

Purton *Magazine*



*February Fill Dyke
by Christine Rawlings, member of Purton Artists*

February 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	Keith Hart	771533
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

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev David Perkins tel 853197</i> <i>1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<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

<i>Parish Deacon</i>	<i>Reverend Terry Aspell tel 325681</i> <i>Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<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

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

From The Editors

February is often quoted as the least favoured month in England. The long nights are still with us, it is often very cold and there has just been a smattering of snow. It is also rather a sad time of year with a higher than average number of deaths and this issue of your magazine carries several obituaries.

However, Purton would not be such “a grand place to live” without the usual spread of local interest and activities to entertain and inspire us. The first weekend in February looks particularly entertaining with PADS presenting *King Arthur* with four shows in the Village Hall while there is also the Purton Carnival Rock ‘n’ Roll Bingo in the Red House Club – see [page 32](#).

Purton & District Probus are holding 2 meetings in February with two very different topics, see [page 25](#). Also this month the Purton Historical Society start their next series of excellent weekly talks about *The 1960s – Home and Away* with details on [page 17](#). Perhaps the majority of Purton Magazine readers will have some personal experiences of the swinging sixties. However, it has been said that anyone who claims to remember the 1960s probably did not fully experience all that the new “permissive” society had to offer!

Then, getting back down to earth, as it were, the Gardeners’ Guild February meeting, described on [page 22](#) will hear a talk on *Growing and Showing Sweet Peas*. That, with the worst editorial link of the year (so far!), leads us hungrily on to wondering about the peas provided at Purton’s famous Lent Lunches – see [page 26](#).

With so much mental stimulation and fine food, readers should be well equipped to enter a short story competition being organised by Purton Parish Council and win a prize. The subject of dog mess spoiling our vibrant village has been a running topic in these pages for many years but now anyone living or attending school in the Parish is invited to write a story or article entitled “*There’s No Such Thing as a Dog Poo Fairy*” and more details can be found on [page 5](#).

Finally, many thoughts could be turning to Valentine’s Day and, on page 24, there is a very interesting article on Valentine Cards. Victorian etiquette considered it improper for a lady to send a valentine greeting to a man – is that why so many valentines are sent anonymously?

22 Feb

is the date for the
2015 Litter Pick
in Purton
– see [page 5](#)

£120

available
from 6 prizes
in a short story competition
– see [page 5](#)

195th

season for
Purton Cricket Club
begins this year
– see [page 15](#)

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[Women's Institute \(Purton Evening WI\)](#)

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

Magazine Committee

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Parish Council News



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

- **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.
- **Short story competition** – Children and adults can enter the competition to win cash prizes – £30, £20 and £10 book vouchers. People living in the Parish are invited to write an article or story entitled *There's No Such Thing as a Dog Poo Fairy*. The articles/stories that take the 1st prize in either the adult and child categories will also be published in a future edition of Purton Magazine. There are two competitions – one for children aged 15 and under on 31 December 2014 and one for adults. Entrants must live or attend school in the Parish of Purton. Entries must be a maximum of 1000 words and be received at the Parish Council offices before the end of March 2015. Further details of how to enter are on the Parish Council's website – see below.
- A free information pack will be given to every pupil in Purton schools to raise awareness of the joys and responsibilities of owning dogs to help encourage tomorrow's dog owners to be responsible dog owners.

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. 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

Purton Cemetery Path – Purton Parish Council is arranging for the paths in the cemetery to be resurfaced in the spring – exact date not yet confirmed. The section of pathway leading up to the Memorial Garden is currently narrower than elsewhere causing some difficulty for wheelchair and other access to the garden and cremation plots behind, and this path will be widened slightly during the renovations. During this work the row of cremation memorials nearest to the path will be temporarily moved a foot or two back from the path to ensure they are not damaged.

The Diocesan authorities have been consulted on this and are happy with this precautionary measure, as there will be no disturbance to any burial plots and the memorials will be repositioned exactly where they are now after the path is re-laid. The owners of these burial plots will be notified. Once the exact dates for the resurfacing are known they will be publicised as there may be some restricted access to the cemetery while the works are carried out. If you have any concerns please contact The Parish Clerk.

Postage Stamps for the Blind – a huge ‘THANK YOU’

Many stamps have already been received which will help to raise funds for people with sight impairments. 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 the end of January. The Parish Council will continue to collect stamps on an ongoing basis so you can always drop them into the Parish Council office or letter box in future.

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.

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.

Renew & Repair Grant

Wiltshire Council has to date received around 70 applications for the Government repair and renew grant which was for home owners who flooded last winter. If you know of anyone who was flooded last winter (between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014) and either installed, or was thinking about installing, measures to make their property more resistant or resilient to flooding, there is still time to claim. The deadline for applications is 28 February.

More information about whether you are eligible to apply can be found on the Council's website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/floodingrepairrenewgrant

Cricklade Country Market

The Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 27 February 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).

Community Clean up Days

Wiltshire Council offer to Town and Parish Councils a team of up to 5 people to regularly come and carry out a number of small jobs. A schedule of dates is sent through to the parishes and the parish councils supply a list of jobs they would like carried out at a 'contractor site meeting'.

If a parish does not request a meeting or send in a list of works then the team is allocated to different Parish/Towns who have requested work.

For Purton we have dates booked in every month on the schedule, mainly at the end of the months for the first part of the year.

If there are issues residents see that could be added to the list of jobs then let the Parish Clerk know and I am sure he will happily add them to his list. Anything not finished should then be moved forward to the following month.

The types of work below that can be done on a Community Day:

- hand clearing, and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers
- clearing storm debris
- hedge and vegetation cutting – public highway
- cleaning and straightening small road signs
- hand cutting small visibility areas
- reactive pothole and overrun repair
- removal of ragwort and treatment/removal of weeds
- litter picking
- graffiti removal
- siding out of footways and carriageways

Sometimes there are issues that cannot wait for community days, hence these can be sent in between visits and the teams try to programme the works in as soon possible.

In addition to the site visits to discuss community day works, the community co-ordinator tries to be available for the half an hour before the Community Area Board meetings to talk about any local highway issues a parish council may have. Plus also a representative from Wiltshire Council's contractor, Balfour Beatty Living Places, is also in attendance.

The date of the next Area Board meeting is Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 6.30 pm at Cricklade Town Hall, High St, Cricklade SN6 6AE.

I hope you find this information useful and that it helps resident's understand how those small jobs are dealt with by the council, in that the local communities, through the parish and town councils, lets the local team know what is needed (if they don't then these jobs are unlikely to get done).

JACQUI LAY - Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon

01793 770704 jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk

Facebook – Councillor Jacqui Lay

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier. Please call me, Ellen Blacker, on 07557 110414 or email me at rwbcrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk



Purton & District Age Concern



This month I would like to inform you of several changes within our team of volunteers. Keith Hart has taken over from Maurice Card as Minibus Co-ordinator – so from now on if you wish to book the minibus please contact Keith on 771533. Our thanks go to Maurice for all his hard work during his time as Co-ordinator, we all appreciate the valuable work he has done and wish him well in the future.

Helen Hicks has joined us as Street Warden for New Road. She has taken over from Jenny Barnes. Some of the people on the New Road “patch” may have met Helen as she helped Jenny to deliver our Christmas vouchers in December. Helen can be contacted on 778207. Jenny has been a Street Warden since the service was set up almost 40 years ago. We are very grateful to Jenny for all she has done for the older people on her “patch” during this time and although she has retired from being a Street Warden she will continue to be our Vice Chair.

Mick and Shirley Hull are also stepping down as Street Wardens for part of Station Road and Willowbrook. Fortunately for us they have found a replacement – Richard Walker. By the time you read this Richard should be up and running as a Street Warden, and can be contacted on 770124. Again, we are very grateful to Mick and Shirley for their valuable contributions, but they will both continue to be involved with Age Concern as Mick is on our committee and helps to run our weekly T'ai chi classes.

Tony recently spoke to Brenda Ricketts who has decided the time has come for her to retire as Street Warden. Tony immediately contacted Margaret and Steve Goodall to ask if they would like to take over from Brenda and we are pleased to say they agreed to do so. By the time you read this Margaret and Steve will be Street Wardens for Red Gables Close, Restrop Road, Battlwell and Bagbury Lane. They can be contacted on 770906. We would like to thank Brenda for all her years of dedicated service as a Street Warden and we send her our best wishes on her well-deserved retirement. We would like to welcome Keith, Helen, Richard, Margaret and Steve. We thank them for volunteering and hope they enjoy being part of Purton Age Concern.

On a sad note I have to report the death of Doreen Tuck our Street Warden in Red Gables Close. Doreen had been poorly for some time and had recently been in hospital. Our thoughts are with Doreen’s family and friends at this sad time and also with the family and friends of Mary Mills who has died too. Many years ago Mary was one of our Street Wardens and was always a great supporter of Age Concern. Please see the obituaries in this magazine written by Tony regarding both these women.

Regarding the minibus service, one of our drivers, Denis Wilkins, is leaving in February. Our thanks go to Denis for the part he has played in assisting older and disabled people in the village to get out and about and we wish him and Gill all the best for the future. We are fortunate that, as Denis prepares to leave the minibus service, three people have volunteered to join us; they are Sue & Pete Berry and Vic Patterson. We welcome them and look forward to seeing them on the minibuses very soon.

Recently we have been overwhelmed by some generous donations – we are

very lucky to be supported by so many local people such as Paul Booth & Son (not forgetting Celia) who gave us a very generous donation again this year. Also, Miriam and Ron Saunders who asked for money in lieu of presents for their recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary and donated the money to us. Then there's Teresa Miles and her mother Jean who make a donation to us every year on the anniversary of the death of Jack Miles – Teresa's father. We have also had a generous donation from a couple in Restrop View and from a gentleman in Braydon who has donated his winter fuel allowance to us. These are just some of the donations we have had, we are extremely grateful for all the financial support we have received and we thank each and every one of you for your kindness.

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned their questionnaire, we have had a very good response. Mick Looker has the job of collating all the information and is going to feed back to the committee at our next meeting at the beginning of February. Colin and Sylvia are in the process of paying the local businesses for the Christmas vouchers that have been spent. I can update you with the figures next month.

Did anyone spot my deliberate mistake on the Christmas newsletter? Our 3B's x 2 evening is on Friday 9 October not Saturday 10 October. Sorry for the confusion!

FUTURE EVENTS

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 pm - 1 pm and the sale starts at 2 pm. Refreshments will be available. Come along to grab a bargain!

Annual Auction: Our Auction this year is on Saturday 7 March at 1 pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9 am - 11.30 am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. Street Wardens will have some booking-in forms if you would rather complete one in advance or you can fill the form in when you bring your items to the Village Hall. Viewing of lots is from 12 pm - 1 pm and the auction starts at 1 pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this year. Come and join in the bidding, it's great fun!

PAST EVENTS

Christmas Market Stall: This was a great success. We raised £425.79 which; is a fantastic amount of money. Our thanks go to everyone who donated cakes, books bric-a-brac and other festive items to sell and to the Belcher family who provide the mistletoe. Also thanks to everyone who helped out at the event.

"Carols under the tree": On Christmas Eve was a huge success, attended by over 250 people. Our grateful thanks go to Mark Blackwell and his musicians for providing the music, to Lawrence Marchington and Sam Robinson for providing and erecting the floodlights and snow machine (assisted by Mick Looker), to Sheila and Maureen for supplying the hot punch and mince pies and to everyone who helped out on the evening.

INFORMATION

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

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

Minibuses: Please contact Keith Hart our minibus co-ordinator on 771533 if you would like to book the minibus. Also, please contact Keith if you are thinking of becoming a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on the minibuses. We can always do with more volunteers.

Products and Services: As a "Friend of Age UK" we can introduce people to the products and services offered by Age UK – home insurance, car insurance, motor breakdown cover, travel insurance, gas and electricity, funeral plans, will and legal services, annuity services, stairlifts, bathing aids and riser-recliner chairs. You can contact Age UK on a telephone number unique to Purton Age Concern; to obtain this telephone number or for more details please contact Louise on 772558.

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

Finally, we were very pleased to receive all the lovely Christmas cards and thank-you cards and letters for your Christmas vouchers, your kind words are much appreciated.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Obituaries

I would like to pay tribute to three members of our community who have sadly left us. In years gone by they have played a big part in making Purton what it is – a grand place to live.

Mrs Mary Mills

Mary Mills I am sure was a true Purtonian, born in the village. She lived at Widham, Purton Stoke side of the bridge, down what they used to call the Alley. This was some way to walk to school and I know on the way she would meet up with friends such as Dorothy Martin (now Paish) who lived Purton side of the bridge. In those days, if you lived one mile, or was it one and a half miles, from the school you were loaned a bicycle – that's why they had two bike sheds at the school, or were picked up by Shepherds or Rimes coaches, but that was after you reached the age of eleven. Of course, the outlying districts had their own junior schools, like Hook, Lydiard, Braydon and Purton Stoke. Sorry I am digressing a little!

I would imagine that the first teacher that Mary would have had at St Mary's was Miss Woodward when she was five years old and bear in mind that was the only school then with children there up to fourteen. Mary's school life was very much enjoyed and, as she got a little older, she would go to Swindon to tap dancing lessons along with Margaret Hinton. The lady that taught them was Auntie Blanche – whether she was a true auntie or not we might never know. I know that Mary and Margaret used to do their dancing act in the shows that Mrs Webb and her daughter Muriel put on at the Institute periodically – of course this was where Margaret

Hinton lived as her parents were the caretakers.

Mary left St Mary's and went to work at the Dental Factory which used to be a milk factory. They moved Associated Dental Products down to Purton because of the bombing in London. Mr Cakebread senior was in charge then I believe. It was quite exciting when Mary had her first pay packet – fifteen shillings, yes fifteen shillings a week. When she received her pay with a ten shilling note and two half crowns in it, as I have said she was excited, tore the pay packet open and tore the ten shilling note in half! She was happy at the Dental Factory, working first on the shop floor then in the offices, until she was expecting Tim, her son, who was followed by daughter Karen.

It was Mary's dancing that was her pride and joy and there were dances in various places like the Reading Room at Lydiard, the Angel and the Institute so Mary had plenty to choose from and then there were the big dances they used to have in Vickers Armstrong with all the top bands coming there. I should imagine that Mary's husband Norman was also a good dancer as he was pretty nimble on his feet and he was a great sportsman. I wonder if they met on the dance floor.

Mary and Norman enjoyed their holidays, in fact I spent two holidays with them along with my brother and his wife Diana at Cliftonville next to Margate. I must say they were very enjoyable and it was always a contest to see who had the biggest knickerbocker glory. As I have said, they loved their holidays and, after Margate, Paignton became their destination along with members and their families from the Cricket Club. I believe they did change the venue and go to Swanage as an alternative but wherever they went they enjoyed themselves.

When Norman and Mary first got married, Norman's parents, Nan and Jack Mills, had an extension put on their house in Restrop Road, although it was Wootton Bassett Road in those days, and they lived there until they moved into Highridge Close. They were very sociable people and they would love to go down to Ron and Bet Gunter's home in Glevum. I don't know whether the food or the snooker table was the attraction but they did enjoy themselves – they always seemed to when they were out. Mary was a source of information even in later years when she didn't get out. It was all her friends phoning or visiting her, so it was said that if you wanted to find out anything, give Mary a ring.

Another of Mary's loves was her animals, especially cats. All the strays used to find their way to Mary's where there was always a tin of meat for them. She found homes for them through the Cat's Protection League, of which she was a member. She also loved her two pet tortoises although she was always losing them which got the neighbours out looking for them.

Once her children grew a little, she worked at the Red Gables Children's Home – she was the type of person that, if she saw anything that needed doing, she would get on and do it, not having to be asked. Was Auntie Ann in charge then I wonder?

Mary was always to the fore when they held street parties to celebrate various jubilees in Highridge Close. She was also Age Concern street warden in Highridge – she took over from Maureen Griffin when Maureen took on the treasurer's job – and she did an excellent job for a good number of years before handing over to June Harris, who holds that position today. Mary was not only an excellent street

warden but took an interest in all that was going on in Age Concern and helped out where she could and she didn't need asking, always coming along and offering to help, buttering 300 rolls at our Gymkhana and always there at jumble sales. She would be very good at suggesting ideas, perhaps not always the best but, if you knew Mary, it would be a job to convince her otherwise.

How do I remember Mary? As someone who was always straight to the point, always smartly dressed, with her make up immaculate, never grumbling about her health problems, always ready to laugh and interested in everyone. I can imagine her in hospital, sat up in bed with her hair done, earrings in and lipstick on, something she insisted on right to the end. Purton Age Concern would like to thank Mary's family for money in lieu of flowers coming to our funds and congratulate the family for the way they have looked after Mary, especially Karen and Gary who lived next door to her. It is a credit to you all.

Mrs Doreen Tuck

Someone else who has sadly left us is Doreen Tuck who was a great supporter of the Purton Guide Dogs committee and also Purton Age Concern and many other organisations. Doreen was born in Poplar Avenue in Swindon, then moved to Rodbourne where she went to school. Later on she started work at Devonshire Hygienic Dairies, where early mornings weren't quite the right job for someone who was some dart player – playing for the Grapes and the Ship Hotel (now both closed). I wonder if that is why she changed her job as Doreen went to work for Wises, the large bakers at Headlands. In fact, they used to supply Marks and Spencers but here again I would think it would have been an early start.

Doreen came to Purton and lived at Vasterne Close before moving on to Dogridge then ten years ago to Red Gables where she was our street warden right up to the day she died. Doreen was on the Guide Dog Committee from the word go in 1981 or round about that time. She was always there to help, a loyal staunch supporter. An organisation is so lucky to have members such as Doreen – their loss will be as great as ours in Age Concern.

One of the places where Doreen worked after moving to Purton was the Dental Factory – not in the really early days like Mary but it would have been a few years ago. She also worked in St Mary's School kitchen and could be seen walking up the fields behind Hooks Hill when weather permitted to the school to work. In later years Doreen worked in the Maltsters, a job she loved, especially working with her good friends Jenny Barnes and Valerie Park.

Doreen moved from Vasterne Close to Dogridge when her marriage had broken up and she was allowed to take her alsatian dog with her – a very kind gesture by the Council as dogs weren't allowed there at that time in the flats. While she was at Dogridge Doreen had a heart by pass operation which was successful and she was able to carry on with normal life. Her help was very much appreciated at Luncheon Club – one thing she always excelled in was making the best mashed potato that anyone could make. She was always there to help with all the Age Concern events like our Gymkhana, jumble sales, auctions, market stalls, antiques and collectables. She would get on and do things in her way – perhaps making a

few waves with the other helpers but always with the best intentions and working hard. Doreen was a very good knitter – making some lovely things and knitting for other people – also she was an excellent cook and the apple pies she made for our market stalls were much sought after.

Ten years ago Doreen moved to Red Gables Close – she loved her bungalow with its' garden and got on well with her neighbours, Dick and Eric Spencer. She still helped out with our parties but we couldn't let her do too much as her health was not so good. In the kitchen at events she was called the 'garnish queen' - she was the best at making the plates of sandwiches and cakes look good. Doreen always looked smart – she particularly loved her earrings – and, even when her health had started to deteriorate, she was always a credit to herself. She never complained, always answering 'Oh I'm alright' even when she wasn't. We shall miss her and really appreciate all she did for us. When we have our outing to Weston in August, we shall all think of Doreen. She loved that day out and was always accompanied by one or both of her beloved grandchildren, Luke and Katie. To son Adrian, daughter-in-law Sarah, Luke and Katie and Doreen's other family and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Mrs Stella Evans

The third lady I wanted to mention is Stella Evens. She lived in the Peak and could be seen walking to the shops with a dog which was usually a lurcher or greyhound type. She was a lady who was very independent and I used to feel sorry for her when she was struggling along with the dog but I admired her for doing so. Stella had a marvellous nature and if she could help anyone she would. Her late husband John was the same, in fact he was one of our early minibus drivers. In fact, when he died we brought Stella and her son as our guests to Miss Ward's fish and chip evening.

Stella was involved with the Carnival for a good number of years, always ready to help where needed. She was also a long term member of the Silver Threads and at one time did the register for them, also helping with any fund raising they did and helping with the teas. Stella worked in several places supplying meals – who remembers Waitemeads House when they had a bar and restaurant? I know Age Concern have had some good nights with good food which Stella would have had a hand in preparing. (Just a little footnote here, when Age Concern had our Christmas parties at Churchill House, Terry and Geraldine, proprietors of Waitemeads House, provided us with excellent entertainment.)

Another place where Stella worked was the Ghost Train when it was a pub doing excellent food - sadly closed now and another pub where she helped with the food was the Royal George. This was some years ago and it has changed hands many times since then, but now it is stable, which is good. Who remembers the good times at the petrol pumps at Thompsons when you were served with your petrol and Stella was one of those people who used to serve you and, of course, have a little chat providing no-one was waiting, picking up the village news – notice I said news not gossip! Stella also worked at Bradon Forest School – in fact there is no need for me to tell you what a hard working lady she was - as you can tell she

didn't let the grass grow under her feet.

I am sorry I cannot write very much about Stella but I am vague about her life before Purton but nevertheless it does not mean that I have less respect for her than Mary and Doreen. She was a marvellous lady and I feel that she enjoyed the part of her life that was spent in Purton and she put a lot into village life. To Stella's family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy.

TONY PRICE

Michael Woolford

Michael (Mike) Woolford died suddenly at home on 3 October 2014, aged 67. Mike is now at rest with his dear Mum, Katherine (Kitty) and Dad, Francis (Frank) who died in 1962 and 2003 respectively. A family funeral was held on 24 December.

The family would like to thank Mike's friends and neighbours for being so caring and kind towards him over the years, especially Mary Parsons, Janice & Mick Simpkins, Jim & Ruth Mills and Basil & Hilary Mills.



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.

Group for Patients - Purton & Green Gable Surgery

Talk on Heart Matters:

Wednesday 11 March, 7.30 to 9 pm at Purton Surgery

Speakers:

Dr William McCrea: Consultant Cardiologist , Great Western Hospital

Alison Rosier: British Heart Foundation

Although this is a free event, tickets are required due to limited seating. These will be available from mid-February. Please contact Purton Surgery, tel 01793 770207.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P



We Record ...

Baptisms:

14 December Imogen Kate Worthington at St Mary's Church

8 February Poppy Zelda Clatworthy

Diamond Wedding

24 December 2014 Ron & Miriam Saunders

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



If this monthly look back at what was in your magazine 10 years ago helps to put past local events into some sort of perspective, spare a thought for the scientists working on the Cassini-Huygens space mission. After a 7-year journey (yes, it set off in 1998) the spacecraft descended under parachute to land on the surface of Titan, the largest of Saturn's 31 moons. Since then it has been undertaking an extensive exploration of the Saturnian system with its rings and many satellites. Now a second extended mission will continue until September 2017 by which time the whole mission will have covered just one half of a Saturnian year.

Also in the February 2005 issue of Purton Magazine we reported that one of the planning scenarios for the projected growth of Swindon was for an additional 24,000 houses to accommodate another 60,000 people. That was part of the South West Regional Assembly and Swindon's Vision for 2016 to 2026 – remember that was being proposed in February 2005. We now, in 2015, learn that those plans have been replaced with the Wiltshire Core Strategy which should have been approved by the full Wiltshire Council by the time you read this.

The Strategy has re-affirmed that Purton is a Large Village and, as such, is protected from speculative development by a settlement boundary beyond which development is currently not permitted unless proposed in an approved neighbourhood plan.

So, if the speed of Council Planning sometimes seem comparable with space missions, it might be worth remembering just how fast new houses are now being built at Ridgeway Farm, once permission has been given.

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

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



Preparations for 2015, the club's one hundredth and ninety fifth year, are under way with large numbers of junior players receiving qualified coaching sessions. Senior members are also training indoors ready for the season's start in May. Although it is still five years to the 200 year celebration a small group of members and volunteers has started to discuss ideas about how to mark the occasion.

If anyone has information about Purton's cricket past the committee will be pleased to receive it. As a starter the 1962 fixture card contains the names of Lady Young and Sir D. Eccles as vice presidents. Were these local people? Any information will be gratefully received.

From the Archives – 50 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from a letter sent by Peter Tranter, General Secretary to club President, A.J.Woolford, dated 30 January 1965.

'We held the annual general meeting of the cricket club last week. As you probably saw in the local press last week, the club unanimously re-elected you as President.

It gives me much pleasure to write to you to tell you this.

'... owing to our increasing membership we have formed a fourth team which will play as the Sunday 2nd XI ... Frank Ayres will be captain with, Melvyn Smith as his vice captain.'

'During the year we have continued to put in a good deal of work on the buildings and ground, the Square has been entirely re-dressed, re-seeded and enlarged; the boundary furthest from the Pavilion is to be extended, and it is planned to erect a modern toilet block before the season starts. Our first match will be on May 1st, and we hope to see you there either then or later on in the season. The fixture cards are not yet printed, but when they are ready I will send you one.'

JOE GARDNER

Purton Historical Society

Future Meetings/Events

Thursday 26 February: 'A man with a stick' - Andy Binks - 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall



Come and enjoy some previously unseen photographs of Swindon and discover exactly what "the Man with a Stick" was doing. This event will be both serious and fun.

Andy Binks served as a mechanical engineer in the Swindon Rail Works and is a member of Swindon Photography Society.

Thursday 26th March: Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall
Further details next month

Saturday, 18 April: Outing to The Imperial War Museum, London - cost £15.00

We will be visiting the recently opened World War One galleries at the Imperial War Museum (*pictured*). 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 are available from In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill and at society meetings or can be downloaded from www.purtonmuseum.com. However you will need to do so as soon as possible as seats are selling fast. (At the time of going to press, we have sold half the seats.)

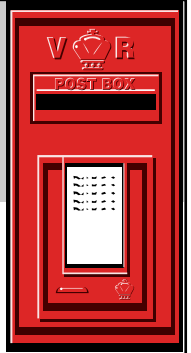
New members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JAN NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com

Telephone 01793 770117

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.



■ DECORATIONS

I live in Swindon but regularly visit my parents in Purton. I would just like to congratulate whoever is responsible for the trees and wreaths around the village. It especially looks lovely as you come in from Swindon or Cricklade. Whoever it is, is doing a fantastic job and has certainly smartened Purton up. Well done and thank you.

Sandra Wooster

■ DIAMOND WEDDING

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who expressed congratulations to my husband Ron and myself on the occasion of our 60th Wedding Anniversary on 24 December 2014.

Miriam Saunders

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 are on Wednesday Evenings at 7.30 from 11 February to 25 March.

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

Further Information: Inez Gale 770138 or Paul Booy 770755

11 February - Setting the Scene: Time for Change home and away
The rise of Camelot & Dallas 1963: Who killed President Kennedy?

25 February - Social Change: How Far? How Fast?
Permissive society ... or Civilized society

4 March - Swinging London: The Dark Side: The Kray Brothers
The white hot technological Revolution
Harold Wilson's Dream: Restrictive Practises; Devaluation

11 March - 1968: Vietnam and revolting Students: Why the Vietnam War?
The Prague Spring: Alexander Dubcek: Leonid Brezhnev and his Doctrine
Invasion August 20 1968: Passive Resistance

18 March - The Pill: Liberty or Licence- A talk by Dr. Elaine Farmery
Trade Unions: Changing the Old Guard: "In Place of Strife"

Jack Jones: was he a Soviet Agent?

25 March - 1960s: Music - did the Beatles Matter?
A talk with musical extracts by David Sweet
Vox Pop or "Ship me somewhere West of Suez".
Singapore - Hong Kong - HMS Manxman

Left: Harold Wilson



Purton Diary - February 2015

1	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
3	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads: Jeremy Corlsett - <i>On the Buses</i>
4	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
5	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
		7.30pm	PADS present King Arthur at Village Hall
6	F	7.30pm	PADS present King Arthur at Village Hall
		8.00pm	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo at the Red House Club
7	Sa	2.00pm	Silver Threads Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
		2.30pm	PADS present King Arthur at Village Hall
		7.30pm	PADS present King Arthur at Village Hall
<hr/>			
8	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
9	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
10	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Death of the Prince Imperial</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
11	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		7.30pm	Historical Society Spring Course at Silver Threads Hall: <i>The 1960s - Home and Away</i> (week 1)
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
13	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
14	Sa		Valentine's Day
		2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at the Village Hall
<hr/>			
15	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Ann Pope - <i>Dolls Houses</i>
17	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads: Tony Price - <i>my work for Age Concern</i>
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	11.45am	<i>to 1.00pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday evening service at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Katrina McDuff - <i>Blue Sky Fostering</i>

22	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
		11.00am	to 3pm: Purton Litter Pick - meet at Angel car park (see p5)
24	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>The VC10</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Gill Hazel - <i>Growing and Showing Sweet Peas</i>
25	W	11.45	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	Historical Society Spring Course at Silver Threads Hall (week 2)
26	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Andy Binks - <i>A man with a stick</i>

March

7 Sa 1.00pm Age Concern Annual Auction at the Village Hall

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	10.30am	to 12 noon: Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars

Moon Phases

○ 3 February ● 12 February ● 18 February ○ 25 February

If your Club or Organisation'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 Profferings - *Recycle your unwanted items to a new owner here*

OFFERED: Silver grey metal TV corner unit. 70 x 50 cms. About 50 cms high with two glass shelves underneath. Must be collected. Please ring 01793 770395.

OFFERED: Nearly new microwave oven, Kenwood, 1300w, instruction booklet included. Free if you collect. Tel 07584 687816.

OFFERED: 48 copies of Wiltshire Family History Society Journal 2002-2014. Miriam Saunders, Tel 01793 770120.

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

Great War Project

Part 19: February 1915

We've already noted that the war on the Western Front had come to a stalemate. The Allies were rethinking their strategies. Might an offensive through the Balkans work, or even a landing on Germany's Baltic coast? Anything could be better than the costly attacks in France and Belgium.

Early in 1915 the Russians found themselves threatened by the Turks at Sarikamish in the Caucasus and appealed for a diversion to give them some relief. However by 4 January the Russians had defeated the Turks in temperatures around -30°C; more than 30,000 Turks froze to death. Britain decided to mount a naval bombardment to take the Gallipoli Peninsula on the western shore of the Dardanelles, capture Constantinople, and link up with the Russians. If they could take Turkey out of the war, they might persuade the Balkan states to join the Allies.

In political support to this, on 15 February the Allied governments suggested to Greece that she and other Balkan states should intervene in support of Serbia. Greece was promised military support at the port of Salonika (Thessaloniki). The aim of this was to drive a military wedge between Turkey and Austria-Hungary.

British warships began the bombardment of the outer forts of the Dardanelles on 19 February, but bad weather caused delays and little damage was done. Three Royal Navy battleships were sunk and three others damaged; the attack was stopped. Two Royal Marines battalions (29th Division) landed at the Aegean island of Lemnos on 23 February to prepare landing parties to demolish the Turkish guns. On 25 February, the navy resumed bombardment of the outer forts with more success and, the following day, the Marines landed at the forts at Kumkale on the mainland and at Sedd-el-Bahr (Seddülbahir) on Gallipoli, putting many of the Turkish guns out of action. A promising start it would seem ... On the 20th, the Australian and New Zealand troops, still in Egypt, were ordered to prepare to move to Gallipoli and would land there in March.

Meanwhile, on the Western Front, the 1st Canadian Division crossed from England into France on 9 February including Captain Prower, formerly of Purton. To the south, French forces were trying to drive the Germans back into the Champagne

region, but gained only a few hundred yards at the cost of 50,000 casualties. During this, on 26 February at Malancourt in the Argonne, German troops used flame-throwers against French troops for the first time.

On 24 February, the first British Territorial Division left England for France (46th North Midland).



RMS Lusitania in 1907

At sea, there were several new and important developments starting on 1 February when the Admiralty stopped neutral fishing vessels using British ports. Then on the 6th the British liner RMS Lusitania sailing home from New York arrived into Liverpool safely ... but flying the US flag instead of the Red Ensign. The next day the Foreign Office tried to justify the use of a "neutral" flag but, by the 10th, US President Wilson had protested the use of US flags on British merchant ships to deceive the Germans.

The next day, the SS Dacia sailed from America for Bremen in Germany with a cargo of cotton. Having crossed the Atlantic it was intercepted and seized by French naval forces on 27 February.

Germany, however, had decided that the waters around the British Isles were a war zone. On 4 February they announced a submarine blockade of Britain would begin on 18 February. On the 19th, the Norwegian ship Belridge was torpedoed by a German submarine, without warning, but did safely reach port. The German Government claimed that the Belridge was attacked in error.

Britain responded by completing a net across the Irish Sea, on 22 February, between Scotland and Ireland, denying the North Channel as a passage for submarines. That day, Germany began its unrestricted submarine war and the day after sank the US ships Carib and Evelyn and torpedoed the Norwegian Regin.

In the air war, on 17 February, 2 German Zeppelins were blown off course by strong winds in the North Sea and were destroyed on landing in Denmark. These were the same L3 and L4 that had bombed Norfolk in January.

On the Eastern Front, the Russians suffered heavy losses at the 2nd Battle of the Masurian Lakes between 7 and 21 February (also known as the Winter Battle). Of strategic importance, Memel in East Prussia (now called Klaipėda in Lithuania) was reoccupied by German forces on 17 February and on 21 February the 20th Russian Army corps surrendered. In the aftermath of the Masurian Lakes, after the Battle of Przasnysz (22-27 February) some 20,000 Russian troops were taken captive while allowing the main Russian armies time to retreat and regroup. At the same time Austro-Hungarian forces were attacking Russian Poland (Galicia) and retook Czernowitz (Bukovina) on the 17th and Stanislau on the 19th.

On the Political front, the British, French and Russian governments agreed on 5 February to pool their financial resources for prosecuting the war. On the 16th, Britain extended the prohibition of Trading with the Enemy to include territories in British, enemy, or friendly occupation.

Britain and Belgium had concluded an agreement on 3 February delimiting the Uganda-Congo border so that British colonial troops could protect the Congo and seek out German insurgent forces without prior consultation.

Also in February, the Bulgarian Government negotiated a loan of £3 million in Germany. On 6 August they went on to negotiate a fresh loan for 400 million francs with Austro-German banks. And by then, although neutral, their fate was sealed with the Central Powers whether they liked it or not.

In the East, there was a problem in Singapore. On 27 January, the commander of the Indian 5th Light Infantry announced they would transfer to Hong Kong for garrison duties, replacing another Indian regiment. However, rumours circulated

among the Indian troops (sepoys) that they might instead be sent to Europe, or to Turkey to fight against their fellow Muslims. Three Indian officers and other ring-leaders amongst the sepoys rebelled when they were ordered to board HMS Nile. The mutiny (15 February) lasted seven days and resulted in the deaths of 47 British soldiers and local civilians, before it was finally quashed.

On the southern Ottoman Front on 2 February Turkish advance-guards, having crossed the Sinai desert, again attacked the on the Suez Canal: they engaged British outposts the next day but withdrew on the 4th. Also on 2 February, the British Aden protectorate was invaded by Turkish forces.

In South Africa, many Afrikaners were against the proposal for Union of South Africa forces to invade German South West Africa. Units under Lt-Col Maritz at Northern Cape rebelled and commandos were formed in the Orange Free State (OFS) and Transvaal. The Maritz Rebellion ended on 4 February with the surrender of the remaining rebels. This cleared the way for South African units, on 22 February, to advance from Swakopmund on the German South West African coast towards the capital Windhoek.

On the 16th, Oyem in the (German) Cameroons was occupied by French forces.

In February 1915, the following Purton men were mobilised to France:

John Mervyn Prower, 8th Canadian Battalion.

Mervyn Thomas Webb, "A" Battery, 186th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

RICK DIXON

Our Family's War

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

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

As there was no meeting in December my report this month is short and sweet and is mainly a reminder to members that our February meeting will feature Gill Hazell as guest speaker. Gill's talk will be on the subject 'Growing and Showing Sweet Peas', a perfect topic to brighten a February evening and offer us a taste of what's to come as the gardening year begins.

So if you would like to join us, our meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 24 February in the Silver Threads Hall. The competition on the night will be 'A Photo of a Spring Scene'.

If you are interested in gardening we are a friendly group and new members and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome. Should you wish to join us, our annual subscription is £10. Alternatively visitors pay £2 per meeting.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary



Big Hearted Swindon Shoppers show they Care!

Supporting the Jubilee Gardens Project

Sainsbury's colleagues in Stratton are beating the drum in praise of their warm-hearted customers and the huge show of generosity they made this Christmas to support various local charities and local community groups.

An eclectic mix of music encouraged the festive spirit and popular local singer Rod Wheatley was delighted to raise £1,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital during his two appearances at the store.



Swindon Rotary Club managed to collect £546.16 towards the Ebola appeal while the town's Lions Club received £455 in donations, which will be split between Ebola and local charities. Sainsbury's Stratton's nominated Charity of the Year is the Jubilee Gardens Project, based in Purton Stoke, and they held a weekend of fund raising in the store, managing to amass over £900. Julie Scott's Academy of Performing Arts (*pictured*) visited just before the big day with a popular range of carols and raised a total of £272.52.

With results still to come in from Aldbourne Band, Action For Children carol singers, Wroughton Silver Band, Samaritans and Uplands Educational Trust the total amount raised is growing all the time, and special mention must also be made of the huge support given to the Swindon Women's Aid collection point at the store, totalling in 4 over-flowing trolley loads of items vital to the operation of the Swindon Refuge.

BARRIE MATTHEWS, PR Ambassador, Sainsbury's Stratton

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Parties and Christmas! That's what our December/January period consisted of. Rainbows, Guides and 1st Purton Brownies all held Christmas parties. Cricklade Guides joined in the fun with Purton Guides and the Brownies invited non-Brownie friends to join them for their party. There were common themes of games, music and food – always a winning combination.

Lunch Club members had a Christmas visit from representatives from 2nd Purton Brownies and received gifts of calendars and snowmen Christmas cards.

2nd Purton Brownies saved their partying for January and they held a New Year beach party involving a fashion parade, limbo dancing, cocktails and a fishing game.

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



Valentine Cards

With Valentine's Day this month, let's see where the cards idea came from.

Valentine greetings have been popular since the Middle Ages, a time when prospective lovers said or sang their romantic verses. Written valentines began to appear after 1400 and were particularly popular in England. The first written valentine (formerly known as "poetical or amorous addresses") is traditionally attributed to the imprisoned Charles, Duke of Orleans, in 1415. While confined in the Tower of London after the Battle of Agincourt, the young Duke reportedly passed his time by writing romantic verses for his wife in France. Approximately sixty of the Duke's poems remain and can be seen among the royal papers in the British Museum. They are credited with being the first modern day valentines.

By the 16th century, written valentines were commonplace and by the 17th, it was a widespread tradition in England and other Western countries for friends and sweethearts to exchange gifts and notes on 14 February. During the early 1700s, Charles II of Sweden brought the Persian poetical art known as the "language of flowers" to Europe and throughout the 18th century, floral dictionaries were published, permitting the exchange of romantic secrets via a lily or lilac, for example, culminating in entire conversations taking place within a bouquet of flowers. The more popular the flower, the more traditions and meaning were associated with it. The red rose, for instance, believed to be the favoured flower of Venus, Roman Goddess of Love, became universally accepted to represent romantic love. Thus, the custom of giving red roses on Valentine's Day quickly gained popularity.

Some time after 1723, the popularity of valentine cards in America began to grow with the import from England of verses and messages which could be copied onto gilt-edged paper or other types of decorative sheet.

One popular style of early American card from 1840 to approximately 1860 was the "Daguerreotype," a photographic process using old-time tintype in the centre of a card surrounded by an ornamental wreath. Another was the "Mirror Valentine," which contained a small mirror placed in the centre to reflect the face of the recipient. However, the sending of valentine greetings in America did not become a true tradition until around the time of the American Civil War (1861-65) when valentine cards often depicted sweethearts parting, or a tent with flaps that opened to reveal a soldier. These were known as "windows." In peace time, the "window" would be a church door opening to reveal a bride and groom. Another Civil War valentine novelty was for the card to have a place for the sender to include a lock of hair. Paper lace began to be introduced to the cards later in the 1800s.

During the Victorian Era and its printing advances, valentine cards became even more popular and the "penny post," made it easier to post written valentines.

In keeping with Victorian etiquette, it was considered improper for a lady to send a valentine greeting to a man.

To advertise in Purton Magazine telephone 01793 770648

or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton & District Probus



The annual President's Lunch was held at the Lydiard Park Conference Centre on 2 December 2014. The guests of honour of were Harri Williamson and his wife Jean. Harri is President of the Royal Wootton Bassett Probud Club. 58 members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal and a pleasant occasion.

The meeting on 9 December was addressed by Martin Collinson on the subject: "Life in the East End - A Story of a Fancy Box Cutter". Martin began by introducing his grandfather – Henry Charles Collinson 1860-1949 whose employment apart from 56 years as a fancy box cutter included busking with a dulcimer, trawler man, umbrella salesman and hop-picking. Inhabitants of the East End were required to tackle diverse employment, seasonal and itinerant, to earn a living. Box making for a range of products, especially matches, was a cottage industry, hardly paying a subsistence return.

Life in the East End was hard. Between 1801 and 1901 a population of 170,000 had risen to half a million – a threefold increase. Overcrowding, poverty, violent crime, disease, dangerous industry and social unrest were the order of the day. Indeed some of Martin's ancestral relations experienced murder, suicide and internment in the Workhouse. Noxious trades such as tanning and match production were banned in the city but flourished in the East End. TNT manufacture in 1917 gave rise to the Silvertown explosion, eliminating 900 houses, killing 73, damaging thousands of buildings and igniting fires, including a gasometer south of the river.

Martin highlighted some of the many celebrities associated with the East End; entertainers such as Marie Lloyd, Alfie Bass, Max Bygraves, Michael Caine, not forgetting Music Hall stars and the Pearly King & Queens. Criminal gangs – The Krays and the Richardsons; Social Workers – William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, Thomas Barnardo who set up the Ragged School and a Home for Boys, Angela Burdett Coutts founder of the NSPCA and promoter of a home for fallen women in Shepherds Bush, Sylvia Pankhurst of the Suffragette movement, Tillet & Burns who led the Dock Workers strike for better pay and conditions. Martin covered immigrants bringing specialist skills: - The Huguenots (17th C) with silk weaving, glass blowing, gardening and brewing; the Ashkenazi Jews bringing tailoring, brokering and fine metal working. Many other nationalities, including the Chinese of Lime house. He mentioned politicians – Keir Hardie, Oswald Mosley, Blackshirts and the battle of Cable Street, also Jack the Ripper, Coster Mongers, Petticoat Lane, Smithfield and Billingsgate, rhyming slang, the White feathers and Silver wings of WW1 and the surprising location of Bow Bells. The Blitz of WW2 demolished 40% of the East End and Industrial Development in the North had already caused some migration from the area. The East End is a big subject but Martin entertained us with many interesting and novel facts about it.

Probus meets at 10 am in the Red House:

- 10 February - Death of the Prince Imperial.
- 24 February - "VC10".

BOB STEVENS



Ski Trip: Dr Andrew Morrison reports; while many of us were relaxing over New Year, a large party of students and staff were on the Bradon Forest ski trip. As you may recall there were travel issues in Europe on the weekend the visit departed and I know many on the visit had what one parent described to me as a 'character building' experience. However, I hear the rest of the trip was very successful and can I thank those parents and students who have taken the time to say thank you to staff who gave up part of their holiday to take the trip.

I was particularly impressed to receive the following from Henry Teuma, part of the hotel management team, shortly after our students departed the resort:

"I hope your staff and students returned to the UK safely and without the hassle caused by the weather on their arrival.

"I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks on behalf of the Hotel Le Morgan team for how well behaved and a delight your staff and students were this week whilst on their skiing trip to Risoul."

"During the week, the hotel staff were giving praise in their comments during meal services and throughout the week of how courteous and helpful everyone was.

"At this time of year we have a lot of families as well as school children and on departure, many families commented on how they have enjoyed their stay and that it was near enough unnoticeable that your students were staying in the same hotel. This is no mean feat considering the number of students that came on the trip."

Read for my School Competition: Our school will be taking part in a national reading competition called *Read for My School*, which is open to students in Year 7 and Year 8. The competition runs from January to March 2015.

The competition website www.readformyschool.co.uk is hosting a free online library of over 100 books by top children's authors. If they participate, your child will be able to read those books online wherever they have internet access. The programme is fully compatible with most major tablets. Children can of course also choose to read books in print or that are not part of the online library – the goal is simply to read as much as possible this term.

There will be a number of prize draws for individual children and whole schools who are doing well.

Circus Geeks are visiting Bradon Forest Theatre on Tuesday 10 March 2015 with their Beta Testing Show

Circus Geeks, a brilliant trio of young jugglers, use their fascination with throwing and catching to explore a logical approach to life, a light hearted look at awkward social situations and the misplaced fear of failure.

More information about the Circus Geeks performance can be found on the school website, for ticket purchases please go to www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk.

Lent Lunches

Every Wednesday from 18 February to 25 March inclusive from 11.45 to 1 pm at Purton Methodist Church.

All proceeds go to Tear Fund and Leprosy Mission.

LINDA TINSON

Chiseldon Travel Club

The club has now been running for 35 years and we had decided that 2014 was going to be our last year with wonderful trips to Switzerland and a Baltic Tour of Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Estonia and the magnificent city of St Petersburg. However, talking one evening in Interlaken it seems that there is still a desire to keep on travelling whilst we can! The passengers are now falling into two clear groups, those who are still fit and well enough to go abroad and see cities if I plan the tours at a sensible pace and those who feel that the UK is the best bet for them with easier travelling arrangements.

Our overseas trip for 2015 will therefore be 9 days in Tuscany from 23 - 31 October 2015 flying to Rome for a two nights stay to see the Vatican and St Peter's Basilica (*pictured*), the Coliseum etc and then to Montecatini Terme for 6 nights with day trips to Pisa, Florence, Sienna and Assisi. Price £1709 per person based on a twin share, includes scheduled British Airways flight Heathrow/ Rome/Heathrow, coach transport to and from airport in both destinations, all breakfast and some evening meals, all excursions as shown in the full itinerary and 4* accommodation at both destinations.



Our UK trip will be to the Lake District for 5 days, 13 - 17 September 2015, based at Bowness on Windermere, with day trips to Ambleside, Grasmere, a lake cruise on Lake Bowness. This trip is from Chiseldon return by luxury coach. Price £595 based on a twin share includes all breakfast and evening meals, return coach transport, all excursions as shown in the full itinerary. For full details contact Sharon and Ian Dixon 01793 741210 or email: sharian@clara.co.uk

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com

Our December meeting found us sampling the wonderful food provided by HSL at the Village Hall. Sitting at beautifully laid round tables and with full waiter service you could almost imagine that you were sitting in a very pleasant restaurant. After our meal we were entertained by *Chalice*, a mix of folk, blues and festive songs sung beautifully rounded off a delightful evening. Thank you to HSL and *Chalice* for making it an evening to remember

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 February, 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall. Our speaker is Katrina McDuff who will tell us about "Blue Sky Fostering".

[HELEN DIXON](#)



After 8

There is no meeting in February as we have 2 in March!

On Thursday 5 March we have our Late Christmas Meal at the College - contact Mary Smith to book this.

On Tuesday 24 March, the subject is Beverages and Buns led by Helen at Gwyneth's.

We usually meet at 8 pm – contact [Avril](#) for more details.



Purton Luncheon Club

Volunteers required at the Luncheon Club, Silver Threads Hall, Purton.

Have you got time to spare to help us at the Luncheon Club?

Tuesdays or Thursdays. 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. Once a fortnight or monthly?

It's a nice way to make friends and meet new people. It's a lovely atmosphere up there, and you go home feeling that you have done something worthwhile and rewarding.

For more information please contact Pat Suddaby on 01793 771331.

Thanks to Maurice Card

The Purton Luncheon Club would like to offer its warmest thanks to Maurice Card, who retired last month from two years of organising all the Purton minibus drivers. The Luncheon Club could not function without using the Purton Age Concern minibus services every Tuesday and Thursday. Maurice, like John Blackwell and Richard Woodbridge before him, has always shown patience and understanding when dealing with the problems that inevitably arise when dealing with large numbers of people needing to be in the same place at the same time. He was also very generous in sharing his time and his IT expertise with me when I was preparing various projects concerning the Luncheon Club. The Luncheon Club committee and members are confident that Maurice will enjoy his freedom from urgent telephone calls and emails at all hours.

NB: The new minibus coordinator is Keith Hart 771533.

Nelson Court

The committee of Purton Luncheon Club has to say a sad farewell to Nelson Court, whose current state of health forbids his devoting so much time and effort to his many tasks as Treasurer of the club. Neither Elizabeth Ward nor I could ever be regarded as masters of money, but Nelson kept the Luncheon Club in the black as well as within all the labyrinthine financial laws with patience, humour and understanding for well over twenty years. The happy-go-lucky early days of village charities finally disappeared in the 1960s and the Luncheon Club was very lucky to find Nelson willing to take us on and ensure that we never ignored the bottom line and properly safeguarded all receipts and so on. His wife, Shirley, and he will be happy to focus on his recovery. We shall miss him and wish him well.

DIANA THOMBS, Chairman

Purton & District Guide Dogs

This month's report is one of sadness, it is to say that Doreen Tuck passed away at the beginning of January. She was a staunch supporter and long standing committee member. In latter years she was to be seen on the Bric-a-Brac side, where her knowledge was a valuable asset. As with all of us who are not so young as we were, she had her medical problems but as long as she could get to the venue she'd help. We will have to put our Jumble Sale on hold for the time being, while we take stock and re-group so to speak.

Thank you for your continued Support.

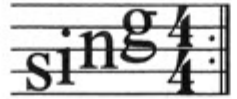
BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



MUSIC TIME

Sing 4/4 Community Choir

The choir gave a great 'kick-start' to Christmas with their "Joy of Christmas" concert in Purton Village Hall on Thursday, 11 December. The Village Hall kitchen staff performed magnificently and every member of the audience received their refreshments at their own seat by the choir/waitress staff so that no-one had to queue for anything! A great team effort by Purton.



The choir showed strength in numbers with about seventy performers taking part and Mary New, musical director of the choir, chose a marvellous repertoire which gave the enthusiastic audience a taste of traditional and contemporary carols with an opportunity to join in with the better-known carols and songs. All proceedings were made to flow like clockwork by the classic presentation of Robert Crow.

Our guest soprano soloist for this concert was Danielle Marsh, who gave wonderful performances of the recent hit by Katherine Jenkins 'I will wait for you' and the ever-popular 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' before concluding her programme by performing Adolphe Adam's 'O Holy Night' with the choir.

The Purton hand-bell ringers gave the second half of the concert a great start with their delightful carol arrangements, so evocative of Christmas in the countryside.

This year, our donations to local charitable organisations go to Jubilee Gardens Project at Purton Stoke and Twigs, based at Cheney Manor Garden Centre. In addition, the choir is striving to purchase their own digital piano.

Membership enquiries, particularly from tenors and basses, to Mary New MD. 01793 770630.

Wessex Male Choir goes International

Wessex Male Choir have had an extremely busy 2014, especially at the end of the year when in December they gave concerts in Paddington in London, Edington Priory in Wiltshire and St Marks in Swindon, as well as 2 flash mobs in Nationwide HQ and Toys R Us, Swindon. They participated in the North Wales Choral festival in Llandudno gaining 3rd place with only 2 points between them and the winners, as well as giving a concert in Llandudno town. The choir has performed in Dublin and Waterford, Ireland in April and concerts in Royal Wootton Bassett, the Wyvern Theatre and Steam Museum in Swindon.



2015 proves to be shaping up as another exceptional year singing in Royal Wootton Bassett, at Pontardullais in Wales, in Oxford with the Reutgers University choir from America, Taunton with the Norwegian Ladies Choir, as well as their annual Summer Concert at Steam, Swindon and Christmas at Holy Rood Church, Old Town in December and again with Parkinson's UK in London. Wessex are providing a choir for one of their choristers marrying in Stourhead gardens, Wiltshire and possibly another wedding in the year. There is anticipation that they

also may enter at least a couple of competitions throughout the year in the UK, which helps to hone the choir's performance standards.

This will be Katrine Reimers 2nd year with the choir, as Musical Director, and she has been brilliant in bringing tone and colour to the music that is performed but all of this is not possible without the commitment of choristers.

The choir are always on the lookout for new male choristers to join them so if you are over 16 years of age, and can hold a note, why not take a look at their website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk which will give you information on where they practice and who to contact. Alternatively email the membership secretary on membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk.

If you would like to be a "Friend" of the choir, visit the above website which gives further details. It costs nothing but you get reduced price tickets, early notification of events and entry into their annual draw. We hope to see you at one of our concerts.



Right: Katrine Reimers
© Stephen Iles, Capture Photography, Swindon

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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](#).

News from The Cedars

The Cedars care home in the village has a new manager on board making some big changes. Marietta Cranfield brings with her a wealth of care experience and has some very exciting plans for The Cedars.

A new lounge has already been created, with a warm and homely feel. Marietta has introduced new themed areas, including an indoor garden area and activities zone to enable residents to continue with their hobbies and try new ones. These particularly help residents living with dementia to bring back fond memories.

The home held a successful Open Day in December and hosted a 'Cedars Got Talent' competition, complete with their very own Simon Cowell. It was greatly enjoyed by residents and families alike.

Marietta has lots of plans for 2015 including a coffee morning every Friday, Craft/Art Fair, Summer Fete and talks in the home. She will be available to drop in and talk to other organisations about life at The Cedars.

If you would like to find out more about living at The Cedars or would like to join our friendly team please telephone 0800 988 8133 or email enquiries@osjct.co.uk.

Church Floodlighting

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



- 28 January St Mary's was floodlit in remembrance of **Susan Morley**, whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.
- 9 February St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Lilian Slade** on her birthday. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love Ron, Geoff, Linda, Lyn, Ted and families
- 14 February The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Sheila Osborne**. Sadly missed by Pete, Simon, Tip, Myles, Em, Olivia and baby Ella.
- 15 February St Mary's Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Ron Gunter**, a dear Husband and Uncle, on the 14th anniversary of his death. Loved and remembered by Betty and family
- 20 February The Church will be floodlit for **Gertie Holland** on her birthday. From all the Holland family.

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

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Blacklands, Red Gables, Highridge Close and The Masons*.

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.

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

PURTON PLACARD

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



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 &
In Touch Services or 771890, 772581



Lent Lunches

Every Wednesday
from 18 February to
25 April inclusive
from 11.45 to 1 pm
at Purton Methodist
Church.

All proceeds go to
Tear Fund and
Leprosy Mission.

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Annual Auction**

Saturday 7 March
At 1 pm in the Village Hall
Come along and join in the
bidding!

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Jumble Sale**

Saturday 14 February 2015
At 2 pm in the Village Hall
Bargains galore!

Rock Night

Saturday 21 March
Purton Village Hall
3 bands
Licensed Bar applied for
Food - Raffle - £5.

Silver Threads Jumble Sale

Saturday 7 February
at 2 pm
Silver Threads Hall

Purton Carnival **Rock 'N' Roll Bingo**

at the Red House Club
(open to all members and non-members ...
families welcome)
Friday 6 February 8 pm

PURTON CARNIVAL

Dates for your diary
Hoedown Night Line dancing / barn dance 25 April
Purton Village Hall

Pig Roast Night Saturday 27 June
Carnival Procession & Fete 4 July

Please see the Purton Planners and
www.PurtonCarnival.co.uk for a full list of events

**ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
CHORAL SOCIETY
EASTER CONCERT**

30 March

at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church,
Royal Wootton Bassett.

Start at 7.30pm

Music by; Pergolesi-Stabat Mater
(with Wentworth Voices),
Victoria- Tenebrae Responses, Stainer
and Dupres.

Free ADMISSION
Retiring Collection

*[Also Summer Concert 13 July at
St. Bartholomew's Church, RWB]*

**Group for Patients
Purton & Green Gable Surgery**

Talk on

Heart Matters

Wednesday 11 March

7.30 – 9 pm

Purton Surgery

Speakers:

Dr William McCrea,
Consultant Cardiologist,
Great Western Hospital

Alison Rosier, British Heart Foundation

Although this is a free event, tickets are
required due to limited seating.

These will be available from
mid February

please contact Purton Surgery,
tel 01793 770207

Volunteer Centre Wiltshire

Kick start 2015 with a new challenge!

Have you started on your New Year's resolution? Let Volunteer Centre Wiltshire help you find an exciting new challenge to take on. Whether you are looking to support your community a few hours a month or a day a week, there is a volunteering opportunity that suits your interest! Here are just a few of the 1500 opportunities we have in Wiltshire:

- Complementary Therapies/Beauty Treatments, Carer Support Wiltshire
- Visiting volunteer with dog/cat, Pets as Therapy
- Memory Awareness Volunteer, Alzheimer's Support
- NHS Complaints Advocate Volunteer, SWAN Advocacy Volunteer

Have you set yourself a new resolution for this year? Volunteering can help you achieve those goals! If you are looking to spend more time outdoors, or meet new people, or improve your IT skills, we can help you find the right opportunity.

Debbie got in touch with Volunteer Centre Wiltshire after being unemployed for some time due to ill health. She shared her experience with us:

"I feel more positive going forward and I am looking forward to getting out and meeting new people."

If you'd like to start volunteering get in touch and we can help find the best role for you. Visit our website: www.volunteercentrewiltshire.org.uk or call us on 0845 521 6224 to talk to one of our Volunteering Advisers. Volunteer Centre Wiltshire is located in DEVELOP's offices in Chippenham, 3-4 New Road, SN15 1EJ.