

Purton *Magazine*



*Carol Singers at Lower Square
by Brian Coe, member of Purton Artists*

December 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>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
<i>(Wednesdays: 2 - 5pm; Saturdays: 10am - 1 pm)</i>		
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	770775
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Maurice Card	770338
Purton Parish Council	Steve Wylie	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

Bradon Forest School	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.stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>See Diary Page in this magazine</i>	

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 11.00 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

Should any reader be in doubt about the time of year, our colour cover illustration reminds us that we are entering Christmas month. As usual, local carol singers will gather in the Lower Square at 7 pm on Christmas Eve, 24 December and will be welcomed with the usual mince pies and punch – see [pages 9](#) and [19](#).

Yet again we are delighted to be able to reproduce an original piece of artwork on our front cover from a member of Purton Artists who have recently held their 33rd annual exhibition in the Village Hall. Each year the quality as well as the quantity of the work displayed clearly increases amid general and well deserved praise for the originators. This year more artwork was exhibited from Bradon Forest students as well as from other young local artists, much of which was encouraged by some generous funding from the Executors for the estate of the late Leslie Holland – more details are on [page 37](#).

Also as usual, this issue of your magazine contains details of many other seasonal celebrations highlighted on pages 18 to 20 and details of Santa's arrival in Purton on 18 and 19 December can be found on [page 35](#).

For all-year-round excellence, we learn on [page 8](#) that Ashgrove House has won the National Providers Challenge Award for 2014 – a wonderful achievement to be the best in the country while confirming our caring community credentials.

For the last 10 years the staffing of St Mary's church has been subject to a possible change but recently Ian Tweedie-Smith has been "collated" by the Bishop as well as being "inducted" and "installed" as Vicar of St Mary's by the Archdeacon – see [page 15](#) for a more detailed explanation.

St Mary's church is again preparing to welcome everyone and celebrate the good news of a very special birth 2000 years ago; the services are listed on [pages 22](#) and [23](#). With all the Nativity story in mind and especially the crib scene, Gaffer's tale on [page 31](#) is a timely reminder of many other births that can still occur on a bed of straw.

As usual, we will be producing the January issue of your magazine before Christmas and accordingly, we will need to be strict with our copy date of 10 December. In closing we wish every reader, advertiser and distributor a very joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

17th

December for a Christmas sing-a-long in the proposed venue for PIPS community café – see [page 34](#)

50

years ago
Bradon Forest School
was opened
– see [page 25](#)

400+

visitors attended this
year's Purton Artists
Exhibition
– see [page 37](#)

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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font above the word 'Magazine' in a smaller, cursive script font.

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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 wishes all parishioners a HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Purton Parish Council Donations Programme – The Parish Council makes small grant awards twice a year to support local clubs and organisations which provide services that help residents in the Parish of Purton.



The next awards will be made in February 2015 which is not so far away. If you are involved with a group that could do more for local people with the help of an award from the Parish Council, please contact The Parish Clerk for an application form. The deadline for submitted applications will be in late January 2015.

Footpath improvement – The Parish Council and Wiltshire Council are jointly funding the improvement of Footpath 85 which runs next to St Mary's School playing field and behind properties in College Road, Purton. This path tends to become a quagmire during wet weather but the project will see it refurbished with a new path edge and a layer of scalplings to provide a new and better drained surface and be nicer for people to walk on.

The work will be carried out by a local contractor commencing on Friday 19 December and is expected to be complete by Christmas.

Flooding – with the onset of winter and the wetter weather everybody will be keen to try to avoid flooding this year. One avoidable issue is where overgrown ditches or watercourses lead to flooding incidents. The Parish Council therefore requests that landowners who have ditches and watercourses on their land check to ensure they are kept clear.

Homeowners should also be aware of the new Repair and Renew Grant. The grant provides support to flooded homes and businesses to install flood resilience measures to reduce the risk of future flooding and minimise the impact. Any home or business owner where the interior of their property was damaged by flooding between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014 is eligible to apply. For more information about the grant, contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0100, or the website at

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/civilemergencies/floodindanddrainage/floodreliefsupport/floodingrepairrenewgrant.htm

Wiltshire Online – Fibre Broadband Rollout – fibre broadband has arrived in Purton as part of Wiltshire Council's Online programme. To the layman this means faster internet speed. Speed is an important factor as the greater the speed the more advanced internet services you can enjoy such as live television and radio. If you have several members of the same household accessing the internet via laptops or smart phones at the same time, a superfast broadband connection can provide a good level of service to all of these users.

Residents will need to check that they are able to benefit via the postcode checker on the Wiltshire Online website – www.wiltshireonline.org Although residents will not automatically receive the improved service, upgrading to fibre broadband is very simple – just a matter of contacting an Internet Service Provider.

For support and advice contact the Wiltshire Online team at broadband@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please save your used Postage Stamps – The Parish Council is collecting used postage stamps from envelopes to send to the Royal National Institute for the Blind who use them to raise money to help people with vision impairments. This is a great time of year to start collecting, with all those Christmas card envelopes, and is better than putting them in the dustbin.

Just cut a small border around the stamps and leave them in one of the collection boxes which are located in the Purton 'Best One' and 'One Stop' newsagents, the Purton Methodist Church, and the Parish Council Office (behind Purton Library). The boxes will stay in place till mid-January 2015.

Parish Council Christmas closure – the Parish Council office will be closed for four days from Monday 29 December 2014 to Friday 2 January 2015 (inclusive). If you have urgent burial enquiries during this period please leave a message for the Clerk on telephone number 771066, and similarly if you have an urgent enquiry about a hall hiring please leave a message on telephone number 778351. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: 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 website 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. Go to www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

What is Lorry Watch?

Lorry Watch is a scheme operated by volunteers in the community who report sightings of overweight vehicles passing through an area where there is a weight restriction. The sightings are sent to the Town and Parish Councils who in turn send them to the Trading Standards Officer at Wiltshire Council who will then write to the operators and drivers. There are a number of



Lorry Watch Schemes operating in Wiltshire and, in Bradford on Avon, there have been successful prosecutions and fines issued. The scheme also operates in our area as there is a weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes from Greenhill crossroads to just before Mopes Lane plus from The Fox, Collins Lane and Lower Pavenhill. Lorries above this weight can only come into the village if they need access within the area. There are signs up at the entrance to the village and also to Lydiard Millicent to warn drivers, however these signs sometimes disappear but with or without the signs the scheme still operates as the roadside 7.5 tonne signs are the enforceable sign.

In recent weeks a number of large lorries have been seen on narrow roads in the area and have got stuck in a number of places, particularly around the church,

but all of them, although being above 7.5 tonnes, were coming to the village to deliver therefore they were not in breach of the weight limit. What would be helpful for the drivers, and give peace of mind for residents, is for drivers to ensure their route is suitable for the size of vehicle they are driving and pre-plan their journeys. It has been suggested that signs might help on a number of roads to indicate that they are unsuitable for HGV or articulated vehicles and this suggestion will be raised with the Area Board through the Community Area Transport Group.



JACQUI LAY, Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon

Changing the goalposts – or at least the boundaries?

Communities across the country have “settlement boundaries” beyond which there should be no housing development. However with the increasing demand for new houses, many communities are feeling the pressure to enlarge their settlement boundaries, usually through the neighbourhood planning process.

Purton is no different. Purton’s chapter to the aggregated neighbourhood plan reflects the findings of the Purton Parish Plan and says that there should be no change to our existing settlement boundary. However, as part of the ongoing Wiltshire Core Strategy process (that will replace the Wiltshire & Swindon structure plan for 2016 – see page 31) a new map has been produced showing changes to Purton’s settlement boundary.

But we are not to worry because there will be a public consultation even though new lines have already been drawn on a map. History regularly reminds us that undoing new boundaries – however draft and fanciful – becomes increasingly difficult the longer they remain unchallenged.

All of this now has an added importance for Purton because a major developer has recently lodged an appeal against Wiltshire Council for refusing an application to build 34 houses off Restrop Road. At the time of writing the place, date and time for the appeal have yet to be announced but it would be a fair bet that the developer will highlight how the previous goalpost appear to have been moved with a proposed enlarged settlement boundary for Purton.

Readers can keep up to date with all the latest developments through www.carbonbrake.com

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all that you would wish yourselves in the New Year.

Ellen Blacker, on 07557 110414 or email me at rwbrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk



Purton & District Age Concern



I must start my piece this month with a warning about rogue traders. If anyone calls at your door saying you need emergency repair work on your house please do not agree to let them to do any work. Rogue tradesmen have been visiting older people, doing shoddy work and demanding large sums of money, so please be aware. You can contact Tony on 770696 if you have any concerns about rogue traders. If you would like a list of reputable traders in Wiltshire this is available from Age UK Wiltshire on 01380 735500.

At our committee meeting at the beginning of November we said goodbye to one of our long standing volunteers – Lew Hanks, who is retiring after 36 years with Purton Age Concern. Many years ago when the street warden scheme started, Lew was one of the first people to volunteer as a street warden in Reids Piece and what an asset he was to Age Concern and the older people on his “patch”. When Lew and his wife Brenda moved to Royal Wootton Bassett, Lew ceased being a street warden but joined the committee instead. Lew has attended our meetings regularly ever since and both Lew and Brenda have helped out at so many of our events over the years. Lew will be missed at our monthly meetings but hopefully both Lew and Brenda will continue to pop over to see all of us when we have an event planned. Thanks to both of you for all you have done for Purton Age Concern, it is much appreciated.

By the time you get this magazine our Christmas tree and lights should be on the Institute Building thanks to Mick Looker, our Chairman, and his group of friends. We will also have the decorations up in the Silver Threads Hall and the Village Hall in time for our Christmas parties.

Our Christmas vouchers and newsletters along with a questionnaire should be with you by the beginning of December. We would like you to complete the questionnaire and hand it in when you spend your voucher at one of our supporting outlets. Thanks to all the street wardens for delivering these items on our behalf, your help is much appreciated.

Purton Age Concern would like to congratulate Ashgrove House for winning the National Providers Challenge Award for 2014. What a fantastic achievement to be chosen as the best in the country. Well done to all at Ashgrove House.

FUTURE EVENTS

Christmas Party – Our main Christmas party this year is on Saturday 6 December from 5 pm - 8.30 pm at the Village Hall. The cost is £5.00 and the entertainment will be provided by Commonweal School, which is a performing arts academy so there will be a variety of entertainment. If you're quick, you may just have time to book your place with your street warden before Thursday 27 November.

Christmas Market – Our Christmas market will be held on Saturday 13 December outside the Pavenhill shops. There will be sausage tasting, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, mistletoe and other festive items; also it's your last chance to buy our Christmas raffle tickets. Come along a grab yourself a bargain! Donations of cakes, books, bric-a-brac and festive items will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Christmas Raffle – Our Christmas raffle tickets are on sale now. All committee members, street wardens and minibus personnel have tickets to sell or contact Tony on 770696. Donations of items we can give as raffle prizes will be much appreciated. The raffle draw will take place on Tuesday 16 December at our committee meeting in the Silver Threads Hall.

Carols under the tree – This will be held on Christmas Eve from 7 pm under the Christmas tree outside the Library/Institute building. Music will be provided by Mark Blackwell and his musicians and warm mince pies and punch will be served during the interval, thanks go to Sheila Price who will be providing the punch again this year.

Burns Night Celebration – This will take place on Saturday 24 January 2015 at the Village Hall, and the doors open at 6.30 pm. The evening includes a three-course meal, dancing with a live band and caller and drinks available at the bar. This is always a very popular evening. The cost is £20 per person and tickets are available from Heather and Ron Harris on 770850.

PAST EVENTS

3B's x2 – This was sold out again, the second time this year! Everyone seems to really enjoy what is a fun evening. Our thanks go to John and Brenda Lilley for organising the bingo and to everyone who helped out on the night. We had a very successful evening and made a profit of £499.88. For those of you who wanted to know, our next 3B's evening will be Friday 10 April 2015.

Antiques & Collectibles Fayre – This was held on Sunday 19 October. It was a lovely social occasion and very well attended. We made a profit of £730.07, which is fantastic. Thanks go to all who helped out on the day and to those who made cakes for us to sell.

INFORMATION

Fire Service & Bobby Van – If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 0800 389 7849. If you need the Bobby Van please call them on 01225 794652.

Luncheon Club – There are still places at the Luncheon Club every Tuesday and Thursday. This is held at the Silver Threads Hall. You get a good hot two-course meal with tea or coffee to follow. Please give Pat Suddaby a call on 771331 if you would like to give it a try. I'm sure you won't regret it. Transport is available if required.

Minibuses – Please contact Maurice Card our minibus co-ordinator on 770338 if you would like to book the minibus. Also, please contact Maurice if you are thinking of becoming a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on the minibuses. We can always do with more volunteers.

Products and Services – As we are a "Friend of Age UK" we can introduce people to the products and services offered by Age UK – home insurance, car insurance, motor breakdown cover, travel insurance, gas and electricity, Age UK weekly lottery, funeral plans, will and legal services, annuity services, stairlifts, bathing aids and riser-recliner chairs. If we introduce someone and they purchase a product or service we earn a small amount of commission. To do this you have to contact Age

UK on a phone number unique to Purton Age Concern. To find out more please contact Louise Tidman on 772558.

T'ai Chi – We hold T'ai Chi sessions each Thursday at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go (the first session is free) please contact Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan and Rita Webb on 770453.

50+ Badminton – If you are aged 50+ and would like to play badminton on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons please contact Louise on 772558 for more information.

To all who use the minibuses - As from 1 November some of the minibus charges changed, the new charges are as follows;

- £1.00 - for a return journey in the village to the GP surgery, dentist, shops, Post Office, hairdresser etc.
- £1.50 - for return shopping trips to Swindon on the second Friday in the month.
- £5.00 flat fee plus 50p per mile for any social trips outside the village.

Please can you give the co-ordinator at least 2 days notice when booking a minibus for a surgery appointment.

Please contact the co-ordinator **not the minibus driver** if you need to alter your booking.

Finally, as this is my last report before the end of the year, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I'll be back in 2015!

LOUISE TIDMAN

Minibus Helpers

Purton & District Age Concern Minibuses are looking for some new faces to help out as 'Shot Guns'! It has always been our aim for the minibuses to have a two-person crew, as it makes the task of collecting our clients so much easier. Currently there are several occasions where the driver works alone as there are no helpers available so if you would like to help one of our volunteer drivers, either on a regular basis, or on an 'as and when needed' we would love to hear from you.

The duties are quite easy but you would need to be able to open and close the side sliding door and lower and raise the step. The rear wheelchair lift is merely the press of a switch. Some of those that we pick up may need a helping hand down a pathway or help with unlocking a door and of course we are able to accommodate a wheelchair, so that needs to be clamped for safety. Seat belts may need to be secured as sometimes they are difficult to pull out and secure. Simple training will be given with regarding the wheelchair clamp, but the only other requirement is a smiling face and friendly hello or goodbye.

If you have a little free time to help, would like a little more detail or would just like to come out with one of the present crew to give it a try, then please contact Louise Tidman Secretary to Purton & District Age Concern on 01793 772558.

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, perhaps with a recent photo, via the contacts on [page 4](#) of the Magazine. We can crop or resize photos supplied.

Dr Michael Jepps

On behalf of Purton & District Age Concern I would like to thank the family of the late Dr Jepps for money coming to us in lieu of flowers in his memory. Dr Jepps was born in Broadstairs in 1928, went to school at Wellesley College and Chatham, studied medicine at Cambridge and went to London to pursue his medical career. He was called up to do his national service and joined the Cheshire Regiment. I am wondering if he was attached to them as, with his qualifications, they would have grabbed him with open arms for the Medical Corps.

Dr Jepps married in 1953 and moved back to Broadstairs to work in his father's GP practice. (I wonder if he ever treated Ted Heath?) Another area where he might have met the former prime minister was in sailing as Dr Jepps was a keen sailor all his life. Salcombe was his favourite place to practice his hobby. Holidays were taken there along with his children and grandchildren – they all have lovely memories of their sailing holidays. His son Robin gave a humorous and loving tribute to him at his funeral painting a picture of a man who loved his family and enjoyed a rich and varied life.

About three years ago Dr Jepps came to Purton to be near his family and initially he lived in Norbury Court. He joined in village life, especially the Probus Club. He was interested in the people of the village and was so interesting to talk to. Unfortunately his health deteriorated and he went to stay at Battlelake Farm where he was lovingly looked after by Caring Hands Wiltshire for a year until he had to go into hospital. I am sure Dr Jepps enjoyed his short spell in Purton and we certainly enjoyed having him here. I bet he was a lovely GP!

TONY PRICE

Sainsbury's Stratton

Meeting Venue at Sainsbury's in Stratton Available for Use FREE to Any Charitable Organisation!

Sainsbury's Stratton store is opening its doors to any charitable or community organisation which is looking for a venue in which to hold their meetings. Store Manager Val Atwill (*pictured*) says that it has come about because of the outlet's recognition of the sterling charity work being done in the Swindon area.

'We ourselves really enjoy getting involved with local charities,' she adds, 'the Jubilee Gardens Project being the latest to be nominated as our Charity of the Year and we would love it if other local organisations took advantage of our excellent facilities here in Stratton.'

The room in question is the store's customer restaurant which will be available for free hire from 7 pm any day subject to availability. Any group wishing to take up the store's offer is welcome to contact Mark Lewis, Restaurant Manager on 01793 828255 or, if visiting the store, speak either to Mark directly or to the customer service desk colleague.

BARRIE MATTHEWS



Purton & Green Gable Surgery Group for Patients - G4P

Group for Patients



Practice Manager

In September we were sorry to say 'Goodbye' to Kim Hiles when she moved to take up the post of Practice Manager at New Court Surgery, Wootton Bassett. Kim was the initiator of G4P and was always very supportive of us. We wish her well in her new post.

Talk on Arthritis

The talk on Arthritis on 22 October proved to be a very informative evening, however we are very aware that there were a number of patients who were unable to book a place and we are planning to hold a second evening on this subject.

Vintage Tea Party, Saturday 17 January: 3 - 5 pm, Purton Village Hall

We are planning to raise money for a self check-in system in the surgery using a touch screen for patients to check themselves in for appointments. This will reduce queues at the desk thereby enabling receptionists to spend more time on incoming calls and help patients with longer, more complicated queries.

Our first fundraising event for this will be a Vintage Tea Party on Saturday 17 January in Purton Village Hall from 3 - 5 pm. The cost will be £7.50 and tickets will be available from Purton Surgery or by phoning 751986 or 770970. Do come and support us.

Repeat prescription services

Recently some patients may have received a letter in the post from a company called Pharmacy2u offering a repeat prescription delivery service. The letter contains details of your local surgeries but patients should know that this company has adopted a 'blunderbuss' approach using names and addresses which they have bought from commercial sources. They do not have any access to your medical history.

If you register with this company you will have to communicate your repeat prescription requirements to them directly. They will contact the surgery who will send the prescription to them electronically. Once they have received this, your medicines will be dispensed and sent to you in the post from their base in Leeds. Pharmacy2u say that you should allow seven days from your request to the delivery of your medicines. The vagaries of the postal system could, of course, add to this time particularly in the run up to Christmas and at Bank Holidays. You would also need to be available to receive the parcel. Patients should also know that once a prescription has been despatched from the surgery to this company it cannot be re-issued.

Whilst this service could be useful for those who are not very mobile, the current system operated by the surgery, which electronically sends your prescription to your chosen local pharmacy, is efficient and requires much less notice and turnaround and if you aren't able to get out then many pharmacies offer a delivery service.

Of course, every patient has the right to have their prescriptions dispensed at the pharmacy of their choice.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



The gathering of Purton on Remembrance Sunday 9 November at the War Memorial was well attended and most moving. Our own wreath was laid by Jill Herbert and Maureen Quincy, accompanied by the thoughts of members, most of whom had relative interests.

The 15 October Open Meeting offered a welcome to gents as well as our genial (normal!) members. In fact, our male visitors quite obviously thoroughly enjoyed the meeting, as was intended. Our speaker had spent 37 years in the Army and was an expert on explosives, though people were the main interest in the talk. Rob Hyde-Bales, a handsome man of upright bearing, fine haircut, shining shoes, gave us an absorbing illustrated talk on his duties in Ebola, and Chernobyl, and with (or against!) the KGB in Berlin and Poland. Some parts of his fascinating story were more realistic than James Bond tales and lacked only the accompaniment of the smoky fug of a Balkan Sobranie! (I could imagine our WI ladies languishing there, with black nylon-clad legs and silver-tipped cigarette holders.) We did have an opportunity at tea break to pose with a Vodka cocktail. I felt like the woman in the Degas painting – you know, the droopy one gazing at her glass of ominously green absinthe, same colour and appearance ... but I digress ...

As for Chernobyl, that is a devastating occurrence never to be forgotten, no matter how much of the story might be suppressed.

I don't think we shall forget the photographs of pygmies in Africa. nor the tale of mosquito nets being hastily sprayed with insect killer, resulting in the collapse of the nets under the weight of angry snakes and other unpleasant creatures in the middle of the tropical night. The evening was redolent of Conrad's book, "Heart of Darkness" and of the film "The African Queen", and the realisation that diamonds and whisky have an exchange rate. The speaker had our full attention throughout, and this was backed up by the Quiz in social time. I cannot remember when answers came more promptly to the lips of the audience. How I would love to have that full script on file (perhaps with Mrs Hyde-Bales's comments!)

Back to normality – the diaries that we collected last month are already well in use and, as we are being given copies of the minutes and information sheets when we arrive at each meeting, you won't need me to list forthcoming things-to-do. The activities table is covered with forms – and things to buy – e.g. our Cookery Book, and much to do. I have already booked in for the Christmas meeting on 17 December, have you? Never a dull life in the WI!

For instance: on 26 March 2015 the Spring Forest Group is being hosted by Purton Evening WI, but as none of the halls in Purton are available, the meeting will be held at Hook Village Hall. The speaker will be Val Threlfall on "A Honeymoon Suitcase" showing clothes from the first half of 20th century. And we shall only have to travel to Hook for this!

Here's a message from the Committee: please polish your old – and new – WI badges as we are being asked to wear them on 26 March! Nice idea – it will take me a wee while to find it, though! And another message – subscriptions next year will be £36, so get saving. Stella could help, if nicely asked!

I look forward so much to seeing you all on 17 December, best party dress.

CONSTANCE REED, tel: 771571

Swindon Scouts Christmas Post

As usual, 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group will be participating in Swindon Scout Christmas Post!



We are selling stamps at our usual locations: In Touch Services, Best One and Shear Success in Purton and at Toomers Garden Centre, in Lydiard Millicent.

All profits go to run Scouting in the Swindon, Purton, Highworth and Wootton Bassett areas.

Christmas cards must be properly addressed including postcode and only posted in the Special Scout Post Boxes. Stamps are 30p each, a real saving! Please **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through Royal Mail post boxes. They are not valid and the receiver of the card will have to pay a £1 surcharge!

Last time for Posting is 4 pm on Tuesday 16 December 2014

The cards will be delivered between 20 and 23 December 2014

The delivery area for the Swindon Scout Christmas Post is Swindon Borough and some of the surrounding towns and villages as follows:

Swindon Borough: This includes all areas of Swindon, Badbury, Bishopstone, Blunsdon, Burderop, Chiseldon, Draycott Foliat, Elcombe, Hannington, Highworth, Hinton Parva, Hodson, Inglesham, Langton Park, Liddington, Overtown, Red Barn, South Leaze, South Marston, Stanton Fitzwarren, Stratton St Margaret, Thorney Park, Wanborough, West Leaze, Wroughton.

Other Towns and Villages: We deliver to Royal Wootton Bassett, Purton, Lydiard Millicent, Bushton, Clyffe Pypard, Tockenham, Broad Town, Cricklade, Latton, Ashton Keynes, Shrivenham, Watchfield, Bourton, Idstone, Ashbury and Kingston Winslow.

We DO NOT deliver to any other location.

Thank you everyone for supporting us; especially the local businesses for housing our boxes and selling stamps! A wonderful contribution.

To Fete or not to Fete, that is the question ...

... for you! In Purton, we are lucky to have such a thriving community and a variety of events throughout the calendar year from the Horticultural Show to the PADS productions, from the Carnival to the new Scarecrow Trail and so much more. Our question for you is whether or not you would like to see a traditional village fete in Purton. We are keen to hear from you as to whether or not you would like to see this happen and if so, what kind of stalls and games would you like to see there?

Please do get in touch to let us know your thoughts or if you would like to get involved in any way by emailing us at purtonfete@gmail.com or by filling in the comments sheets which you will find located in various public venues around the village.

ALICE HART

Cricklade Christmas Country Market

The Christmas Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 19 December 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 Churches Together - Christmas 2014

My favourite characters in the Christmas nativity presentations have to be the angels. I suppose it has to do with all those plays I have watched over the years and seeing those angelic faced little ones in tinsel and white doing their bit for mam or grandma to see. I dropped a real clanger once by calling the children the best angels I had ever seen, when in fact they were the stars! In the Bible story, the angels pop up all over the place – to Zechariah and Elizabeth, to Mary and then to the shepherds. The results are often disturbing, challenging and surprising, but always wonderfully exciting. Our human emotion is taken to the edge in order to have the opportunity to glimpse the God who comes among us!

The angel said to the Shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." [Luke chapter 2, verses 10-11]

Living as I do in a world obsessed by ever more incredible ways of contacting one another (which still hasn't meant people really communicate at all!) I quite enjoy reading the way God did it back then. Plain and simple, frighten them to death, but always tell the Good News! Maybe when we think of how we could make a genuine response to the Christmas story this year, we can learn a lot from the angels. Surprise people by sharing good news – joyful messages of hope. As Christians, tell of what God is doing in your life today. But above all, help people to get to the crib so as to find out for themselves, that what God says is true. Go on, be an angel and take the opportunities that our varied church Christmas programme presents to invite others to come with you.

Rev DAVID PERKINS, Purton Methodist Church

Good News for St Mary's Church and for Purton

We all know that we live in a time of Change with a capital "C". So much of what we have held dear has had to be altered or developed or closed or finished. All of which can make us feel less than secure. Back in 2003 when Canon Brian Fessey retired it looked as if there was going to be major change also in the way St Mary's Church was staffed. In technical terms the "living was suspended" which meant that Jane Haslam, John Railton and then I, myself, were appointed "priest in charge" pending "pastoral re-organisation".

We have all been known as "vicar" but technically we did not have the full title. It made little difference on a day to day basis but in the back of all of our minds has been the thought that at some point re-organisation was going to affect Purton and we might possibly lose a member of staff solely for Purton. Since Brian Fessey's time all four of us "vicars" have been half-time but there has been a very real prospect of Purton losing even that as the Parish might have been merged with another Parish and had to share an even smaller proportion of a "vicar". However there has been a rethink in the Diocese and it has been decided that such a "change" is not likely for the foreseeable future. As a consequence the Bishop has "collated" me on Wednesday 5 November and on Sunday 9 November the

Archdeacon “inducted” and “installed” me as Vicar of St Mary’s.

It may not appear to make much difference on a day-to-day basis, I will still be working three days a week in Purton (mostly it will be Saturday, Sunday and one weekday), though I will now have some greater responsibilities for the Church building. However it sends a message to us all in Purton that God willing we now have some greater security for longer term ministry here in Purton. With that security comes the responsibility to ensure that St Mary’s Church including the building continues to meet the needs of the people of Purton as a quality place of worship for now and for future generations. We also will need to face the challenge of the new Ridgeway Farm development on the edge of the Parish, and we may need to enter further partnerships with other Church Families in addition to the one we enjoy with Purton Methodist Church. However I, along with the Church Family at St Mary’s, will seek, with God’s help, to serve the people of Purton and to proclaim God’s message of Good News to us all.

The message of the angels referred to by Rev David Perkins in his Christmas article, the message that we remember afresh each Christmas, the message the angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” [*Luke chapter 2, verses 10-11, The Bible*]. This unchanging message is from our unchanging God, who is the same “yesterday and today and for ever” [*Hebrews chapter 13, verse 8*]. So let us together rejoice that God has given us a little more local security and that He has reminded us that together we can have a far greater security as we put our trust in the one who was born in the town of David (Bethlehem), the one who is Christ the Lord, the one who never Changes with a capital “C”. It would be lovely to meet you over the Christmas season at one of our united Christmas Services (see the Diary section of the magazine for details). May God give each of you a truly Happy Christmas.

Your “Vicar” and friend,

IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH

God is in the Garden

God is in the garden
He speaks through every flower
through every insect, bird and bee
He calls us every hour

The peace which can pervade us
when we feel his presence near,
is so timeless and so precious
it removes our every fear

We only have to listen
and blot out the modern sounds
of raucous tools, machines and cars
with which this life abounds

JM

Carols at ‘Coffee and Chat’

Wednesday 17 December, 10.00 am to 12 noon

Come along to Silver Threads Hall and sing your favourite carols, enjoy some festive food, buy some raffle tickets, and enjoy the company. A warm welcome awaits.

LINDA TINSON

Church Floodlighting

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



- 10 November The Church was floodlit in memory of **Pete Holland** on the anniversary of his wedding day and birthday. From all the Holland family
- 19 November St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Duncan Bamford's** birthday. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey and Howard and family.
- 9 December The Church will be floodlit in memory of a 'loving Mother', **Elsa Trotter**, on her birthday
- 19 December The church will be floodlit for my wife **Elsie Goodings**, on what would have been her birthday. Pete Goodings.
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
St Mary's will be floodlit to wish all Purtonians **a Very Happy Christmastide.**
- 31 December St Mary's Church will be floodlit to welcome in the New Year. **A Very Happy New Year** to you all.

Floodlighting contact: Libbie Sheppard: 771018.

If there are any difficulties with the floodlights we apologise. We try our best, but sometimes there are complications due to the weather etc

Christmas flowers for St Mary's Church

If anyone in the village would like to bring some flowers to St Mary's Church, to decorate ready for Christmas, you would be very, very welcome. Please come along on Tuesday 23 December, anytime from 9.30 am onwards.

Flowers are a lovely way to celebrate and remember a special day for special people in your life.

For more information please phone Libbie on 771018.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Rehearsals are under way for Pantomime but **WE NEED A PIANIST.** If anyone fancies having a go, we need someone who can play the piano/keyboard and can ad-lib with dramatic chords and the odd incidental music where necessary. Other songs/dances will have the music provided. Rehearsals will be at the Village Hall from December; we have one evening of just music, then you will probably not be needed until mid-January onwards, Tuesdays and Thursdays with a dress rehearsal on Sunday 1 February and the Panto itself Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 February.



Please contact either Lindsey 771890 or Kate 771442

PURTON PLACARD

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

St Mary's Church
**Traditional
Nine Lessons & Carols
by Candlelight**

6 pm on 28 December 2014
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

**Coming Up at The Cedars
Weekly Wednesday Coffee Morning**
every Wednesday 10am - midday

Open Day with festive refreshments
Tuesday 9 December 10am - 2pm

The Cedars Got Talent Show
12 December 2.30pm

PURTON AGE CONCERN
Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 24 January at 6.30 pm
at the Village Hall

Tickets available from
Ron & Heather Harris on 770850

**Christmas
Coffee Morning**

Friday 5 December
10 am to noon
at 18 Church Path

**Proceeds to
Purton Lunch Club**

Sing 4/4 Community Choir

*Your Local Community Choir
and Guests
Present*

"The Joy of Christmas"
*A Feast of Music to Welcome
Christmas*

At the Village Hall, Purton
Thursday 11 December at 8 pm
Tickets £6.50

(Light refreshments included)
Available 1 November from:

Jenny Barnes 770339

Mary New 770630

from any choir member

or from Best One

In Aid of Local Charities

Purton Silver Threads

Only one meeting this month:
2 pm : Tuesday 9 December
Musical Companions

Club returns 6 January 2015

**Carols at 'Coffee and
Chat'**

**Wednesday 17 December
10 am to 12 noon
Silver Threads Hall**

Sing your favourite carols
Enjoy some festive food
Buy some raffle tickets
Enjoy the company.
A warm welcome awaits!

Purton Under Fives
Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 7 December
2-4 pm at the Village Hall
Admission Free

**St Mary's Church
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

on **Saturday 29 November**
in the **Village Hall**
12 noon - 2.30 pm

Come and have your lunch!! ...
Lunches served – hot meat baps
Many attractions and stalls,
including:

Home-made produce
Activities for children

St Mary's School Choir
will be singing

Mince pies, teas and coffees

**Purton Twinning
Association**



Quiz

Friday 19 December, 8pm

at the Silver Threads Hall

Teams of up to six.

Licensed bar.

£5 per person

including a Ploughman's supper.

To book a place please call

Len Page on 770160 or

Sara Brown on 778362



Fun & Learn Together

at the Royal George

Mondays 1.30pm – 2.30pm

(Termtime only)

**A group for under 5s
and their parents or carers**

- Free books and activities for you and your child to try at home
 - Relaxed, fun and friendly
- Adult learning such as IT skills, maths, food hygiene and more

Bradon Forest School Presents:

Arabian Nights

Adapted by Dominic Cooke

December 3rd, 4th and 5th at 7:30pm
at The Bradon Forest Theatre

Tickets:

£5.00 for Adults

£4.00 for Students

Available through the Drama Department,
The Arts Office or through
www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk.

01793 773981

**PURTON AGE CONCERN
Carols Under the Tree**

by the Institute

7 pm

Wednesday 24 December

All your favourite carols with
Mince pies and punch!

**MORE PLACARD
OVERLEAF**

PURTON PLACARD

- plus -

Group for Patients Purton and Green Gable Surgery

Shake off winter and join us for a

Vintage Tea Party

Saturday 17 January 2015

Village Hall, Purton

3 - 5 pm

Tickets £7.50 to include a Welcome glass
Raising funds to purchase a self check-in
system for the surgery

Tickets from Purton Surgery, tel 01793 770207
Or tel 01793 751986 or 01793 770970

Purton Age Concern Christmas Market

Saturday

13 December

9 am - 12 noon

Outside

Pavenhill Shops

*Lots of Christmas
bargains!*

Pips Community Café **Christmas Sing-Along**

Wednesday, 17 December

7.30 pm

Purton Club Function Room

Licensed bar Mulled wine Mince pies

Raffle Tombola

Free entry

Purton Age Concern **Christmas Party**

Saturday 6 December

5 pm - 8.30 pm

at the Village Hall

Cost £5.00

Join us for festive fun!

Purton & District Guide Dogs

Well here we are the last magazine of 2014, where on earth has the year gone?

On 9 October the concert by The Cricklade Band and their Academy was fairly well attended. The first part was by the Academy who gave a very good account of themselves. Then it was the turn of the Performance Band, (notably some of the members of Academy had progressed sufficiently to be included). We were treated to a wide variety of music. Some of the pieces had featured instrumentalists, who performed with the quality we have come to know and appreciate. Thanks to your support and the Band's amazing generosity, we raised over £206.

We hope to be able to arrange a Jumble Sale early in the New Year. As they say 'watch this space'.

The committee and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all A Very Merry and Peaceful Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



The December 2004 issue marked the end of the first year of Purton Magazine being run by the new committee and it is

heartening to see that many of the original committee are still making their voluntary contributions.

That issue carried details from the Parish Council about just how long it takes to produce planning legislation. The two main documents of the day were the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan for 2016 and the South West Regional Spatial Strategy for 2026. Now in 2014 it seems that the Structure Plan has more or less been replaced by the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Meanwhile the Regional Spatial Strategy became beset with hundreds of objections and, since the coalition Government has been in power, it has been shelved.

Over the years, different planning documents focus on different aspects of planning which, in turn, tend to create some grey areas which developers happily highlight to the authorities during their appeals processes and, on page 9, it seems that another appeal for a development in Purton may not be too far away.

Also in Purton Magazine 10 years ago, there was an interesting article about dos and don'ts relating to bonfires. Maybe with Wiltshire Council now providing kerb-side collections of garden waste, the need for bonfires has been substantially reduced.

All past issues from January 2004 (but without advertisements) can be accessed through our on-line archive. Please visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk.

The Cricklade Band

We have our Christmas Present at The Club at Cricklade on Sunday 21 December at 7.30 pm.

Just like last year, we're keeping the cosiness of our Christmas Present format, with all of its Christmas party atmosphere! There will of course be all the carols and Christmas music you'd expect to join in with, and again our BandAcademy will also be taking an important part.

We'll have seasonal refreshments, and a raffle kindly supported by Cricklade traders and businesses. You'll also have the bar available throughout the show.

Entry this year is by ticket (although you might be able to get in on the night) and still just a fiver – tickets will be available at the Council Office in Cricklade High Street and from any member of the band.

The band is all ready as usual for a busy festive season. Our December diary has details of about 15 occasions between the 5th and Christmas morning when we'll be out and about playing all the familiar carols and Christmas music. We'll be touring the streets of Cricklade, Purton, Ashton Keynes and Latton. Your kind donations during our traditional door-to-door collections will, in addition to the band itself, benefit Prospect Foundation, our local hospice whose care seems to involve most families in one way or other.

We always do it in music but, from everyone in The Cricklade Band – 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.

PAUL HEWER

Purton Diary - December 2014

3	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Arabian Nights at Bradon Forest Theatre
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
		7.30pm	Arabian Nights at Bradon Forest Theatre
5	F	10.00am	<i>12 noon:</i> Christmas Coffee Morning at 18 Church Path
		7.30pm	Arabian Nights at Bradon Forest Theatre
		7.30pm	Historical Society: Christmas Social at Silver Threads Hall
6	Sa	5.00pm	<i>to 8.30pm:</i> Age Concern Christmas Party at the Village Hall
7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	UJC Anniversary, United/Parade Service at Methodist Church
		2.00pm	<i>to 4pm:</i> Purton Under Fives Christmas Bazaar at Village Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Life in the East End - A Fancy Box Cutter</i>
		10.00am	<i>to 2pm:</i> The Cedars Open Day with festive refreshments
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		8.00pm	After 8: "Christmas Sing a long" at Cathy's
10	W	2.30pm	Methodist Fellowship Christmas meeting at Hooks Hill
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
		8.00pm	Sing 4/4 "Joy of Christmas" at Village Hall
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern minibus to Swindon
		2.30pm	Cedars-Got-Talent show at The Cedars
13	Sa		Age Concern Christmas Market at Pavenhill shops
14	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	Classic Carols with Bradon Forest Orchestra at St Mary's Church + Pies & Punch
15	M	1.30pm	Christingle for children up to 7 years (KS1), St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Revd Judith Wells - Christmas Devotional Meeting
16	Tu	1.30pm	Christingle for children 7 years plus (KS2), St Mary's Church
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
17	W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Carols at Coffee & Chat, Silver Threads Hall
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Evening WI at Village Hall: <i>Christmas meeting</i>
		7.30pm	Christmas Sing-Along at Purton Club Function Room (see p34)

18		6.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : Santa visits Purton (see page 51 for details)
19	F	1.30pm	<i>to 4pm and 4.45 to 7.15pm</i> : Blood Donor sessions at Village Hall www.blood.co.uk
		6.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : Santa visits Purton (see page 51 for details)
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church, by Railway Village
		8.00pm	Purton Twinning Assoc Quiz at Silver Threads Hall
21	Su		Winter Solstice
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Carol Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
23	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
24	W	4.00pm	United Village Carol Service at St Mary's Church with Cricklade Band
		7.00pm	Age Concern Carols under the tree, outside the Institute
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St Mary's Church
25	Th		Christmas Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
26	F		Boxing Day
28	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's Church + Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
31	W		New Year's Eve

Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	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
	11.15am	<i>to 1pm</i> : New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm</i> : Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Moon Phases

○ 6 December ● 14 December ● 21 December ● 28 December

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact: Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

To advertise in Purton Magazine telephone 01793 770648

or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

2015 Annual rates: 1/8 page £85 1/4 page £170 1/2 page £340 other rates on application

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

■ BERT HIBBARD

I would like to thank everyone who sent myself and my family cards, letters, phone calls of condolences on the recent passing of my Dad Albert Hibbard, known as Bert.

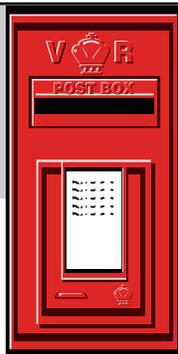
It was very much appreciated at this sad time.

Marlene Waldron & family

■ WHOHASIT?

May I, through your column, enquire after to whom I loaned my colourful old school blazer, because I failed to make a note. I would like to wear it for the next PADS "whodunit" at Hook on 8 December.

Thank you.



Nick Yerbury

Museum News

We have been very pleased to note an increase in our visitor numbers during 2014.

Our exhibition to commemorate World War 1 has been well received and it is hoped that we can refresh some of the displays during the coming months. We would like to thank everyone who has given us treasured items on loan and of course thank the invaluable assistance of our Museum Stewards who do an excellent job.

We have been very grateful to receive the donation of three Enclosure maps and an accompanying roll of documents from Mr and Mrs Carter of Bentham Farm. We have employed the skills of the conservators at the Wiltshire History Centre to have the maps mounted on card and they provide an invaluable record of this important time in our history. The maps dated 1737 are on display in the museum.

In line with other years we regret that we will be closing the museum during the months of December and January due to the chilly conditions. We may extend this closing period to include February which will be confirmed later. The museum can be opened by prior arrangement with the Curator by telephoning 01793 770124.

We will be opening on a Saturday morning in January for a talk by Bob Lloyd on researching your relatives who were involved in World War 1 and other aspects of how the war affected this village. This date is to be confirmed – please look for posters around the village

Can any villager advise of the meaning of the letters I L included in the brick chimney of the thatched cottage soon to be demolished in Witts Lane? It has been referred to as 'Barnes Cottage' which does not tie in with these initials.

It only remains to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a New Year which includes a visit to our museum!

JAN WALKER, Curator

Purton Historical Society



Last meeting: Thursday, 23 October 2014 - The Archaeology of Bradon Forest

The main subject of Mike Stone's excellent presentation was the Roman/Medieval 'clay works' making tiles, bricks and pottery etc. In Roman times there was a large works at Minety which supplied the major Roman centres of Cirencester and Bath. Smaller works were situated at different points in the area, notably at Brinkworth and Cricklade. The large works at Minety continued to operate into medieval times and we learnt about the production process including details of the kilns used. Large amounts of Roman and medieval pottery, brick and tile fragments were found on this site and Mike showed us excellent examples. Product was very often stamped to indicate where it was produced. During the Civil War in approximately 1650 the 'clay works' moved site to Ashton Keynes and production continued there until the outbreak of the 1st World War in 1914.

Friday 5 December 2014 - Annual Christmas Social, Silver Threads Hall, 7.30 pm

The Annual Christmas Social is always a relaxed, festive occasion. The social is very good value with tickets at £12 each which includes a buffet supper, glass of wine and entertainment by 'The Musical Companions'. There is also a quiz planned and a very good raffle with lots of prizes.

Tickets are available from Group Meetings, In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill (01793 772954) or Purton Museum (open during November, Wednesdays 2 pm to 5 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm).

Thursday 22 January 2015 - 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

'The Empire Theatre' Swindon - Roger Trayhurn

Further details to follow in January magazine.

The Society Bulletin - Autumn 2014 issue includes the history of the War Memorial and the soldiers who died in WW1, including photographs, a detailed history on St Mary's Church over 1,000 years, memories of an evacuee during WW2 in the village and other interesting articles.

This Bulletin is now on sale at 'Best One' shop, Lower Square, Purton and at our meetings for £3.50 a copy.

New members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JAN NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com

Telephone 01793 770117

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 £16 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

john@creasey.org

Great War Project

Part 17: December 1914

All was “comparatively” quiet on the northern sectors of the Western Front. Apart from a few skirmishes, all sides were licking their wounds after heavy losses in October and November.

However further south on 17 December a French offensive under the command of Marshal Pétain commenced near Arras (1st Battle of Artois). Pétain's forces were struggling and requested a British offensive to push the German line further north. The BEF's commander, General French, planned six simultaneous attacks with most of the forces from the Indian Corps. They had only arrived in France a few weeks before and had suffered heavy losses at Ypres. Many of those surviving Ypres were exhausted and suffering from the winter conditions compounded by a lack of warm clothing and adequate food. Taking part in this with the 20th Deccan Horse was Major George Gretton, originally from Australia but who later settled at Diana Lodge in Purton.

On 19 December in freezing rain the Lahore Division took the first two German lines while coming under heavy machine gun fire. Further north, the Garhwal Brigade and the Ghurkhas took 300 metres of the opposing line at Festubert. The Germans regrouped and counter-attacked that same morning. On 20 December the German artillery shelled the Indian troops and a series of mines exploded under the British lines killing many.

British losses at Artois were high, especially among the Indian units. In addition to battle wounds, many suffered frostbite and trench foot. The British faced heavy losses (4,000 for the BEF compared with 2,000 for the German Army) with no strategic gain. The Indian soldiers, ill-prepared for the conditions, were close to mutiny and the British general staff began to withdraw them from the Western Front.

Artois had been the first offensive on the Western Front by either side after Ypres in November, but failed to break the frontline stalemate.

There was an unofficial and temporary Christmas truce between British and German soldiers on much of the Western Front particularly around Ypres, and French troops in other sectors. Apart from tales of carol singing and football matches in no-man's-land, the truce allowed both sides to recover and bury the bodies of the many soldiers who had died between the trench lines and in water-filled shell craters. It began on Christmas Eve and ran until New Year's Day in several places, before both sides recommenced sniping at each other.

On 16 December, German battleships had bombarded Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby on the Yorkshire coast. Then on Christmas Eve there was the first German air raid on Dover. Most of the hand launched bombs fell ineffectively in the sea, but it was a shock that anything like that was possible. On Christmas Day, British aircraft were launched from warships, together with submarine support, to attack the German port of Cuxhaven. Little damage was caused.

In the east, on 6 December, German troops overran Łódź, in modern day

Poland, pushing Russia back. By the 15th, the Russians were in retreat toward Moscow. Then on 17 December, Austrian troops defeated the Russians at Limanowa in southern Poland.

In the south, Austro-Hungarian forces occupied Belgrade, Serbia's capital, on 2 December, but the Serbs retook it on 15 December. By 19 December, the Serbs had won a decisive victory over Austria-Hungary in the Battle of Kolubara.

Italy meanwhile had proclaimed its neutrality on 5 December.

More was going on at sea. The German naval squadron of Maximilian von Spee, consisting of 2 armoured cruisers, (Scharnhorst and Gneisenau), 3 light cruisers and 3 auxiliaries had sunk HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth at Coronel. They were intercepted at the Falkland Islands where all but one light cruiser (SMS Dresden) and an auxiliary were sunk on 8 December. Apart from the 2 escaping ships, there were only 215 rescued German survivors, with about 2,000 killed. There was little damage to the British squadron.

On 18 December, Egypt, already under British administration from the Ottoman Empire, was annexed by Britain as a protectorate. Turkey had only just entered the war on the side of the Central Powers. But with its ally Austria struggling to its west against the Serbs, it now had Britain holding strategic points of its empire to the south (Egypt) and in the Levant (Cyprus). Making life more difficult, the Turks were pushed back by Russia (28 December) after fighting in Armenia for several weeks in their north-east. On 17 December the Turkish authorities expelled the Jews living in Jaffa (Tel Aviv).

By now, plans were afoot in Britain to take decisive action to surround Turkey by action closer to the capital, Istanbul, by targeting the straits locking the Black Sea from the Aegean and Mediterranean, which would allow the Russian southern fleets to participate more widely. Gallipoli seemed like a good landing point.

And Australian and New Zealand troops arrived in Cairo on 23 December.

The following men from Purton arrived in France in December 1914:

Arthur Kenneth Richardson	1 st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers
William Shailes	1 st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
Samuel Edward Lawrence Freegard	2/4 th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Elsewhere on 19 December, Mohandas Gandhi and his wife left England by sea for India. While on board he began to learn Bengali.

On 26 December, the US Government protested at British interference with American merchant ships at sea. However, the same day Germany announced that they would treat food as contraband subject to seizure, stifling the US protest.

RICK DIXON

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *The Fox*, *The Pry* and *Collins Lane*. 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.



Our Family's War

Captain Mervyn Stronge Richardson (pictured) of Purton House, wrote many letters home. These are a selection from December 1914:

6 December 1914: We have had an awful time since we got back into the trenches. It rained all the first night, and most of the next day, and we are up to our necks in water and mud, as we are beside a river which is rising, and in consequence is flooding the trenches, which are very low indeed. Last night the parapets were falling in, and men had to be kept shoving them up with planks. We have not a single dossing place that the rain does not get through, so that you got almost as wet as you slept as when you were outside.

I have been struggling with the bottoms of the trenches to get them clean, paving them with bricks, instead of having liquid mud in, and water over one's boots. None of us have had dry feet since we came in. This life soon picks out the weaklings.

Yesterday one of our Company wanted some earth for something, and he saw a mound of it, and started digging, and came across fourteen dead Germans fully equipped, and later on a man was enlarging his shelter in the trench, and he came across another man. These trenches were German, [taken] by our troops and converted [to our use].

16 December 1914: I crept up to the German trenches the other night, and could hear them talking, and walking about. The German trenches are only about 100 yards off ours.

31 December 1914: I will tell you of the extraordinary day we spent on Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve we had a sing-song with the men [of 'A' Company] in the trenches. We put up a sheet of canvas, with a large "Merry Christmas" and a portrait of the Kaiser painted on it, on the parapet. The next morning there was a thick fog, and when it lifted about 12 o'clock, the Germans (Saxons) who were only about 150 yards in front of us saw it, they began to shout across, and beckoning to our men to come half way and exchange gifts. They then came out of their trenches, and gave our men cigars and cigarettes, and 2 barrels of beer, in exchange for tins of bully beef. The situation was so absurd, that another officer of ours and myself went out, and met seven of their officers, and arranged that we should keep our men in their respective trenches, and that we should have an armistice until the next morning, when we would lower our Christmas card, and hostilities would continue. One of them presented me with the packet of cigarettes I sent you, and we gave them a plum pudding, and then we shook hands with them, and saluted each other, and returned to our respective trenches. Not a shot was fired all day, and the next morning we pulled our card down, and they put one up with "thank you" on it.

The Christmas truce Mervyn witnessed was to the north-east of Armentières with 'A' Company 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers when he was confronted with

seven Saxon officers. Reference was also found to him compiling a poem of the event later published in the Times or Morning Post. 'A' Company was in the frontline trenches at Frelinghein opposite the brewery that was in German hands. The German soldiers opposite were Machine Gun Company troops of the 6th Jäger Battalion attached to the 134th Infantry Regiment. In her book *Remembrance Wakes* his mother, Ethel Richardson, recorded that nineteen years after the event she still had the packet of cigarettes given to Mervyn by the German.

The above is taken from 'Purton & The Great War' by Bob Lloyd. Copies of the CD Book are available from In Touch Services and from Bob direct at info@purton1418.co.uk. All proceeds of sales go to Combat Stress.

We have already received a number of contributions for this section, for which we are most grateful. If you want to share a memory of your family's life in the Great War, in the forces or the home front, please send it to us at one of the addresses on [page 4](#). We will include it at an appropriate date.

Purton Remembers

The PURTON REMEMBERS list continues to grow, if anyone wants to join and receive information regarding the Parish War years please e-mail me at info@purton1418.co.uk.

Those who attended the annual Service on Sunday 9 November will have seen the first 3 poppies from Bradon Forest School being laid. "Poppies from Bradon Forest" is an extension to my PURTON REMEMBERS project. The Art Department is producing a ceramic poppy for each of the Parish men (and boys) that we will remember between 2014 and 2020. At the end of this project 94 individually crafted poppies will have been created to form a stunning display. The aim of the project was to include a community group (Bradon Forest School have taken this on) in a project that in real time remembers the ultimate price the community paid during the Great War years.

After 7 years of research, I would like to publicly thank the school, especially the Art Department in taking on the project. It was an idea I had in 2010 when I released my second publication but thought would be better suited to wait until the 100th anniversary of the Great War. Little did I know that a similar idea was to form a stunning display at the Tower of London (maybe they got wind of my idea). I was proud to finally stand at the War Memorial and lay one of the first 3 poppies with the head boy and girl. Whilst I will continue to provide supporting information and guidance this aspect now becomes the school's to carry forward.

In January I hope to hold a talk at the Museum to give details of how the Parish reacted to the first 5 months of War. I intend to hold a talk each year to briefly cover the Parish War story through to 2018. The first talk will be advertised closer to the event around the Village and will be followed by a Q&A session regarding anyone interested in researching family links to the Great War, not just Purton residents but anyone interested in finding out about relatives is encouraged to come along.

BOB LLOYD

Magnificent Meadows

The UK's wildflower meadows are vanishing and with them our native flowers and the wildlife that rely upon them. Only 3% of the meadows that existed in the 1930s now remain. Nearly 7.5 million acres of wildflower meadow have been lost so far and they are still being destroyed.

In North Wiltshire we are lucky to have some jewels of wildflower meadows left, but as elsewhere, they form only a fragment of what was formerly there. In addition, keeping these sites in good shape requires ongoing management. Originally, wildflower meadows came into existence through low intensity farming. Hay cutting and grazing are essential to keep grasslands open, to create a warm microclimate and encourage wildflowers. This in turn, attracts a wealth of butterflies, bees and beetles. Conserving and restoring wildflower meadows is not only important for wildlife, but also for people. The wriggly insects that thrive in wildflower meadows play a valuable part in our food production as pollinators and natural pest control agents. Meadows are also an excellent place for people to unwind or to get some exercise!



Paradoxically, while farming created our magnificent meadows, modern, intensive farming is the main cause of decline. High fertilizer inputs, large-scale mowing and low diversity seed mixes are detrimental to meadow wildlife. This doesn't mean farming and nature can't go together. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust manages several meadow reserves that provide a home to a wide array of wildlife, while also producing beef and hay. Getting the balance right, however, isn't easy, especially in our intensively used landscape. It takes a lot of work and dedication. To deliver this we need your help!

Help conserve and restore valuable wildflower meadows!

There are many ways to get involved and there is something for all ages and abilities. Opportunities in (North) Wiltshire include:

- Volunteer with us on practical conservation management tasks:
 - Every first Sunday of the month at Lower Moor Farm (near Minety).
 - Every third Thursday of the month at Blakehill Farm (near Cricklade).
 - Every third Saturday of the month at Blakehill Farm (near Cricklade).
- Become a volunteer leader. We provide free leadership and skills training for committed volunteers.
- Check our progress through wildlife monitoring. We provide free plant, bee and butterfly identification courses for committed volunteers.
- Grow plug-plants for us to boost restoration of developing meadows. This can be done from the comfort of your own home!
- Come along to family events to enjoy and learn about meadows.

For event dates and directions go to: www.wiltshirewildlife.org/whats-on

Interested to help out? Contact our Magnificent Meadows officer: ToosV@wiltshirewildlife.org, tel: 07584 528639, Twitter WWT_SOMM

For information on the national project visit: www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk

Gaffer's Tales

In the first in an occasional series, Gaffer reflects on life on the farm.

It was a cold night, and I was content to sit by the fire and relax after a long day of T.B. testing on my dairy farm. That was always a time for worrying if you would have any reactions, the consequence of having the farm shut up for months and not being able to sell calves or cows. That would mean having to juggle the available food to feed all the cattle. Anyway; we had a clear test, thank goodness.



It was eight o'clock and there was a cow near its calving time, and I thought I would go and check she was OK before it got too late, because if there was a problem calving, better to get it done before the night set in. So I pulled on my overalls and boots and made my way to the loose box where Daisy the Friesian cow was. No she had not calved. Feeling above her tail there was a certain slackness that indicated she was ready to give birth. Best thing to do was to examine her inside to check all was normal, so I rolled up my sleeves and plunged my hands into a bucket of warm water I had brought with me, just in case, soaped my arms well and murmuring quietly to Daisy slowly pushed my arm inside her birth canal. She turned her head with her big eyes and let out a quiet moan, whisked her tail in my face, but remained still. Slowly pushing in I felt the head of the calf. Feeling around, I found one leg, front leg, but only one; where was the other? Feeling down the neck of the calf to the shoulder, I found the other leg laid back. Somehow I would have to bring the second leg forward so old Daisy could calve. This involved pushing the calf back into Daisy and easing the leg up. All the while, Daisy had been trying to push her calf out. When she was not straining, I pushed firmly on the calf's nose, and back it went after 2 or 3 times. I felt the offending leg and managed to pull it forward. Daisy looked around at me and grunted.

Now I had a head and two legs in the correct position to calve normally. After getting my breath back, I fished out two cords from my pocket and hooked one over one leg of the calf and one over the other leg. There were two sticks nearby, so I attached the ropes to the sticks and now had the means to help Daisy. So when she gave a push, I gently pulled on the ropes, and soon the feet of the calf appeared. At every heave Daisy had, I pulled a bit more. Then a nose appeared and gradually the whole head was there. Sometimes a calf will stick at this point because of the size of its shoulders; this time, all of a sudden the calf slipped out and landed in the straw at my feet. There it was, steaming and wet, new life. Gently, I poked a bit of straw in the newborn's nose, it twitched, sneezed and wagged its head about, it was breathing. Job done.

Daisy turned with a muffled moo and began licking the calf quite vigorously. I removed the ropes from its legs and had a look to see what sex it was. A girl, that is, a heifer calf. I stood back and watched the cow and calf. I must say, it is always a good feeling when you see new life like this. One of the most satisfying aspects of dairy farming.

Purton & District Probus Club



On 14 October the Revd Dr John Railton gave a detailed account of his life in banking. Having gained a degree in agriculture at Reading University, he moved to London where his fiancé was studying medicine. He took a 'temporary post' with Barclays Bank in Highgate, but with successive promotions and postings he remained committed to a career in banking.

The title of Dr Railton's talk was "Banking Then & Now", the object being to identify and explain the changing nature of banking from the 1960s to the present time. In the early part of his career transactions were carried out across a counter, managers knew their customers, cheques for receipts or payments were entered by hand in a ledger and each bank clerk had an individual till and a personal key. When approving cheques for payment, attention had to be given to at least a dozen features before the cheque was passed for clearance. Loans and mortgages were only arranged if integrity could be proven and some collateral demonstrated. In 1969 Dr Railton was employed in Southampton where he approved a business loan to Messrs. Block & Quayle who wanted to expand their hardware business. It subsequently became B&Q.

In the early years banks generated their income from the difference between paying lower interest for deposits and charging above the bank-rate for loans, but industry and commerce encouraged everyone to have an account for the convenience of paying wages and salaries. The high demand on the banks required more mechanised and efficient methods. Barclays issued the first credit card in 1967 and the same year the first Automatic Teller Machine was installed, i.e. 'hole in the wall'. In the 1960s, Magnetic Imaging Character Recognition (MICR) was used to read cheques automatically. Later BACS, CHAPS and more recently Faster Payments, inter-bank transmissions within 2 hours by phone, have been introduced. Today bankers seek to extend their business in every possible way – foreign exchange finance, trade, trustee and executive work. Computers are linked in a vast network for time saving and efficiency. Banking has come a long way since the time when cheques were cleared by five major banking companies in the city.

The meeting of 28 October was addressed by Barry Dent of Malmesbury, a Geordie by birth, on the subject of 'George Stephenson'. The talk began with the image of the railwayman featured on the £5 bank note (1990-2003). Barry pointed out that parts of the illustration can be attributed to other contemporary engineers:- 'The Rocket' designed by his son Robert, the Stockton & Darlington Railway promoted and financed by Edward Pease and the Bridge over the Skerne designed by Ignatius Bonhomi. However George Stephenson is recognised as the pioneer of Steam Technology and the driving force of the earliest British railways, devoting his life to its advancement. He was born at Wylam in 1781, the son of a colliery engine man. At 17 he became an engineman at a pit in Newburn and paid to study reading, writing and arithmetic at night school. At 27 years he had moved to Killingworth Colliery as engineman. By maintaining the Newcomer/Watt machines and making improvements he was promoted to Colliery Enginewright. In 1814 George constructed his first locomotive 'Blucher' hauling coal at the colliery.

Being aware of the explosions caused by coal gas, in his spare time, he invented, in 1815, a miner's safety lamp – similar to that of Humphrey Davy, but using a glass

shield instead of a gauze surround. The 'Geordie' as it was known was used extensively in the mines of the north.

In 1821 he was appointed Engineer for the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Opened in 1825, it was the first Public Railway. The following year he was made Engineer for the Liverpool to Manchester Railway. In 1829 L&MR staged the Rainhill Trials to select the most efficient locomotive. The 'Rocket' designed by Robert, built by George was the winner, achieving 36 mph. A year later Stephenson's Skew Bridge was opened over the L&MR at Rainhill.

During the next 10 years of his life he was besieged by requests from Railway promoters in northern England, America and Spain. He foresaw the need for a standard gauge which was established across the country at his original 4'8½". He was the first President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Daniel Gooch, Superintendent of the GWR began his career under George and Robert Stephenson. Gooch advised Brunel to site his Railway Works at Swindon.

On 4 November a small party of members visited the Morgan motor factory at Malvern. A conducted tour of the workshops arranged by Ian Mead, conjured great interest among the motor enthusiasts and much nostalgia for the old manufacturing skills demonstrated, but prices were outside of our budget. However, it was a very enjoyable outing.

Next meeting: 9 December – Life in the East End - A Fancy Box Cutter.

BOB STEVENS, tel. 770857

Wessex Get Bronze

Wessex Male Choir made a 4-hour journey to Llandudno at the weekend to participate in the North Wales Music Festival competing against 5 other male voice choirs. The competition was tough and the winners, Birmingham Welsh choir, deserved their win but the Wessex Male Choir from Swindon pulled off a Bronze position with only 2 points between them and the winners.



In the afternoon, not to waste their journey, they gave a free concert in Llandudno for the benefit of St David's Hospice and a retiring collection raised over £240. Comments from the audience, about how much they enjoyed the concert and the best singing they had heard in a long time, raised the spirit of Wessex for the long journey home. During the concert, Wessex's Chamber Choir sang and recorded "Only Remembered" in honour of WW1 service personnel. This is available to hear and view on YouTube:



<http://youtu.be/iffqggPPMw3U>

Wessex will be performing their **Christmas concert** at St Marks Church in Swindon on **19 December** and further information is on their website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk. Tickets are £12 per adult (free for under 16yrs, though a ticket is still required to ensure a seat). Tickets are available from 01285 869955, tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk and from In Touch Services.

The choir have an exciting year ahead of them so, if you think you have got what it takes, please come along to one of their practices in Abbey Meads. You will be very welcome.



From the Archives – 1995 AGM

“He came to the village in the mid 1960s and soon became a stalwart of Purton CC. He became secretary in 1966, a post he held until 1976. After a year’s rest he became chairman and served from 1978 to 1980. While serving in these onerous capacities he was also responsible for encouraging and organising, almost single-handed, the development of youth cricket from 1968 to 1983. When he considered that he was too old to play he gave sterling services as an umpire and many captains will remember his reliable, smiling contributions on Sunday afternoons.

“Player, secretary, chairman, umpire, encourager of the young cricketers and always a member of working parties (the trees around the boundary were planted and nurtured by him), it gives me great pleasure to propose life membership for Mr David Bisset.”

“He too came to the village in the 1960s and soon became known for his enthusiasm and energy. He is perhaps remembered for his ebullient leadership of the Sunday 2nd XI for 8 consecutive seasons in the 1980s. He became a destroyer of cricket pitches with his heavy-footed follow through. Currently involved with Dale Bowler and others in constructing wicket covers and a great enthusiast for all DIY jobs in the club (I personally shall never forget his demolition of the old pavilion in 1972).

“Chairman for the last five seasons and now he’s reached the age when he does not have to pay prescription charges I would also like to propose life membership for our chairman, John Bartlett.”

These nominations were accepted by the unanimous vote of the meeting.

JOE GARDNER



Twenty members recently attended the Swindon & District Presentation Dinner at the Wrag Barn Golf Club, Highworth, to pick up our trophies and certificates from another successful season. A good night was had by all and we even managed to win the quiz!

At the recent AGM all the officers were voted back in except for Steph Brown as Secretary who has decided to take a well deserved break. We welcome Janet Saunders as her replacement.

The winter league is now well under way with both the A and C teams leading the way in Division One and Four respectively.

NICOLA GARDNER

Pips Community Café - Christmas Sing a Long

On Wednesday, 17 December at 7.30 pm in the Purton Club function room (the proposed venue for the community café) there will be an opportunity for a fun evening singing along to popular songs and carols with friends and family, as well as being a fundraiser for Pips café, led by the popular Brinwell choir and musicians.



There will be a licensed bar (with mulled wine), mince pies, raffle and tombola. There is no entrance charge and you don’t need a ticket! Just turn up on the evening.

Purton Walking Group

Purton Walking Group was set up in January 2011 with the aim of having two walks of around 5 miles each month organised by the members. We now have over 50 members who take their turn in organising the walks, emailing out the details about a week beforehand. Some of our walks are local, some we drive to, sharing cars. In addition we sometimes finish near a hostelry where we can have refreshments, though there is no pressure to do this. Our normal start time is 10am, meeting in the Village Hall car park. We can have any number on our walks, from about 6 to over 20.

All our communications are by email and members of the group share their contact information – address, phone number, mobile number and email address.

If you would like to find out more or to join us then contact:

Sheila Fowler: fowler72@waitrose.com

Susan Pagett: susan_pagett@hotmail.co.uk

PURTON CARNIVAL



It's almost Christmas!! So to get you in the festive mood we have a Christmas Bingo on Wednesday 3 December at 7.30 pm at the Silver Threads Hall. We will have mince pies available and mulled wine.

Don't forget that Santa is coming to Purton, so for all you good little boys and girls ... and the kids ... you can give your letter to Santa and get a FREE sweetie. The Carnival committee have threatened to lead you all in a couple of carols as they pass your way.

You can also pick up a copy of your FREE Purton Planner (take a couple and give them out to your friends).

On Thursday 18 December, Santa will be leaving Ringsbury at 6 pm calling in at Restrop View, The Royal George Car Park, Thompson Court, Reids Piece, Proud Close, The Angel Car Park.

On Friday 19 December Santa will be at the Village Hall Car Park at 6 pm he is then making his way to Peartree Close, Waite Meads Close, Jubilee Estate and Vasterne Close.

Save The Dates!

- Rock 'n' Roll Bingo in aid of Purton Carnival at the Red House Club on Friday 6 February 2015, 8pm start. Open to everyone including non-members and families.
- Carnival Wild West Theme Barn Dance on Saturday 25 April 2015
- Carnival events will run from Saturday 20 June to Saturday 4 July 2015
- Carnival Procession and Fete will be on Saturday 4 July 2015

Purton Carnival Committee would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Following the Purton Scarecrow trail, Rainbows continued their scarecrow theme by making a scarecrow collage and creating edible faces from salad ingredients on a bread roll.



Anyone for tennis? Purton Tennis Club organised a tennis taster session for the Rainbows run by their coach Matthew, who made the session great fun and girls enjoyed themselves.

September new starters have made their promises: Caitlin, Heidi, Imogen, Jessica and Kanna as Rainbows and Arabella, Megan and Ellie as Brownies.

The Brownies marked Bonfire Night – 2nd Purton held an 'in the dark' trail outside and 1st Purton Brownies made bonfire biscuits.

Whilst Brownies focussed on the dark, the Guides' focus was on the festival of lights – Diwali. Alice organised a night celebrating the event as part of her Baden-Powell Challenge. Of course there were nibbles but also crafts and games.

Guides also remembered Armistice Day with activities remembering World War One and the significance of the poppy. Brownies prepared for the village service by practising singing the National Anthem. Brownies, Guides and their Leaders participated in the event in glorious November sunshine.

The Guides weren't so lucky with the weather for Streetwise for which it rained. This is an annual treasure hunt style challenge around Swindon on buses and on foot. Rhea, Katy-Erin, Maria, Chloe and Kirstie took part and came third! A great result as it was their first entry in the competition.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



After 8

The first part of our October meeting found us starting to plan our meetings for 2015. What an interesting year it will be as suggestions included a 'Japanese evening', 'Buns and Beverages' and 'White Horses'. Our thanks to Avril who has now produced a programme incorporating these and all our other ideas. Having already exercised the grey matter with the planning bit we now moved on to our treasure trail quiz, and these quizzes are always a bit of a mystery as we never quite know what to expect. We were not disappointed as we started to work through the cryptic clues kindly set for us by Dave. We soon established that the theme was capital cities, but that was the easy bit! Some 20 or so questions later and with a few aching brain cells we were grateful to reach the end and relax with a refreshing cuppa.



Our 9 December meeting will see us enjoying our 'Christmas Sing a Long' at Cathy's.

If you would like more information about After 8 ring Avril on 771542

HELEN DIXON

Purton Artists Exhibition

The first Art Competition, following the generous funding from the Executors for the estate of the late Leslie Holland, has taken place at Bradon Forest School. Prizes were presented by Rachel Holland (granddaughter of Leslie) and Tracey Rapson (Purton Artists). All entries for this competition, "Brave New World" were framed and displayed alongside our exhibits in the Village Hall.



We hope this competition may lead to some younger future members. A separate display of Art Work from Bradon Forest Students was displayed in the Foyer of the Hall.

Did you see the display of original work by Leslie Holland and a copy of his front cover for Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" (1932 edition)?

This year's Exhibition, the thirty-third, proved to be very popular with residents of the village and many others from as far away as Bristol, Devon, Marlborough etc. Over 400 people attended over the three days.

It took many hours to put together – many thanks to our hanging team – and only a relatively short time to dismantle. Special thanks to Lyn Armstrong and her husband for towing the trailer, Clive Webber for his help and a special thanks to Constance for storing it for us.



As usual the standard of work was very high with a wide variety of exhibits including paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, jewellery and handmade cards, two amazing large pencil drawings and this year a large sculpture.

We had many compliments during the exhibition and would welcome any constructive comments from our visitors.

I'm sure you will agree it is a wonderful event for the whole village. However we do run on a tight budget. We do not charge an entry fee but welcome donations. The hire of the Village Hall alone for the three days costs us over £250 with costs rising every year.

Please visit our web site www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk to find out more.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH, Membership Secretary

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

OFFERED: Chest of drawers, pine, approx. 30" high, 16" deep and 36" wide. Needs some DIY attention. Nick, 770552

OFFERED: Settee, 2 seater, green removable cover, complies with 1988 inflammatory conditions. Nick, 770552

OFFERED: Many back numbers of "History Magazine" or ideas for who to give them to. Call David or Avril on 771542 or call at 1 Witts Lane.

WANTED: A DVD/video player, must be in good working order. Please call 772146

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Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We were treated to an interesting evening for our October meeting with a talk and slide show called 'We made a garden' by George Allway. George began by explaining that many years ago he and his wife used to help two elderly sisters in their village with the day to day upkeep of their cottage and extensive gardens, which had been a farm. When one of the sisters passed away aged 98, and the other followed soon after at 94, George and his wife found that the pair had bequeathed their property to them, including several goats. He soon discovered that the goats ate everything in the garden, including the washing!

They soon decided that the cottage was too derelict to repair and so set about rebuilding it. The garden, which was almost non-existent and mainly clay, was next on their list. They began by planting 30 trees and made some raised beds once the house was completed. They found they had a lot of snowdrops already in the garden, and decided to leave an old oak tree as a focal point. Another reason for leaving the oak tree, George explained, was that around 120 to 130 species (mainly insects) live in and around oak trees.

Using a mechanical digger, George then set about constructing a large pond which has become a haven for all types of wildlife. There is a weeping willow tree at the pond's edge, the top of which was once a home to a family of ducks. When the ducklings were old enough they would jump from the tree's canopy into the water. George had to set up netting to protect the family of ducklings from preying crows.

In raised beds with acid soil George has grown shrubs such as dwarf rhododendrons, pieris and camellias. He explained that camellia '*donation*' is a very dependable and attractive shrub with its pink flowers.

One side of George's garden faces north-east so they planted a quarter of an acre of woodland with a range of trees including oaks, malus (crab apples) and silver birches, along with 5000 daffodils! To ensure a good display year after year they feed the daffodils with blood, fish and bone fertiliser in February when the leaves have emerged from the soil. After flowering they are dead-headed and left until mid-June when all the foliage is cut back.

George recommended growing cyclamen '*coum*', which flowers from January to March each year, in soil that does not become too wet. Also available is cyclamen '*hederifolium*', the flowers of which often appear before the heart shaped leaves grow. The dark green leaves are marked with a silver marble effect patten. These plants will flower from autumn to spring before the leaves die back in the summer.

About four acres of the gardens have been planted up as a natural meadow to allow plants such as orchids, fritilleries and cowslips to naturalise. Recently George's granddaughter attempted to count the cowslips but had given up by the time she had reached 350! As mice can be a problem eating the ripe seeds of primroses, George recommended roughly cutting them back with a strimmer as the seeds are ripening to disperse them into any soil before the mice manage to take them.

Among other plants recommended by George are dogwood and willows to give winter interest with their coloured stems, and sedums to give late summer and autumn colour. To achieve fuller flowers, George suggested cutting them back to

'Chelsea chop' time, when the Chelsea flower show is taking place. This encourages them to bush out with more flower heads by late summer.

Another suggestion from George was to grow pulmonarias as an alternative to hostas if slug and snail damage is a problem. Pulmonarias should be cut back after flowering and again in late summer to encourage the growth of tidy, neat leaves.

George kindly judged our competition, 'A garden in a seed tray', which attracted a range of interesting and well thought out entries. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Linda Roberts, 2nd Judy Stokesberry and 3rd Maureen Griffin.

As there is no meeting in December, our next meeting will be the A.G.M. to be held on 27 January 2014 at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. This will be followed by a talk by local Purton resident, Dave Seviour, who many of you will know. The subject of Dave's talk is 'An Alphabet of British Curiosities'.

If you would like to join us we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and visitors and new members can be assured of a warm welcome. To whet your appetites, our program for 2015 includes talks on growing and showing sweet peas, herbaceous peonies and a journey through the Stourhead landscape.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary), LINDA ROBERTS (Chair)

Knit-A-Square

Following my KAS article last month I would like to thank all the people who have donated wool and other items to be sent off to the charity in South Africa. Also, thank you to all who have offered to knit or crochet squares for KAS, your help is much appreciated. This month I would like to ask if anyone has any unwanted pillow cases, cotton material, ribbon, coloured buttons or thin elastic they would like to donate to be made into girl's dresses. To donate or for further information please contact me on 772558.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Involve Swindon www.involveswindon.co.uk

Involve Swindon – helping employees volunteer – is an alliance of companies, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations working together to encourage employees to give their time and develop their skills through volunteering in the local community.

We are particularly looking for new projects that teams of employee volunteers can help out with. Things like decorating village halls or scout huts, helping out with the creation of community gardens, doing up the gardens of sheltered housing or similar.

If you think you might know of a suitable project, we'd love to hear from you. Or if you'd just like to find out more, we'd be just as delighted to talk.

Contact: Jo at Volunteer Centre Swindon on 01793 420557 or e-mail involve@swindonvolunteers.org.uk

Purton Luncheon Club

Purton Luncheon Club has received a 5 star rating from Wiltshire Council Health and Food Safety!

CAROLINE McLEAN





Bradon Forest School has now been open for over 50 years

Back in the summer the school hosted a Staff Reunion organised by Mrs Davies to mark this memorable passage of time. The reunion took place at the school on Saturday 19 July 2014 and was extremely well attended by current teachers, ex-teachers and support staff from 1960 onwards. Roughly 70 staff turned up for morning coffee, lunch, a quick tour and a very long chat. It was heart-warming to see and talk to teachers spanning the entire era. Sue Matthews who lives in Purton started at the school in the PE Department when it first opened its doors.

The event ran from 11 am until 3 pm but we all got on so well it made it difficult to leave. It was interesting to hear what had changed and what the school used to be like. The school looks very different now than it did 50 years ago. What we now refer to as the 'Main Block' was actually the original school building. The Dance Theatre, Drama Theatre, Maths, Science, Sports, Humanities and Design and



Technology buildings have all been added in more recent years.

*Pic: Headteachers all together;
Chris Montacute, Len Spiers, Ian Perkins and Andrew Morrison.*

In Remembrance

In November our assemblies have been focusing on remembrance. These assemblies, organised by Miss Mazelin our Faculty Leader for History, were led by 10 students across various year groups. It was especially moving to see young people reflecting on the sacrifice soldiers have made across the years and there was a particular emphasis on World War 1 in this the centenary year.

On Remembrance Sunday, our Head Boy and Girl, James Carr and Lory Baker (*pictured*) laid a wreath on behalf of staff and students at the Purton War Memorial at 2.30 pm. In addition they placed three ceramic poppies designed and created by Sally Cooke from our Art Department on the War Memorial.



Once Remembrance Sunday is over, these poppies will be displayed at the school. The poppies are in memory of the three young men from the Purton area; Charles Kibblewhite, Philip Drury and Reginald Jefferies, who made the ultimate sacrifice in 1914. Each year for the next four years, further ceramic poppies will be placed on the memorial for each of the 93 soldiers from the area who lost their lives during this terrible war.

Sally Cooke and Adrian Martch-Harry from Bradon Forest School Art Department present the ceramic poppies to local military historian Mr Bob Lloyd (*pictured on the left*) for placement at the War memorial. Mr Lloyd has been researching Purton's War History.



The Sounds of Autumn

The first Music Concert of the new school year took place on Tuesday 14 October. Attended by a good crowded



audience, students from Years 7 through to 11 were welcomed to the stage. We had a Bradon Forest premier as Singers Together (Bradon Forest's choir from all the school years combined), joined the Ukulele Group on stage to perform together – and what a super performance it was!

Bradon Forest School Christmas Performance

We still have tickets available for our Christmas performance of Arabian Nights. Adapted by Dominic Cooke, the production will be on 3, 4 and 5 December at 7.30 pm at the Bradon Forest Theatre. Tickets from 01793 773981, the Drama Dept, the Arts Office or via www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk.

We Record ...

Baptisms:

28 September Amelie Grace Hooper at *St Mary's Church*
2 November Olivia Ojay Osborne
Ella Joy Rose Osborne
Myles Julian Osborne all at *St Mary's Church*

Funeral:

13 October Albert Hibbard at *St Mary's Church*

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 ...



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To make the best use of available space, we ask that contributions are written concisely and reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements.

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