the Editor details of forthcoming events in, for and on behalf of our community.

Purton Age Concern
BURNS NIGHT AND CEILIDH
Saturday 25 January
at the Village Hall
6.30 pm for 7 pm
Licensed bar, live band and caller
Tickets £20 from Ron and
Heather Harris – 770850
Come and join in the fun!

WW1 Centenary
20 January 2014
8 pm
Red House
Purton Village Centre
All Welcome



Purton Age Concern
JUMBLE SALE
at the Village Hall
on Saturday 8 February at 2 pm
Lots of bargains, bric a brac
books, toys, nearly new
and much more
Jumble can be left at the Hall
from 12 noon to 1 pm

Guide Dogs for the Blind
Purton Support Group
Will be holding a
JUMBLE SALE
in the Silver Threads Hall
on Saturday 18 January
starting at 2 pm.
Tea Coffee & Raffle

St Mary's Church, Purton
Curry Evening
Curries from Southeast Asia
and a Quiz
Saturday 1 February
7.30 pm at Silver Threads Hall
Purton
Tickets (limited number): £12.50
Bar
Tel 770970, 770157,
771201, 772422

Breast Cancer Care
Charity Fashion Show
Purchases can be taken home the
same night!
At Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall
Monday 17 March 2014
Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start
Tickets £5 each
Tickets: call Kirsty on 770094

St Mary's Church, Purton
Events planned for 2014
Saturday 22 March
Murder Mystery evening
Put this date in your diaries!

Jump for Justice

Bring out the 'Bond' in you and support the Cricklade abseil!

How about it? You could join the abseil for Christian Aid, in Cricklade Church on Sunday 11 May, the first day of Christian Aid Week 2014.

This will be an indoor free-fall abseil, down the inside of the tower and into the chancel of the church! You need to have good physical fitness, be able to climb 7 flights of stairs in one go, be reasonably flexible, no fear of heights and be comfortable in small spaces. Yikes!

There will be all sorts of excitements going on, at St Sampson's, with food and fun available throughout the day.

Finite places available so get in touch soon!

The idea is that people (11 years plus) pay £15 to register their abseil ... and then the fundraising starts! Each one of you who jumps for justice will have a minimum fundraising target of £200. This money will fund life-changing projects around the world where Christian Aid works in over 50 countries, responding to disasters; developing long-term partnerships and campaigning for a fair and just world!

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to know more.

Maybe we can help with ideas for raising sponsorship; maybe we can find a group of friends to help you achieve this target.

Remember, as well as enjoying the day and the jump of a life-time, we are raising funds for a great cause.

So please do save the date and think about whether you want to jump for justice in 2014?

More details from Mary Hodges (tel: 770505) and to register email kmusgrave@christian-aid.org or call Katrine Musgrave on 01454 415923.

Purton Methodist Church

The Methodist Church at Playclose has been a witness to the village for 131 years. Since the alterations in the early 1970s, the church has been used for many different events, including youth work, Pram Service, St Mary's Fellowship of Women, Lent Lunches, Christian Aid, training days, and Shoe-box filling – to name but a few. Although it's lovely to see the building used other than just for Sunday services, this does entail a high level of maintenance.

Over the past year we have been fund raising to cover some of this necessary work – replacing the cooker, new fencing, decorating, etc - and there is still much to be carried out to keep the building up to standard. On Sunday 2 February at 10.30 am we are holding a Gift Day Service with our Minister, Rev David Perkins, followed by coffee and cakes. If you feel you would like to be part of this, please come and join us; a warm welcome awaits you.

For any further information, contact Linda Tinson on 771282.

Wise Words

If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six sharpening my axe.

Abraham Lincoln

Due to changes in our catering, our original WI china is being sold to members at £1 per cup and saucer, and 50p for matching plate. This is a chance not to be missed as not only are they good and tasteful china but they will be the antiques of the future! And antiques were particularly on our mind, as our speaker was Mr Jim Bischoff of the antique auctioneers Kidson Trigg.

Mr Bischoff pointed out that we all have valuables in our homes, but don't realise it. A recent house clearing had found a "dog bowl" cast aside, that later fetched £600 at auction. He firstly engrossed us with his talk and photographs of his favourites subject, "Treen", that is, practical small articles made of wood. He then set us a quiz with ten items whose use had to be identified. They were intriguing! I managed two ...

Our own tables were loaded with our personal antiques, and the air crackled with expectation as he went from table to table, giving us some idea of the history and possible value of our own items. Very interesting many of them were, too! Lovely dolls, beautiful china, a French clock, altogether a great variety.

Then we had coffee/tea, and really lovely home-made cakes. Altogether an enjoyable evening indeed, with a speaker unstinting of his time.

We often say Denman is expensive, and sadly we cannot afford to support their interesting programmes, but day courses are now being organised, for a minimum of 24 people, for "only" £65. Perhaps this would help? Certainly the courses, and the food, are most enjoyable! With this in mind, eight members will be attending the Wiltshire Denman Weekend which will include cookery, singing – and T'ai Chi!

A group of us travelled to Ironbridge and Blist Hill on Saturday 7 December for a special Victorian Day. Many of the local ladies graced the street in beautiful clothes and were accompanied by grandees who obviously enjoyed the occasion – you never saw such a sweeping of hats! As the brass band played Christmas music, artificial snow intermittently descended from an upstairs window, to the children's delight. We could change our money into old coins at the Bank, and buy sweets by the ounce that were put in paper bags, the queue for fish and chips to be eaten in a poke was amazingly deep, the chemist's shop looked sinister, and oh, there was so much to see, of the old Victorian times. It was great to visit the plumber's, the ironmonger's, the haberdasher's, and so on, but I think we were quite happy at the end of the day to return to comfortable 2013. Many thanks to Janet Saunders for organising good weather as well as the outing.

The meeting of 18 December, entitled Christmas fun, with a 1960s theme, will occur after this Magazine has gone to print early, because of the Christmas holidays, but I shall be happy to tell you all about it next month, along with all the other disasters I seem to achieve without even trying!

At the meeting of 15 January Jane Flippance will be telling us about Wood Turning and the competition will be "An interesting piece of wood or a wooden ornament". Social time will be just tea and chat, but we should have plenty of both!

So I now wish you all a Very Happy New Year, with good health, prosperity, and lots of laughter. See you at the January meeting!

CONSTANCE REED

Purton Evening W.I. whist team proudly show their Shield trophy and engraved glasses after winning the Wiltshire Federation Whist Championship.

*Pictured left to right:
Maureen Quincey
Vivien Lawrence
Jill Herbert
Barbara Woolford*



Right Leg

An elderly man went to his Doctor, "my right leg is troubling me". The Doctor replied "I can't help you; it's old age".

The man retorted "you don't know what you are talking about". The Doctor asked "How can you say that, what do you know about it?" The old man replied "because my other leg is fine and it's the exact same age"

Happy New Year to all our readers!

