

Purton *Magazine*



Looking Back
by Chris Pocock, member of Purton Artists

January 2015

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
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
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

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT		
Parish Deacon	<i>Reverend Terry Aspell tel 325681</i> <i>Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
Services:	<i>Holy Days 7.30 pm</i> <i>Sundays 11.00 am Mass</i> <i>For times of weekday services please see Church notice board</i>	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

We trust that regular readers will understand if your copy of this January issue arrives even before Christmas. However it does allow the printing and production staff at In Touch Services to enjoy a well-earned break over the holiday period. The extra few days also gives our brilliant band of volunteer distributors a few more days to deliver your copy and, at the same time, share the best wishes of the entire Purton Magazine team to everyone for a happy, cheerful Christmas and a healthy, harmonious New Year.

If this issue is anything to go by, future issues in 2015 will also be full of really interesting contributions with fascinating facts and figures, including novel figures of speech and other imaginative phrases to inform and entertain readers. Rich nuggets this month include an adult's description of the then modern music played by The Beatles, Cliff Richard and the Shadows et al as "*squawky rubbish.*" How many readers can still remember similar reactions from their elders and betters about the same subject?

In complete contrast – but even in the same article on [page 9](#) – we read about a soldier returning from the First World War to meet his new baby daughter and finding it so difficult "*to comprehend the vast differences between the noise, carnage and utter destruction he had been immersed in on the Somme and the peace, beauty and tranquillity that met him when he walked into the bedroom to find his beautiful daughter.*"

Elsewhere you will be able to find out about "*Munitionettes*" and "*Copperettes*" but you will need to read the contribution on [page 30](#) to learn more; unless, of course, you know already. More mystery can be found on [page 24](#) unless you know where to find a pickled thumb that has been stolen.

Less of a mystery but an entertaining idea for these darker nights can be found on [page 32](#) – indeed, glow stick skittles could also make a fun indoor game for all with the lights out. Articles such as these make your magazine what it is and we look forward eagerly to an increasing number of contributions from anyone in our community throughout the New Year.

In closing, we would like to share a rumour going around that there were actually four wise men. However, as they started out for Bethlehem, one of them said that he knew a short cut!

<27%

of Wiltshire's waste
now goes to landfill
– see [page 27](#)

442

filled Christmas shoeboxes
made in Purton and
despatched overseas
– see [page 37](#)

£1725

raised by the RBL
Poppy Appeal in Purton
and Braydon
– see [page 21](#)

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

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Magazine Committee

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



New Year resolution? – Would you like to take on challenging new projects, make new friends, and make a difference in the community? Then perhaps you will consider becoming a Parish Councillor in Purton. For more information about the role and how to get involved please contact The Clerk – details at the foot of this article.

Purton & Cricklade Dog Awareness campaign – Purton and Cricklade Councils are putting the spotlight on dog awareness during the week 7 to 14 February 2015.

Having a dog provides many people with pleasure and companionship, but dog ownership comes with responsibilities. The campaign week will include a number of initiatives – one being FREE dog microchipping sessions. The microchipping sessions will be on Cricklade High Street on Saturday 7 February from 11 am till 3 pm, and again at Purton Village Hall car park on Saturday 14 February at the same times. From 6 April 2016 it will be compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped to record the owner's address details.

Land at Pavenhill, Purton – Nick King (Group Director at Hills Homes) and Peter Lawson came to the Purton Parish Council meeting on 8 December to present initial ideas for the possible development of this land and to seek the views of Purton residents prior to any formal planning application being submitted. Hills are consulting on a development containing 29 new homes, including 11 affordable homes. 28 residents attended the meeting and expressed a number of concerns, particularly relating to traffic congestion and road safety issues. The Parish Council will keep the public informed of this development, and publicise the date of the Council meeting to discuss any planning applications that are submitted.

The Fox, Community Speed Watch Scheme (CSW) – this traffic monitoring scheme has been recording vehicle speeds since September. More and more traffic uses the road as a through route from Purton into Swindon and this has brought a noticeable increase in speed. The role of the CSW is to monitor traffic and report any speeders to the police who then take appropriate action. It was noted that on this 'quiet' road in September: there were on average over 118 vehicles per hour; of these 5.5% were travelling at speeds exceeding 36mph with the fastest travelling at over 45mph; over 13% were travelling at between 31mph and 35mph; in other words nearly 1 vehicle in 5 was technically speeding. The role of the CSW is not to be a vigilante, but, by its presence to slow traffic down and give the message to drivers not to speed in Purton.

Restrop Road, Community Speed Watch Scheme – the Parish Council is looking to start up another CSW on Restrop Road. We already have a few volunteers but need some more to get it up and running. If you would like to volunteer please contact us on 01793 772646, or e-mail admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Purton Litter Pick 2015 – this year's litter pick is planned for Sunday 22 February 2015. Volunteers are to meet at 10 am in the Angel Car Park, High Street, Purton with the litter pick finishing at The Royal George. Anyone who is able to come out and help will be most welcome. The Parish Council will provide waste bags and

has some litter picking tools but volunteers should wear high visibility clothing and protective gloves. If you would like to volunteer please leave your name and contact details by telephoning 01793 772646, or e-mail admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

These Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

- N14/06914/FUL *Coombfield, 6 Restop Road:* Demolition of existing detached house and erection of replacement dwelling.
- N14/07772/FUL *3 The Fox:* Replacement single storey garage.
- N14/08384/TCA *Setter House, Church Street:* Fell 1 cherry tree.
- N14/08230/FUL *Woodview Upper Pavenhill:* Alteration to front elevation, including roof line.
- N14/08308/FUL *11 Pear Tree Close:* Single storey front and rear extensions and garage conversion.
- N14/08408/FUL *106 Pavenhill:* Alterations to entrance gates to create off-road parking space.
- N14/08582/FUL *12 Hogs Lane:* Two-storey side extension and detached garage.
- N14/07893/VAR *Plot 145 Ridgeway Farm, Common Platt:* Variation of 13/01615/REM to allow erection of conservatory to Plot 145.
- N14/08987/FUL *Alwynds, Upper Pavenhill:* Rear single storey garden room extension.

These Planning Applications have been refused by Wiltshire Council:

- N14/08689/PNCOU *Storage Barn at Restop Farm:* Prior Notification for residential conversion of existing agricultural building (resubmission of N14/05473/PNCOU) Prior Approval refused.

Postage Stamps for the Blind

Thank you for all the stamps already collected. It's not too late to donate your stamps. 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.

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.

Potholes, Blocked Gulleys (drains), Broken Lights

We have all seen them, a pothole, an overflowing gully or a street light which is not working and wondered why no one deals with this. Without being told, the council would not know about a problem so we the residents are the eyes for the council.

There are a number of ways to let the council know:

- Wiltshire Council website is a particularly useful tool for finding who you need to contact (plus has lots of other useful information) - www.wiltshire.gov.uk and www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/roadsandtraffic.htm
- Telephone - 0300 456 0105 – for Highway issues
- Email contact - localhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk
- If you have a mobile phone then there is an 'Ap' that can be downloaded – www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report.htm and www.wiltshire.gov.uk/contact.htm

The key point is to ensure that the location of a problem is clearly identified to save wasted journeys and time of the highways team looking for the problem.

The Main Customer Services number is **0300 456 0100**

Update on Witts Lane Spring

The road is now on the major resurfacing list for 2015/16 which will include a drainage proposal however meanwhile the road has had a temporary patch. I will continue to watch the road and residents will also keep me informed should further patching be required. All resurfacing proposals are submitted to the Area Board transport group – CAT G (Community Area Transport Group) and decisions on bringing forward schemes can be made.

Monthly Reports

Each month I prepare a report for Purton Parish Council to cover a number of issues to include planning matters, highways, consultations and matters which might be of interest to the parish councillors.

I am very happy to email these reports to residents in the village or if you would like a hard copy please let me know.

JACQUI LAY, *Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon*
01793 770704 – jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk

Activity Week 2015

I know that everyone is busy thinking about Christmas, but following on from comments this year about people not knowing the date for activity week early enough, I thought I'd let you all know the date as soon as we have fixed it. So ... it will be between 10 and 14 August. Please put it in your diary!

In 2014 we had to curtail the week as we did not have enough helpers, so please would you spread the word to anybody you think might be willing to give a few hours (or even a whole week!) of their time to help run this amazing tradition?

Hope to see you then, if not before, and may I wish you a very happy New Year.

MARY NETTLETON

marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk or 772298

Purton & District Age Concern



This is my report for January 2015 but as the magazine is being produced early it may be with you before Christmas.

We have been very busy in the run up to Christmas and on behalf of Age Concern I would like to thank the following people who have either helped out at our events or supported us in many different ways, including Robert Cook for printing our Christmas vouchers (I hope you've all treated yourselves to something nice with your voucher and filled in your questionnaire), Robin Gough for providing our Christmas tree, Mr and Mrs Orr-Ewing for donating money towards the cost of the new lights we have put up around the Institute building, Mick Looker and his group of friends who put the Christmas tree and lights on the Institute building and decorated the inside of the Village Hall and have arranged to take everything down again at the end of the festive period, everyone who donated prizes and sold tickets for our Christmas raffle, everyone who helped at both our Christmas parties, they were a huge success under new catering and table decorating management. Thanks to Commonweal School for providing the entertainment at the Village Hall party, we have had some wonderful feedback, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Special thanks go to Father Christmas who made an appearance at our less able party and to the five youngsters – Molly, Imogen, Isobel, Alfie and Morgan who helped to decorate the tables and then serve the food at the parties. They were so polite and helpful, it was a pleasure to work with them, hope to see you all again next year! Thanks to the group of friends led by Jane Farr who did all the washing up and served the mince pies and hot drinks during the interval at the main party, also to everyone who donated cakes, bric-a-brac and festive items including the mistletoe for our Christmas market. Thank you all very much, our events wouldn't be so successful if we didn't have this additional help – it is greatly appreciated by everyone in Age Concern.

Our "Carols under the Tree" takes place on Christmas Eve at 7 pm outside the Institute building, all are welcome to join us. The music will be provided by Mark Blackwell and his musicians, our thanks go to Mark for agreeing to take over from Mary New this year. There will be mince pies and hot punch during the interval (thanks to Sheila for making the punch) and hopefully we will have snow again! This is a great way to start your Christmas celebrations, hope to see you there.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

Jumble Sale – Our next jumble sale will be on Saturday 14 February in the Village Hall. Jumble can be left at the hall between 12 noon - 1 pm and the sale starts at 2 pm. Refreshments will be available. Come along a grab a bargain!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Doreen Mary Carter: 2 November 1918 to 9 November 2014

My Aunt Doreen was an extraordinary person and through the good services of our excellent Purton Magazine, I would like to share an emotional view of her life, as seen through my eyes.

Doreen Carter was born Doreen Mary Neville on 2 November 1918 at the Ball Cottage in Clanfield, Oxfordshire, at the very end of the First World War.

Her Father, Frederick George, was a full time military man and just a week after Doreen was born the war finished and he came home to find this lovely little bundle laying on his pillow. He often commented how difficult it was to comprehend the vast differences between the noise, carnage and utter destruction he had been immersed in on the Somme and the peace, beauty and tranquillity that met him when he walked into the bedroom to find his beautiful daughter.

Fred took his family all around the world as an RSM in the Royal Artillery. His wife, Mary Ellen carried a full home with them wherever they went, in four very large tin trunks, so by the time the family moved to the Spa, Purton Stoke in 1924, Doreen had a brother William (Bill) my father, who was born in Singapore and a sister Joy, born in Hong Kong. Doreen was 7 and had seen more of the world than most of us have seen today, travelled on great liners across vast oceans and seen the desert sands and in her own words "seen the glory of God's handiwork for herself"

Brought up in true Methodist traditions, Doreen was involved in Christian life and once settled in Purton Stoke of course the Chapel became a focal point, walking every Sunday to worship, mostly 3 times during the day and often listening to her own father in the pulpit, as he was an excellent preacher.

An upbringing with a military father and an extremely well organised mother gave Doreen the ability to face all tasks without any fear and I've often thought of her capacity to do so many things all at once, without fluster or noise, as if to pull a rabbit from a hat or more likely an orange jelly or a peach trifle from the pantry when unexpected visitors arrived.

In the days before mass movement, before the car became a common sight, before huge air liners could carry 300 passengers from one end of this world to the other, life had a tranquillity about it, a pace far slower than today and local communities saw the chapel, village pub or local village shop as focal points to regularly meet and it was through the Methodist chapel the Nevilles and the Carters became better known to one another. Doreen and Donald Carter met – he was the eldest son of Joe Carter at Bentham Farm and they started walking out together. Two young people fell in love and were married at the Chapel on 9 October 1940.

So, as the Second World War raged on, Doreen became a farmers wife and they moved into the Cottage at Bentham to help Donald and his father Jo, run the farm and in March 1943 Kenneth Ralph came into the world, the first of three children. He was born during the unusual early heat wave of that year.

A move to their own farm in March 1945, when Jo Carter in his usual method of understatement suggested "you two go to Coxhill Farm for a year or two" and as Aunt Doreen often said, "that lasted 25 years". A remote farm with no hard road to it and we can only guess at the thousands of times Doreen trudged across the

fields in all weathers, but she took to this difficult situation with her typical quiet determination. Without electricity to start with, but eventually their own Lister Diesel engine driven generating set, which allowed the use of modern appliances such as a washing machine and of course black and white television. These appliances were most welcome when, in November 1951, Gerald John came into the world and a beautiful daughter Jill, in 1957.

Farming life was harder then. Everyone was expected to do their bit and help in the house or out on the farm in some way. In the early days together, spreading manure on the land by hand under moonlight, with Ken in his cot under the hedge, to the great excitement of the first tractor and modern machines, Doreen was involved in it all, and she took to farming life and growing family with typical positive action. A person who appreciated a routine, a factor which allowed her to continually play a part in the running of the Chapel, she would cycle to Purton Stoke to do the cleaning and to arrange the flowers and, albeit being rather shy to admit, could also play the organ on Sunday if required.

Although Doreen drove a Jeep and occasionally a tractor on the farm, she didn't take a driving test, leaving the task to Donald and later, of course, to one of the children.

We've fond memories of hay making and taking dinner into the field and all of us sitting on bales eating, yarning and lots of laughter.

As the children grew up modern music was introduced to the house – The Shadows, The Beatles, Cliff Richard etc etc, often frowned upon and often referred to as “squawky rubbish”, but Doreen did become appreciative as time went on, although we're all agreed that the Rolling Stones were never at the top of the list, much more a case of Charles Wesley and a good rousing hymn sung with typical Methodist gusto.

My aunt was an amazing and loving person. When I was 15, my own mother tragically died, leaving me a young man very lost and confused it was Aunty Doreen and Uncle Donald who came to tell me the news and Doreen who put her arms around me and said “don't you worry, you come and stay with me, I'll take care of you”. When I arrived at Coxhill with the boys, three beds were in place, three flannels, three towels, as if by magic, she had given me a new start. I'd always been close to Ken, Gerald and Jill and the closeness and friendship we created together at that time, still remains and is a most important part of my life. It's only recently I've thought of all the extra work I must've placed on my Aunt, washing, cooking not to mention dealing with moody boys!! We cannot remember a single time when Doreen lost her temper or used bad language. She had an amazing ability to make us do things without saying anything at all, achieving things mostly by setting an example with a readiness to do something for others without thought for herself whatsoever. An amazing quality of giving not to receive, unmatched by many.

The trial of living at Coxhill came to an end with a change in farming structure with a move to Bentham Farm on Christmas Eve 1969. Both Ken and Gerald were working on the farm by this time and the high quality dairy herd increased in quantity as time went by.

The boys married, Ken to Margaret, Gerald to Moira and Jill to Brian. Eventually

along came grandchildren, all very precious to Doreen, but always treated equally. Garden parties, rounders, hide and seek and of course, inevitably, teas on the lawn with Granny right in the middle of it all.

As time passed and age became a problem, Doreen and Donald retired back to the cottage they'd vacated way back in 1945. Quiet times spent gardening, still cooking, making cakes, still unobtrusively doing things for others. Still clinging very stubbornly to independence the two moved to a flat created for them at the farm house in 2004, which allowed the family to keep a closer eye on the now elderly pair.

With the onset of senility and the loss of Donald, Auntie Doreen moved to Ashgrove House in Station Road, Purton and into the wonderful caring arms of people there, being looked after so well and creating so much respect from us all, in their capacity to patiently care for those we love, as time gets closer to leave.

A long life, slipping peacefully away on Sunday 9 November 2014, just 96 years and one week and I'm sure, reunited with Donald in heaven.

In conclusion – we remember a wonderful caring lady, a titter never a loud laugh, a gentle softening of the face, never a big smile, a love of Jesus and Christian friendship. Doreen had an unwavering faith in our Lord, undiplomatic and uncompromising, if she didn't agree with you, you gave up, arguing was pointless. The maker of glorious delicacies – orange jelly, peach trifle, chocolate queen pudding, melted marsh mallows with rice crispy cakes, white blancmange rabbits with green jelly for grass, Christmas puddings, ginger bread men – I could go on. How wonderful to be remembered for such simple delights.

It was an emotional group of 72 people who joined in the uplifting funeral service, held in the re-furbished Braydon Methodist Chapel, led by our minister David Perkins. The singing and voices raised in praise, seemed very fitting for someone so very special.

A mother to some equally very special people in our lives and a place in my heart forever. As Doreen never forgot to say thank you for whatever was done for her, we in turn, openly, say thank you for all you've done for us, knowing Jesus will be waiting at the gates of heaven to let you in.

With love and respect,

PHILLIP NEVILLE

Mrs Doreen Mary Carter 1918 - 2014

Could I, on behalf of Purton & District Age Concern, thank the family of the late Mrs Carter of Bentham for donations in lieu of flowers for Age Concern and also congratulate them all for such a wonderful funeral service.

It makes these occasions much more of a comfort when the person you are saying goodbye to is a believer and Mrs Carter was certainly that. The service itself was led in excellent style by the Rev. David Perkins and you had joy and sorrow, laughter and tears. Mrs Carter's nephew Philip Neville gave a wonderful eulogy – his Auntie would have felt so honoured that Philip could talk about her in the way he did – I know the congregation were certainly enthralled. Following this Philip read a poem especially written for her gran by Jennifer Carter, which was very moving and touching.

TONY PRICE

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always happy to include obituaries. If you wish to have us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it, perhaps with a recent photo, via the contacts on [page 4](#) of the Magazine. We can crop or resize photos supplied.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery Group for Patients - G4P



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

We hope to see you at our Vintage Tea Party which will raise money towards a self check-in, touch screen system in the surgery to enable 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.

Dr Glynis Evans will be joining us and PADS will be providing some entertainment. The cost is £7.50 and tickets are available from Purton Surgery, by phoning 751986 or 770970 or by contacting any member of G4P. Do come and support us.

Use of Practice website: When using the Practice website please only use the contact form for comments and suggestions as to how the Surgery can improve its service to you. Please do not use it for individual medical matters as these cannot be dealt with via this route. If you have a medical query please telephone reception to make an appointment to see the appropriate person.

Next Information Evening: Our next Information Evening will be in March 2015 when the subject will be 'Heart Matters'.

Artwork Display in the Surgery

You may have noticed that a number of artists have their work on display in the surgery. From mid-January the artists will pay a small sum to exhibit their work and if any is sold then 10% of the selling price will go into G4P funds for the practice. Any artist wanting further details please contact a member of G4P.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Coffee & Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits. Minibus available - contact Maurice Card, tel 770338.

BOB TINSON

Prayer for Purton

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

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Rev. 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.

The gathering of 19 November was another Open Meeting. This means that we welcome gentlemen, and they contribute the male point of view, as well as inspiring some of our lovely ladies to make the most gorgeous cakes. Our President was on leave of absence and Oh! what she missed! Open Meetings have many advantages.

The speaker was Willie McIvor, with colleagues, on Making Life Safe and Easy, and they demonstrated the many items that have been devised to help us all in getting around, but originally for the benefit of the disabled. That could be just for a few weeks when a limb is broken or put out of joint for a short time – in other words, useful for any of us. He started with a quiz, when unidentified objects were passed around and we were invited to say what we thought they were. I was wrong with what I thought was one for sexual deviants but proved to be useful for doing up buttons – silly of me, because it is button-doing-up that gives me the most trouble. Anyway, it was a delightful evening, partly because of the charm of Mr McIvor in his presentation, which stimulated conversation – and imagination.

Our next get-together will be on Wednesday 21 January. The title is “Life in the East End: The story of a fancy box cutter” and the competition will be a memento or photo from your working life. There will surely be good tales to tell because I believe many Purton people were originally Londoners, which makes it such an interesting and friendly community.

I am sure I am not the only local member who came here from London (in my case, Tottenham – now, what was the name of that football team? – and certainly in those days many trades were followed that called for every kind of instrument of torture. You will recall those old pictures showing large frightening scissors grasped by the tailor, and your father would have a box of tools that he had had to purchase himself and was left locked in the garden shed at weekends, with dire warnings of what would happen to you and your pocket money, if you dare touch it! Nowadays, I suppose the workman just has to push a button in the factory. Even so, much skill is often needed, though “fancy box cutter” sounds so delicate – perhaps fine feminine fingers held those skills? If you would like to know, be sure to come to the meeting – as a visitor if you are not yet a member, but hopefully soon will be!

For the competition you need a memento or photographs from your working life. (I wonder what happened to my old Olympia portable typewriter? Always accompanied by the essential ally, a dear little bottle of Tippex, of course.) Social time is noted as “What’s my line?” Well, members now have the holidays to brood over their entries, and it will be interesting to see what our country folk residents bring along, compared with those who originated elsewhere. Certainly the war brought many of us together who would never have dreamed of leaving the City! And that was great for all of us.

If you are not yet a member of the WI, perhaps this would be a good time for you to come along as a visitor – you would pay only a small sum to spend an evening with us – and winter evenings are brightened up with our various activities.

Meanwhile, have a very Happy New Year celebration followed by the best of health, if possible; and a quick recovery if not. We love you all!

CONSTANCE REED, tel: 771571

Scams – Great and small



There have been a few nasty scams going around recently. Personally, I have several phone calls every day on both my home phone and my mobile. Some are easy to spot and I get particularly cross with the recorded message ones where they don't even have the courtesy to give me a real person to rant at!

Others are more believable and it is so easy to get caught up in their tale. I know of one person who had worked in a factory and so took up the offer of a "free" hearing check which may prove that she was entitled to compensation. She had the check and was advised that she needed hearing aids which would cost over £1,000.

She was informed that unfortunately the loss of hearing may not be proved to be the fault of the factory although she could pursue it through their legal folk. She was told that it would be a long process and she should still purchase the hearing aids as they were necessary. It's not really a scam, but it is high pressure selling.

Another gent took a call and was told that his bank account was being hacked into via the internet. He was advised that he needed to act quickly to stop this and, trustingly, our gent gave his bank details over. Sadly the caller took these details and several thousand pounds from the account.

It is really easy to be sucked into these conversations and to believe what they say, but they are successful because they are expert liars! If you are not expecting the call, ask the caller to put their request in writing. If you are really not interested in "claiming back your PPI" or whatever, it's ok to say NO and to cut the call. Never give bank details over the phone. It is possible to reduce cold callers by using call blocking. This can be expensive, but it is an option.

Another recent scam is traders promising to complete work to a certain timescale. The case I heard of was when the salesperson promised the work be completed by mid-August and the work was finally done early December. Their trick was to start the work and then delay returning to finish it. Good trades people will work to their promises so always try to get references.

As always, I'm here to help so give me a call on 07557 110414 or email me on rwbrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk.

ELLEN BLACKER, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator

Purton & District Guide Dogs

We wish you all 'A HAPPY NEW YEAR' and hope all is well with you.

The only thing I have to report on is, in my capacity of Trading Secretary for Swindon and Chippenham Branch, (our parent company you might say). I did the Trading Goods section of their stall at the 'Christmas at Steam' event, on 6 & 7 December and took a total of £247.33p. I will have the details in the next magazine of our Jumble Sale which should be during February.



Thank you for your continued Support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group

The January 2005 issue of Purton Magazine carried several positive pieces of news and encouragement with which to start the New Year.

Readers were reminded that some outstanding fund-raising efforts during 2004 enabled the community to achieve the restoration and re-hanging in St Mary's of *The Last Supper* painting and the purchase and installation of the new slide in the Red House play area. During 2004 we also received our glass and paper recycling boxes plus the fortnightly kerb-side collections that we still enjoy. Our surroundings were further enhanced by the building of the new bus shelters and the beautifully repainted milestones along the High Street.

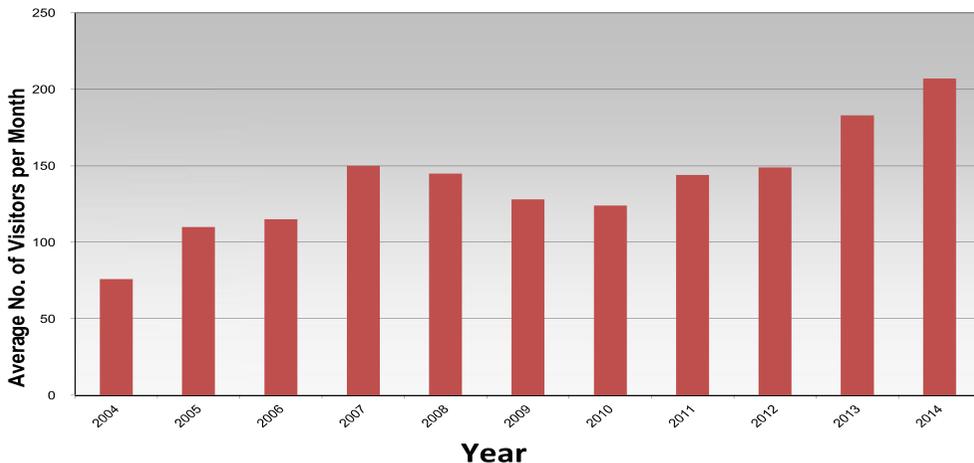
Also in the January 2005 issue there was another in our all-too-occasional series of Purton People. The person profiled – and you may need to look on-line to identify the individual – is still a wonderful example of a phrase also used elsewhere in the magazine 10 years ago – “May you do good in the world and may it do you the world of good.”

That's not a bad idea for a New Year resolution, is it?

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

The Magazine's website was started in 2004 averaging 75 visits per month during the first year. We are now receiving well over 200 visitors a month with November 2014 recording 260 – our highest number yet!

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk
Web Site Visitor Record



Key Found

Key and distinctive key ring in the field opposite the Pear Tree in late November. Contact Jamie Austin, 07748 764 369.

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN
Carols under the Tree

Wednesday 24 December at 7 pm
Music provided by
Mark Blackwell & his musicians
Hot punch & mince pies in the interval
Come and join our
Christmas sing-a-long!



PADS PRESENT
KING ARTHUR

By Chris Liversidge
5, 6 & 7 February 2015
at

The Village Hall, Purton
7.30 pm start

with Saturday Matinee at 2.30 pm
Bar on evenings

Prices: £7.50 adults,
£6 concessions, £4 children
Tickets from Best One & I

n Touch Services or 771890, 772581



**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
Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 24 January at 6.30 pm
at the Village Hall
Tickets available from
Ron & Heather Harris on 770850

PURTON AGE CONCERN
Jumble Sale

Saturday 24 February 2015
At 2 pm in the Village Hall
Bargains galore!

Church Floodlighting

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



- 3 December St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on his 24th birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- 7 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**, on the 7th anniversary of his passing. Still sadly missed by Mum, Dad and family.
- 8 January St Mary's Church will be floodlit in memory of **Bob Wightman OBE**, in celebration of what would have been his 103rd birthday. Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family
- 14 January St Mary's will be floodlit on in memory of **Val Davies**, on the 6th anniversary of her death. For ever in our hearts. Brian, Rebecca and family
- 20 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook**, on the 3rd anniversary of his passing. Dearly loved and sadly missed Husband, Father and Grandfather.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie Sheppard](#).

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

Floodlighting costs and charges

As I'm sure you all know, it is possible to arrange for St Mary's Church to be floodlit, in memory of someone, or to celebrate a special date or event.

For several years the cost of this floodlighting has been £16, for an evening. But from 1 January 2015 the cost will increase to £17 per evening. (There is also a reduced rate for people requesting two or three consecutive nights). So please do contact Libbie if you would like to arrange for the church to be floodlit.

Included in the cost is the opportunity for an announcement in the Purton Magazine: you can write a brief statement explaining why the church is floodlit.

Please do consider whether this is something you would like to do.

And it would certainly help if you arrange it all at least one month before the required date.

[Libbie Sheppard](#).

Purton Historical Society



Past Events

Thursday 27 November 2014 – WW1 The first 18 months

Bill King covered the political situation and events that led up to the outbreak of war. The presentation covered the complexities and strategies of the first 18 months of the conflict. Below is a small selection of the interesting subjects covered.

We learnt about the cyclist battalions that were deployed mainly in coastal defence work in the United Kingdom. Also about the introduction of very basic aircraft for reconnaissance purposes which developed at a later date to take part in major combats.

On the Western Front conditions in the trenches were appalling and casualties were extremely heavy. Men spent a period of time on the front line and were then withdrawn for a period of rest and recuperation before returning to the front. During the early part of the war when relatives were notified about the death of a loved one they were sent a large coin known as a 'death penny'. Examples of this 'penny' together with World War 1 medals are on display in the Purton Museum. (The Museum is now closed for the winter and will re-open in March)

The famous 'truce' took place over Christmas 1914 when a series of ceasefires took place on the Western Front. During this time men from both sides ventured into 'no man's land' to exchange seasonal greetings and souvenirs. Football was played and carols were sung. The truce was officially rebuffed and all too soon the conflict resumed.

The talk was illustrated with slides and readings from letters sent home by a junior officer.

Annual Christmas Social 2014

62 members and guests attended the annual Christmas Social on 5 December in a very festive looking Silver Threads Hall. In addition to an excellent buffet, members enjoyed entertainment by 'The Musical Companions' and a quiz which tested knowledge and memories of current events during the past year. Altogether a friendly and relaxed festive occasion bringing the society's events for 2014 to a close.

Future Meetings/Events

The Empire Theatre, Swindon – Roger Trayhurn

Thursday 22 January 2015 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

First opened in 1898 as the New Queen's Theatre, then becoming the Empire Theatre in 1907, this much reminisced building had an eventful and sometimes turbulent history. It presented mainly musical comedies and melodramas, became a cinema from 1931 until 1947 when it reopened as a variety theatre. It closed in 1955 as did many other provincial theatres.

Roger and another theatre enthusiast, Mark Child, have produced a book about The Empire which will be available for sale on the evening.

A visit to the Imperial War Museum on Saturday 18 April

As part of the WW1 commemoration events it seems appropriate to visit the recently opened World War One galleries at the Imperial War Museum in London. We can discover the story of World War One through the lives of those who experienced it both on the frontline and at home.

We shall leave Purton at 8.30 am by executive coach (coffee/tea and toilet on board) and depart from the museum at 4 pm, giving us plenty of time to explore, not only the WW1 galleries, but the rest of this stunning museum. If a whole day in a museum is too much for you there are plenty of other attractions nearby.

The outing is available to everyone (you don't have to be a member of the society) at a cost of £15 per person. If you would like to book a seat or require more information please contact Helen on 770648. Booking forms will be available from In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill and at society meetings or can be downloaded from www.purtonmuseum.com.

Work Experience Opportunity

ARE YOU A STUDENT AND NEED WORK EXPERIENCE? This is your chance especially if you are interested in history. Purton Museum requires a volunteer to help with the paperwork and data entry. One or two hours a week would be greatly appreciated. **Please apply to:** the Curator Mrs Jan Walker telephone number 01793 770124.

New members and visitors always welcome.

TONY & JAN NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com

Telephone 01793 770117

Knit-A-Square

Just to let you know that on Friday 21 November, Jude and I sent the first two tea chests full of knitted items and other goodies on their way to KAS in South Africa. So far we have sent 598 squares, 4 large blankets, 122 toys, 39 pairs of hand warmers, and numerous tee-shirts, jumpers, pants, vests, socks, hats, books, crayons and pens.

Thank you to the Methodist Church Council for their financial donation towards the shipping cost and thank you to everyone who has knitted, crocheted, donated money and other items. There are too many people to name individually but you all know who you are! We will be fundraising soon to cover the next shipping costs, details to follow early in 2015.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

LOUISE TIDMAN, tel: 772558

Dance Class Tasters

We are holding a free taster dance class on Saturday 10 January at Purton Village Hall at 10 am. The class will be a mixture of disco and street dance and is open to all ages. We will split the class into ages based on attendance of ages at this session and will be running weekly classes on Saturday mornings following a successful taster day.

MARIA HOWSE, Cadley Dance Studios
07747 606501, 01793 824446, www.cadleydance.co.uk

Purton Diary - January 2015

1	Th		New Year's Day
		10.30am	Communion at the Live & Let Live
4	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
6	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: speaker David Perkins
7	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
8	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
9	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
10	Sa	10.00am	Free taster Dance Class at Village Hall
11	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
12	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
13	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Too-da-loo - a WW1 village</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
17	Sa	3.00pm	<i>to 5pm: Vintage Tea Party, Purton Village Hall</i>
18	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Prayer for Christian unity service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
19	M	7.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women: AGM & Party at Methodist Church
20	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: speaker Bruce Porter
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: "Jan's New Year Quiz" led by Jan at her house
21	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Life in the East End - Story of a Fancy Box Cutter
22	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Roger Trayhurn - <i>The Empire Theatre</i>
23	F	11.30am	<i>to 4pm: "Knick Knack Bric-a- Brac" sale for Ebola at Purton Methodist Church,</i>
24	Sa	6.30pm	Age Concern Burns Night Celebration at the Village Hall
25	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
27	Tu		Holocaust Memorial Day
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Industrial Archaeology in your garage ...</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: AGM

Every week

Tu	9.00am	to 11.00am: 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	to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.00am	to 11.00am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	11.15am	to 1pm: New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church
F	10.00am	to 12 noon: Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars

Moon Phases

○ 5 January ● 13 January ● 20 January ○ 27 January

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

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

PURTON CARNIVAL



If you have any unwanted Christmas present that you would like to donate to the carnival for raffle prizes please contact Emma Berry on 770528.

New year New Carnival

2015 sees a shake up for the carnival procession.

We will be starting the procession from Ringsbury and ending near Purton House farm shop where the carnival fete will be held. We hope you will all follow behind the procession to our new location (via The Hyde and Short Hedge Lane).

The new location gives us the opportunity to hold a bigger event. Entry will still be free as it always has been. We have a rodeo bull to keep with our "Wild West" theme

Free Purton Planner

We hope you have your Free Purton Planners; if not you can pick up a copy from Best One or Andrew Hiscock Butcher's shop.

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

RBL Poppy Appeal 2014

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal in Purton and Braydon. The grand total of £7124.67 has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal, which is a wonderful result for our district. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work collecting house-to-house and during our four collection days at West Swindon Centre.

JOYCE BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Great War Project

Part 18: January 1915

It is simplistic to say there was little activity on the Western Front. Armies or platoons still attacked and counter-attacked, and men were still dying. However nothing occurred that could be given a name such as the "Battle of This or That Place". The weather was dreadful and both sides were trying to come to terms with what had happened in the 5 months since the war had begun.

Early in January, a hospital unit was set up some sixty miles behind the front line by British civilian volunteers with the help of the Anglo-French Hospital Committee of the British Red Cross Society. The Hôpital Temporaire d'Arc-en-Barrois (*pictured*) was created in a local château for the aid of wounded French soldiers. With 110 beds it was run by the French army's



Service de Santé (Health Service). The first military casualties arrived on 27 January 1915 from the Argonne Forest battlefront. In February 1915 the total number of beds was increased to 180 and the hospital ran essential services including an operating theatre, anaesthesia, radiography and dentistry, with a pharmacy and clinical laboratory. It was financially supported internationally.

Many well-known writers, poets, artists and illustrators served there as volunteers: Kathleen Scott (widow of the Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott) as an ambulance coordinator; the painter and physician Henry Tonks (anaesthetist and ward physician); future Poet Laureate John Masefield (volunteer orderly - pictured below); poet Laurence Binyon (author of *For the Fallen* "*They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old ...*") as a hospital orderly. The English Impressionist painter, Wilfrid de Glehn and his American-born wife, artist Jane Emmet de Glehn served there – Wilfrid as a hospital orderly, military interpreter and ambulance driver; Jane supervising laundry and tea service and sketching soldiers' portraits for the benefit of a limb prosthetics fund.

Major offensives were ongoing on the Eastern Front despite the freezing weather of central Poland. On 31 January, Germany faced Russia at the Battle of Bolimov and used large-scale battlefield poison gas for the first time. The German army fired 18,000 artillery shells containing liquid xylyl bromide tear gas (also known as methyl-benzyl bromide or T-stoff) against the Russian Army. T-stoff is a colourless liquid with a melting point



of 21°C – below that (and in the Polish winter) it is a solid. The attack depended on the heat generated by the explosive shells volatilising the T-stoff to create an aerosol. But the winter weather was so cold that the chemical reverted to powder in the air, and was blown back towards the German lines or fell harmlessly to ground.

Britain's main actions that month were at sea. On New Year's Day, HMS Formidable was sunk off Lyme Regis by a German U-boat with the loss of 547 crew. Then on 24 January the British Grand Fleet defeated the German High Seas Fleet at the Battle of Dogger Bank. Britain was able to decode German radio traffic and knew where and when the German fleet would be, so the German squadron was taken by surprise and fled for home. During a chase lasting several hours, the Royal Navy slowly caught up with the Germans and engaged them with long-range gunfire. The British disabled the armoured cruiser SMS Blücher, but the Germans put the British flagship HMS Lion out of action with heavy damage. Due to a signalling mix-up, the remaining British ships broke off pursuit to sink Blücher and the rest of the German squadron escaped, returning safely to harbour, though some had heavy damage requiring extended repairs.

There was also action from the air when, on 19 January, 2 German Zeppelins dropped bombs for the first time on Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn in Norfolk, killing more than 20. Zeppelin L3 (*pictured*) was the one that attacked Great Yarmouth.



In the war in the Levant, a large force of the Ottoman Army attacked the Suez Canal on 26 January. Formerly Ottoman, Egypt was held by Britain as a Protectorate and the canal was a strategically important transport artery to the British Empire to the south and east. Two Ottoman companies under the command of the German General Kreß von Kressenstein succeeded in crossing the canal on 3 February. Strong British defence by 30,000 men of the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade and the Bikaner Camel Corps supported by Egyptian Army units and Indian mountain artillery forced the remaining Ottoman units to abandon the attack. The Ottoman companies that had crossed the canal withdrew later that same evening.

Japan was allied to Britain and was a major player in denying ports to Germany in the sea war in the east. But Japan had its own territorial ambitions in China. On 18 January, Japan placed an ultimatum before the weak Republic of China government, known as the Twenty-One Demands. Japan sought to extend its control over Manchuria and the Chinese economy, including recognition of Japan's seizure of the German treaty ports in China. Japanese demands for new powers would have made China little more than a puppet state. British and US disapproval forced Japan to back down and Japan lost a great deal of prestige and trust in Britain and the US. The Japanese watered down their demands and agreed a treaty with China in May.

Technological advances were continuing apace: on 5 January, Joseph E. Carberry

set an altitude record for a fixed-wing aircraft (with a passenger!) of 11,690 feet, this only some 13 years after the very first powered flight. On 19 January Georges Claude patented the neon tube lighting system for use in advertising. Then on the 25th, the first coast-to-coast long-distance telephone call was made in the United States by Alexander Graham Bell, between New York and San Francisco.

Nature also had a role to play. On 13 January, the Avezzano earthquake near the city of L'Aquila in Italy registered 6.8 on the Richter scale and killed 29,000 people. We can compare this with the British losses at Ypres (7,960 dead, and 17,900 missing, 29,600 wounded). Despite improved building techniques, the recent 6 April 2009 earthquake at L'Aquila (6.3 magnitude) damaged perhaps 10,000 buildings and 308 were killed.

In January 1915, the following Purton men were mobilised and arrived in France with the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment at Locre, Belgium:

Nelson Caldwell (d. 20 May 1915)

Frank Sutton (d. 30 March 1917)

Neither man survived the war and their stories will be told in months to come

RICK DIXON

Our Family's War

Chris Compton wrote in the August 2014 issue about his grandfather, George Smith, who lived in Sherston, near Malmesbury, and became a pilot instructor. Chris has provided us with another true anecdote:

The Pickled Thumb

When the pilots had finished their training they were sent to France to fly over the battlefields. They flew with a gunner who sat behind the pilot. The pilot's job was to survey the battlefields, return to base, and give a full report of the enemies strengths and weaknesses, so that a military advantage could be gained by the British.

A new pilot and gunner were sent out to the Somme, the gunner was shooting at the German lines, when a field gun shell hit the gunner, evaporating him, leaving only his thumb in the grip of the gun.

The aeroplane managed to struggle home whereupon my grandfather pickled the thumb and kept it in a jar at his home until the day he died.

I always wanted that thumb as it was a "friend" I had known all my life. Not frightening or gory, just sad, and with its story well worth keeping, but it was not to be. After Grandfather's funeral the house was burgled and all his silver ... and the thumb were stolen and the question is "where is the thumb now?" I should love to know.

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.

The 1960s Home and Away

A series of six weekly talks
organized by the
Purton Historical Society



Venue: Silver Threads Hall, Purton.

Speaker: Mr. P. Booy B.ed. Hist. Hons.

All Meetings take place on Wednesday Evenings
at 7:30

Course Fees: £22 on the night, £20 if booked
previously.

Further Information: **Inez Gale** 770138
Or **Paul Booy** 770755

The course will run from
Wednesday 11 February to Wednesday 25 March

See next month's magazine for more details

During our next course we shall look at social, political and criminal aspects of British life in the 1960s. We shall also consider some major international events of the period, eg the assassination of President Kennedy.

**See next month's
magazine
for more details.**

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

The theme of our November meeting was the annual American Supper and for this year 'Bingo' formed the centrepiece as the entertainment. As soon as John Lilley took to the stage as 'caller' the fun and laughter began, the 'beginner's' table proving to be the object of much of the merriment.

After several games, we broke off to sample the mouth watering array of yuletide favourites provided by members. Once again the tables were brimming with food giving ample opportunity for second, and sometimes third, helpings! Wined and dined, we returned to the important matter in hand, the resumption of the Bingo! Several more calls of 'house' ensued before the evening ended and judging by the comments a good time had been had by all.

So thanks to John for his stirring work on the night. This may prove to be a 'favourite' with members so we may be calling on your expertise again. Watch this space!

If you're interested in gardening then join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. Our meetings for 2015 cover a variety of subjects from sweet peas to mole catching.

Our first meeting will be the AGM on 27 January followed by a talk by local resident, Dave Seviour, on the subject 'An Alphabet of British Curiosities'.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary), LINDA ROBERTS (Chair)



Glimpses of Peacocks in Purton

On my way back from Purton Methodist Church in December I passed the Maharajah and my eyes were drawn to the beautiful wallpaper on the wall. The paper shows the side view of a mass of colourful peacocks. Khalique Ali designed this wallpaper and must be delighted at the impact that it makes to all who view it.

Regular customers at this excellent restaurant will be familiar with the Peacock motif on the windows and menus. But Khalique has recently given more space to showing the beauty of an "eye" of a peacock's feather. One ceiling has an enormous feather eye on it. It is a large light fitting in the shimmering colours found on this bird.

The sight of all these new peacocks encouraged me to learn more about the bird and discover how it is viewed by the world. Apparently, peacocks were considered to be symbols of vanity and pride in the West. Men who dressed in bright colours were sometimes called peacocks. But like the bird they may have been using their "plumage" to attract attention!

The peacock is a native of the South-East and Middle East and the male peacock is revered. Ancient Muslim art portrays this bird as a guardian. The Tree of Life has peacocks standing either side of it. My research online also reveals that this bird has a rich heritage in Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism as well as in Islam. Jews and Christians saw this bird as resembling the all seeing, all knowing God and slayer of the evil serpent. The Peacock is India's national bird.

I have seen these birds roaming freely in the grounds of a few large country houses in Britain and France and the displaying of the male's feathers is magnificent. But on this Sunday in December it was an exotic and a delightful sight for a cold winter's day. So please go and enjoy this same view from the inside of the Maharajah and learn from Khalique how the peacock over one window incorporates symbols of his family.

JANE SMITH

Purton Silver Threads

Silver Threads starts back on 6 January at 2 pm. We meet once a fortnight from 2 to 4 pm. We have some entertainment followed by tea and cake. There is a varied programme plan for the next year, starting with /rev. David Perkins "Thoughts for the New Year".

If you feel you would like to join us then come along. For further information please ring me, Bernice on 771210.

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

OFFERED: 1 pair axle stands. 1 pair car ramps. Bob: 770836.

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

Repair Academy

The Repair Academy, a social enterprise start up dedicated to reducing waste, providing skills and training for young people and offering affordable goods to low-income households is based in Calne. It is a partnership between Hills Waste Solutions and Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Community First, Kennet Furniture Recycling, Waste Not Want Not, Wiltshire College and Swindon College.

It aims to:

- Create social, economic and environmental value by transforming unwanted products into desirable goods
- Support people in need by helping them gain skills for employment and life
- Change public opinion to make used and repaired items more attractive
- Foster an attitude of re-use and repair of materials.

A £58,000 grant from the Innovation Fund, set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, was used to set the scheme up in premises at Porte Marsh in Calne. The majority of the work to make the premises ready for use was carried out by young volunteers completing their National Citizen Service scheme with Youth Action Wiltshire.

Since April 2014 Hills Waste Solutions and Wiltshire Council have run a pilot of the project at three of Wiltshire's household recycling centres at Devizes, Melksham, and Marlborough, where suitable items such as furniture, some white goods and bric-a-brac are set aside for donation to The Repair Academy. The pilot scheme runs until the end of 2014 after which the Academy will be set up as an independent charity or social enterprise.

Items are transported to Porte Marsh where they are repaired and refurbished to return them to use as high quality goods by trainees and volunteers, primarily those designated as NEET (not in education, employment or training). The partnership with Community First means that The Repair Academy is able to reach many "at risk" individuals, providing them with transferrable training and skills.

Partnership working with Swindon and Wiltshire Colleges provides further traineeships, allowing students to continue working with The Repair Academy towards Level 2 qualifications and with the intention of securing apprenticeship or job interviews for those who complete a full traineeship course with the Repair Academy.

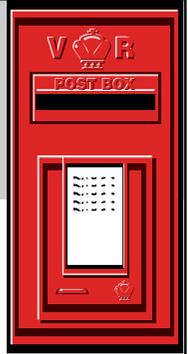
Reducing, re-using and recycling waste has long been the focus of Wiltshire Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Working in partnership with Hills Waste Solutions, the council has increased recycling in Wiltshire to more than 44% and has reduced the amount of waste going to landfill to less than 27%.

Once items have been refurbished, they are distributed through Kennet Furniture Refurbiz and Waste Not Want Not, existing charities that help local people and provide goods at a low cost to benefit families in crisis and low-income households throughout Wiltshire. Goods are also distributed through Community First's town centre pop-up shops.

The Repair Academy's website has more information at www.repairacademy.org

PURTON POSTBAG

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



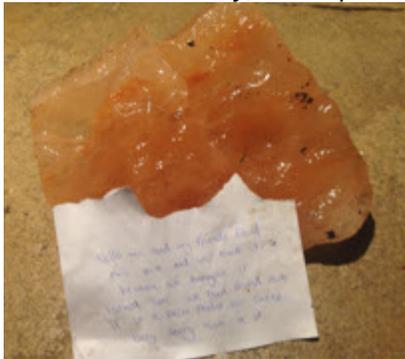
■ THANKS FOR HONESTY

We put down salt for the sheep and cattle - they need salt supplements, especially at this time of year when they are prior to or in early stages of pregnancy. However, we regularly find the salt "rocks" per the picture go missing, or are picked up and discarded elsewhere. By publishing a picture of the salt I am hoping it will raise awareness.

But I especially wanted to thank whomever wrote the letter and had the decency and goodwill to return this chunk back to the farm. It demonstrates the best of most everyone in our village.

The letter says *"Hello me and my friends found this rock and we took it because we thought it looked cool. We then found out it is a farm feeder for sheep. Very sorry, here it is"*

Richard Moseley, Restrop Farm



■ COFFEE MORNING

My Coffee Morning held on Friday 5 December made £211 for the Lunch Club. Thanks to all who helped and all who came and supported it.

Bernice Servour

■ VISIT FROM CANADA

I arrived at my dearest friend Marion Hobbs home, Tuesday 25 November 2014. I am a visitor from Canada.

Wednesday 26 November, I was fortunate to be able to visit the Purton Museum, while on tour I spotted a couple of postcards, of pictures from the Mechanics Institute, situated in Swindon Town. This was a truly exciting find as my Father and late Husband both worked for British Rail. This took me back in time with happy memories past.

Thursday 27 November, Marion very kindly invited me to go along to the Village Hall for the Historical Society meeting. The speaker, Bill King, talked about World War 1. He spoke with tremendous knowledge about past events of the terrible multitude of deaths that occurred. For me personally I learnt about the medals and the names given to them, Pip, Squeak and Wilfred, the 1914-1915 Star: the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, as I have these in my possession inherited from my grandfather in law. The evening was very interesting also most informative.

Thank you Marion for the invite ...

Tricia Herbert

PS: I am delighted to take back to Canada the Society Bulletin as a souvenir to show my family and friends.

Purton & District Probus



The meeting on 11 November opened with the reading of a story concerning the origin of "The Last Post". It told of a Union Officer, during the American Civil War, who found his son among the Confederate fatalities and requested a particular bugle call at the burial service, this being one casualty among 600,000 deaths in the American Civil War.

The main speaker today was David Seviour, a resident of Purton and modern explorer, who gave an interesting visual display of 'A Batch of Curiosities' from all around the British Isles. We started with cast iron statues on Crosby beach, entitled 'Another Place' by Antony Gormley, quickly followed by a series of towers:- Leith Hill at Dorking, Surrey; Chatley Heath Semaphore Tower, one in a chain of 10 stretching from London to Portsmouth set up in 1822 to transmit messages using large semaphore flags; time-ball towers to synchronise naval time-pieces, lighthouses and Radio transmission towers for navigation at sea; the twin towers of St Mary's Church at Reculver with its Roman Fort on the Kent Coast. This was followed with unusual bridges:- Trinity Bridge, Crowland with three arches, originally over a confluence on the river Welland; the Devils Bridge, Denbighshire, 3 in piggy-back, familiar to some members who were on a Probus trip in 2010; transport bridges at Newport and Middlesbrough with suspended gondolas and the iconic Firth of Forth Rail bridge; images of Beaulieu Priory, Scotland, already a ruin when robbed by Cromwell and the location of the shortest railway platform. There were the Purton Hulks used to reinforce the banks of the Severn when erosion threatened the canal; a house at Tappingstone made to look like a church with its three-sided mock tower; the Roman temple of Leptis Magna at Virginia Water and Windmills, one converted to a church. There were pictures at Orford Ness of a variety of military defence installations – reflectors, one 200 feet wide, control bunkers and fall-out shelters. The most poignant image was that of the Shetland Bus Memorial at Scalloway, which commemorates the 44 fatalities of the Norwegian Resistance Boat service which took agents and arms to Norway and returned with refugees during WW2. The final picture of Antony Gormley's 'Angel of the North' echoed the first.

At the 24 November meeting Mike Stone, a Chippenham Historian gave an account of Brick Making in North Wilts from Roman times until the late 20th century. Clay pits and Kiln sites have been recorded in many locations – Romans at Brinkworth, 17th & 19th century pits at Highworth, Wroughton, Chippenham, Purton and Calne. Other sites around Swindon – Old Town, Cheney Manor, Gorse Hill, Queen's Park and Spring Gardens. In 1895 there were 14 brick manufacturers in Swindon. We saw the historical progress of Brick making from Egyptian and Roman times to the present day. The earliest demand for large amounts of bricks was the coming of the canals. Around 1850, with the advance of the Railways, mechanisation became necessary. Horse-powered Pug-mills to soften the clay and Extrusion machines to squeeze out a continuous rectangular column that was then wire cut into individual bricks. This replaced handmade and moulding methods. The frog in a brick is explained as the imprint of a tool used

to press the clay into the corners of the mould, but it also has advantages when laying the bricks. Much ingenuity went into improving the efficiency of Kiln Designs until, in 1895, Hoffman introduced a continuous heating method which was almost universally adopted. It meant that it was not necessary to reduce the temperature of the whole kiln to extract the finished bricks. The local Hills brick yards were using gas and electrically heated kilns when the yard closed in December 1977. Turner Street in Swindon is named after Thomas Turner who had a pit and brickworks on the Queens Park Site. In 1889 he built two properties – Catalogue Houses to display every brick and tile manufactured by his company. Their ornate facades can still be seen in Drove Road together with his personal abode, now The Grove Hotel.

Probus meets in the Red House lounge at 10 am on 13 January – “Too-da-loo” a WW1 Village. 27 January – Industrial Archaeology in your garage, shed & attic.

BOB STEVENS

After 8 – Women at Work in World War 1

On **11 November** we met at the house of Marion Andrews to hear a very informative and topical talk by Marion, about how WW1 had affected the lives of women.



We started with a list of acronyms to identify. The answers to these proved very evocative of the era, such as First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. It turns out that most were disbanded after the war, only to be reformed with slightly different names at the start of WW2.

Marion started by considering the role of women before the war. It wasn’t a surprise to us to learn that most women worked in such jobs as domestic service, nursing and teaching. It was ‘the norm’ to leave work when you married. Of course, many working class women continued to work in the factories and on farms, combining this with child rearing and running the home. Equal pay was only a dream, as was universal suffrage. Women were thought to be weak and feeble, with smaller brains! Not surprisingly, Trade Unions and the Suffragette movement were creating a feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction amongst women and the working classes.

During 1914-1918 the female workforce increased by one million. By 1915 women were proving their worth in previously male only jobs, in factories and in transport, as clippies, and drivers. They also worked in dockyards as platers, riveters and crane drivers. We were told about the Munitionettes who worked in munitions factories with TNT and whose skin turned yellow because of the cordite which they handled, when filling shells and the Copperettes who were recruited as police women, to become the moral guardians of the women who were spending their earnings on alcohol!

Despite the fact that women only earned half the wage of the men, their income gave them an independence which they had not previously experienced.

Women’s fashions changed, to mirror the need for more practical working clothes. Victorian fashions gradually gave way to overalls, trousers and uniforms. Less voluminous skirts and raised hemlines were here to stay! Women footballers,

who played in factory teams, even exposed their knees! These teams played in the football league until 1921 when they were banned by the FA.

Of course, many women joined the uniformed organisations as nurses and volunteer auxiliaries. We heard about heroes, such as Edith Cavell, Vera Britten and Elsie Inglis.

After the war, many felt that women's lives had changed for ever, but it still took until after WW2 before all women got the vote. Some women were happy to return to the home but many were not. They had tasted a freedom and independence which they were not willing to relinquish easily. Interestingly, the Post Office was the first employer to allow married women to continue working. Some would say that pay and opportunities for women still don't have parity with men but we can't deny that things have improved greatly; in no small way due to the bravery and determination of these remarkable women.

MARY HODGES

Our **Christmas meeting** is one we always enjoy with carol singing, Secret Santa and delicious refreshments.

Eve started our evening off with a short account of the World War One Christmas truce when soldiers exchanged names and presents this was based on the account of the incident in Mrs Richardson's book, *Remembrance Wakes*, which details the experiences of her son at the front. The truce lasted a very short period they were soon back fighting with great sacrifice. We thank them for our freedom allowing us to be here to day.

Our rendition of the traditional carols and songs, were I am sure excellent, we all sang beautifully, although some of us may have had a few tuning issues! Sandra arranged us in to groups to sing Good King Wenceslas; well we did our best!

In need of refreshments after all our hard work we enjoyed a super selection of food provided by the members.

On to Secret Santa, dipping in to a sack and bringing out this year's surprises, a handbag, a novelty egg cup, smellies, or a necklace. Marion pulled out a scarf, she is an expert at tying scarves and gave us a demonstration. These were just a few of our gifts.

Next a real treat, Barbara and Marion played a duet of Come all ye Faithful. The beginning was rather shaky until Barbara realised that she had the wrong glasses on. After much hilarity they started again and played beautifully, all of us joining in with more carols and songs.

It was a great fun evening enjoyed by all of us. Thanks to Kathy for being our host.

As we left for home we found it was a very wet evening but we were full of Christmas Joy.

EILEEN COE

Cricklade Country Market

The Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 30 January from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Rainbow unit welcomed Kanna's mum and friends who organised some Japanese activities for the Rainbows and visitors from 2nd Purton Brownies to enjoy; they dressed up in beautiful kimonos and tried origami. She also made them paper purses with their names written in Japanese. The Rainbows enjoyed a wonderful meeting and the Brownies showed them how to play a Brownie game.

There were two more Brownie promise ceremonies this month, one in each unit, so Katie, Summer, Eleanor, Jesenia, Charley, Lois and Emily have now all made their promise. Their evenings were masterminded by those Brownies doing the Hostess badge and whose entertainment included a violin solo, a poem, some jokes and games.

All the units have been preparing for Christmas: the Rainbows planted daffodils as a Christmas gift to take home and did a range of different Christmas crafts. 1st Purton Brownies made Advent Mice and baked Dutch Christmas biscuits whilst 2nd Purton Brownies made Snowman Advent calendars. 2nd Purton made Christmas cards for both the Lunch Club and Ashgrove House Nursing Home and treated the Ashgrove residents to carol singing with a record number of residents listening and joining in this year. "Auntie Monica" had to be sung by request too! A few of the eldest 1st Purton Brownies helped at St Mary's Church Christmas bazaar and took their role very seriously!

The Guides are a competitive lot and never ones to pass up a challenge so the unit entered two teams into the Division Guide Challenge. This is an annual competition between local Guide Units and the theme this year was to decorate a Christmas tree. There were gingerbread decorations, peg reindeers and acetate baubles. Well done to Rhea, Katy and Alice on being joint winners with 1st Lyneham Guides.

By popular request the Guides held a meeting in the dark; there were lots of games including glow stick skittles. St Andrew's Day was also celebrated and lots of crafts were made to celebrate a Nordic Christmas. To finish the term, a party was held with Cricklade Guides.

The two Brownie units combined for a sleep-over at the end of November, staying at our County Centre in East Tytherton. A total of 29 Brownies completed the Upside Down and Back to Front Challenge. They baked pineapple upside down cakes, did a back to front quiz, upside down colouring, a trick involving an upside down cup of water, a treasure hunt and watched a DVD before bed. The highlight though seemed to be having pudding before their main course!

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



Purton Bowls Club



CONGRATULATIONS to all our cup winners this year, they are all very deserving of their trophies. They received them at our Prizegiving Evening at the Club at Cricklade, with Roy Wheeler (President) and Paul Boyles (Treasurer) doing the presenting.

We had a really nice evening with over 50 people attending, and after eating a hearty dinner were entertained with 60's and 70's music which had everybody up dancing and socialising. There were raffle prizes galore and everybody seemed to enjoy the whole affair.

I have to start thinking about the new season in 2015 and would like to remind any new members that it will only cost them £10 for the first season for new bowlers. It won't be long until it all starts again.

I have been asked to mention Cups and Saucers! We have roughly 100 cups and saucers that will not be needed, and if anybody would be interested in taking them off our hands then please let us know. You can always ring me on 778119.

We would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year and look forward to meeting some new members in the new season.

PETER BERRY

Below: Purton Bowls Club Cup Winners



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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](#)

Rags Make Riches for Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Wiltshire Air Ambulance (WAA) receive a cash donation every time Wiltshire residents recycle their unwanted textiles, clothing and shoes.

Hills Waste Solutions and Devizes Textiles, make a £25 donation to WAA for every tonne of textiles recycled through household recycling centres, black box kerbside collections and at mini recycling sites operated by Hills and Devizes Textiles Ltd across the county.

Based on previous textile recycling figures in the county, WAA receive around £25,000 of funding each year. This provides a much needed regular and reliable income for this life-saving charity.

A full list of all the participating household recycling centres and other recycling points can be found at www.recycleforwiltshire.com

Textile recycling facts and figures:

- 60% of recycled clothing is exported as second hand clothing
All clothing that is recycled is carefully checked for condition and quality and items which are suitable to be worn again are exported to second hand clothing markets.
- 25% is recycled into fillings and new yarns
Clothes that are worn out, damaged, have a high wool content or are made of 'heavy' yarns are not suitable as second hand clothing and these get made into other products or yarns and some can simply be compressed to create textile fillings. In the case of polyester-based materials, the fabric is shredded, then granulated and turned into polyester chips. The chips are melted and spun into new filament fibres used to make new polyester fabrics.
- 10% is recycled into industrial wiping cloths
These are mainly cotton and silk materials which are made into paper products or dusters / wiping cloths and sold back to industry for cleaning and polishing. There are many grades of materials suitable for different applications across a range of industries such as furniture production, car production and the mining sector.
- 5% is waste
Clothing that is wet or soiled cannot be recycled.
- Shoes, handbags and belts
These items can all be recycled if they are in good condition and can be reused. Shoes need to be secured in pairs as odd and damaged shoes cannot be recycled.

Promoting the recycling drive are (l to r) Steve Burns of Hills, crew member from Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Shahid Siddiq of Devizes Textiles



Sports bags, rucksacks and belts are all graded in the same way as clothing and are exported to second hand clothing markets.

- No thanks

Textile recyclers cannot process materials such as feather pillows, duvets, carpets, PVC plastics, odd shoes, and 'hard' toys and these should not be placed in the textile recycling bins.

A Knick Knack Bric-a-Brac Sale!

A fun event to raise money for the Christian Aid Ebola Fund:

You must have seen all the tragic news items about the effects of Ebola on communities in West Africa. The thought of people dying of this dreadful disease, without anyone being able to hold their hand or say goodbye, for fear of spreading infection ... it is beyond bearability.

Christian Aid is sending out special items of clothing for the medical staff to wear ... gloves, boots, germ free suits and masks: and we here in Purton want to help by raising money to pass on to the Christian Aid Ebola Fund.

Can YOU help? Have you got anything to give? Can you come and support us?

We have decided to have a "Knick Knack Bric-a-Brac" sale of unwanted gifts, or of much cherished items that are no longer needed, in Purton Methodist Church, Play Close on Friday 23 January from 11.30 to 4 pm.

The idea is that people give us any unwanted Christmas presents to sell; or bits of bric-a-brac that have been filling up the house for too long. Maybe we can find a new home for these precious items!

January is a good 'sort-out' time so we hope you would like to de-clutter your house and donate an item or two for such a good cause.

Already we have been offered some jewellery, some glass ornaments, tea sets and a couple of pictures. We are hoping for lots more, to make it a worthwhile sale.

If you have something to offer please contact Libbie and she will come and collect it, if necessary: or bring it to the Methodist Church on Friday 23 January from 9 am onwards.

There will be snacks to buy, available throughout the day: and puppets to entertain the children too!

So...in summary...if you would like to give to the Ebola Fund please

- a) Contact Libbie or Mary to discuss this event further
- b) Consider offering some unwanted items that we can sell on (not jumble, electrical goods or large furniture, please)
- c) Come and help us on the day ... in the kitchen, making the snacks or by donating a cake: or help with selling the items on the stalls
- d) Come and enjoy the event and buy some of these precious items .

Thank you so much: [Libbie Sheppard](#) and Mary Hodges

Something to Think About

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Mark Twain



Arabian Nights Christmas Performance at Bradon Forest Theatre

In early December almost 200 primary pupils from St Mary's Church of



England Primary School in Purton, and Red Oaks Primary School, were treated to a full performance of Arabian Nights at the Bradon Forest Theatre. The primary pupils and staff were wowed by the performance of the talented Bradon Forest students, and particularly appreciated ex pupils from their own school performing.

Cedars Got Talent

Bradon Forest Theatre also supported the local Talent Show at The Cedars Retirement Home by providing the lighting and PA system for their December show.

Year 11 Awards Presentation Evening

On 18 November we truly celebrated a record year and the successes of our ex-Year 11 students from 2013 - 2014 as they were welcomed back to collect their hard earned certificates and prizes for their achievements. It was great to see them again and to hear about their experiences at college and how well they had settled in to life after Bradon Forest.

Bradon Forest Bake Off and Children in Need

On Friday 14 November a grand total of £1045 was raised across the school for Children in Need. A variety of fund raising activities took place including loot bag sales, cake sales and in particular the Bradon Bake off plus the infamous Mud Run organised by the PE Department.



The Bake Off organised by Food Technology had over 30 contestants in the initial challenge which was to decorate a batch of cupcakes with fondant icing. The cupcakes were then sold and made over £50 for Children in Need. The Top 10 then went through to the final where they had to bake a cake of their own choice.

We had a wide selection of judges ranging from school Governors, Parish Councillors, teachers, office staff and even the reigning Bake off Champion. It was a very tough decision as the standard was high, but in the end the Star Baker award and prizes went to Ocsian Salter in Year 10. Her cake was a four-layer red velvet cake with a white chocolate ganache and fresh strawberries.



Wiltshire Parking Consultation – don't miss out

Wiltshire Council is reminding residents and business to have their say in a comprehensive review of car parking across the county. So far more than 2,500 responses have been submitted by the public as part of a consultation about the council's car parking policy.

The outcome could see a move away from the current charging for parking based on four bands, to options based on individual car parks or town assessments. These options will use factors such as usage of car parks, location, as well as looking at the wider economic and environmental issues. This approach gives the Council greater ability to manage car parking demand and supply.



The review will also consider a number of charging options, including first hour free parking, free after 4 pm, Sunday charges, or evening charges as tools to enhance local communities' ability to use their local services.

The deadline for public consultation is Monday 19 January.

John Thomson, deputy leader and cabinet member responsible for sustainable transport, said: "Our review and public consultation into the future of car parking is about striking the right balance between encouraging people to shop and work locally, the cost of running car parks, and the environmental impact.

"No decisions have been made, and none will be made until the results of the consultation are in and analysed, which is why it is vitally important that we get as much feedback as possible from people, local business and organisations.

"While 19 January may seem like a long way off, it's only a few weeks after New Year. It's important that nobody misses out on the chance to have their say."

All documentation about the car parking review is available to see at the Wiltshire Council website: <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

Shoebox News

This year, we have been able to send 442 filled Christmas Shoeboxes from Purton. The cost to send these was £1326. They were taken to the Moravian Church in Swindon on 16 November, where they were to be transported to Zambia, Montenegro, Albania or Bosnia.

This year's project has been very successful. Thank you to those who have contributed in so many ways and made it better than ever. Because we were allowed to check and seal the boxes ourselves, we were able to get more into them, than if they were sent for checking elsewhere and just held together with an elastic band!

Our target was 360 boxes, but due to people's generosity and individual donated filled boxes, we were able to send an extra 80. This is such an achievement for a village. May we continue into 2015 with the same level of interest.

Thank you again.



SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator