

# Purton *Magazine*



*We come in fleece*  
*by Adam Crosland, member of Purton Artists*

## March 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**

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

### **METHODIST CHURCHES**

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

### **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

#### **CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT**

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

#### **ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE**

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

## From The Editors

As snowdrops make way for crocuses, and the days are getting longer we will be spending more time in the garden and Purton Gardeners Guild could be welcoming you on 24 March ([page 17](#)). Keeping to the gardening theme the Jubilee Garden Project our local horticultural training centre for adults with learning disabilities is looking for a Director to join their board – could that be you? See [page 20](#) to find out more.

If you prefer to enjoy the gardening efforts of others then the Garden Party for Prospect Hospice is the place to be on 6 June – [page 21](#).

We also learn on [page 8](#) that there are allotments available at Upper Pavenhill for the amazingly low rent of £10 per year.

Lent Lunches continue on Wednesdays until 25 March at the Methodist Church. Monies raised go towards the Tear Fund and the Leprosy Mission ([page 36](#)).

Many congratulations to the Christian Aid Team who raised £1000+ for Ebola funds by selling our unwanted knick knacks – [page 21](#). The hard work of the Purton Scarecrow team and generous donors means that a defibrillator will soon be purchased and installed as we discover on [page 31](#).

Last, but not least the G4P group organised a Vintage Tea Party with the help of PADS and £805 will now be used to improve surgery facilities. G4P also have an information evening on 'heart matters' at the surgery on 11 March. You could do yourself a favour by going along to this, but remember places are limited so you must obtain a free ticket if you want to attend. See [page 30](#) for more information.

Age Concern will also be selling things on your behalf at their annual auction at the Village Hall on Saturday 7 March. Your items for sale need to be down at the hall before 11.30 am and the auction starts at 1 pm. What a good way of spring-cleaning away your unwanted items and giving them a new home, while contributing a small percentage to Age Concern funds. Details on [page 10](#)

What a generous village we have with the giving of both time and money – where would be without our fundraisers, volunteers and generous local businesses?

Don't forget it's Mothering Sunday in the middle of March ... and that the clocks go forward on the last Sunday of the month. Then we'll know that spring really is on the way!

**£10**

rents for allotments  
at Upper Pavenhill  
– see [page 8](#)

**100<sup>th</sup>**

birthday for Irene Harris  
at The Cedars  
– see [page 13](#)

**208**

vehicles caught speeding  
in day of action  
– see [page 5](#)

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

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Magazine Committee

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Rick Dixon, Sheila Fowler, Francis Sheppard

Typeset & Printed by: **In Touch Services**

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*by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, please*

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**Also on line at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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## Parish Council News



**Purton & Cricklade Dog Awareness campaign** – Purton and Cricklade Councils are putting the spotlight on dog awareness. A reminder ...

**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 1<sup>st</sup> prize in both the adult and child categories will also be published in a future edition of Purton Magazine. Full details of how to enter are on the Parish Council's website – see below.

**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. 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 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.

**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](mailto:admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

**Community Speed Watch (CSW) Operation Harness Day of Action** – A day of action under Operation Harness was successfully carried out across Swindon and Wiltshire on Tuesday 20 January with the aim of raising speed awareness and educate drivers about road safety. The operation involved over 170 Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers and 50 Wiltshire Police officers who carried out roadside checks throughout the day.

As a result 208 vehicles were caught speeding, 147 vehicles were stopped with 132 drivers given warnings about their speed. Other issues identified included defective lights, not wearing a seatbelt, and a defective number plate.

Speeding is one of the 'fatal four' factors that can cause road traffic collisions. The others are drink/drugs, driving while on a mobile phone and not wearing seatbelts. Thank you to all who took part.

**Brockhurst Meadow** – The Parish Council is extremely disappointed to have to inform you that the beautiful natural meadow at Brockhurst has been sold without our knowledge by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to a local landowner. We are upset that

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we were not informed in advance nor given the opportunity to consider purchasing this local landmark for the Parish.

**e-cigarettes banned** – At the Parish Council meeting on 9 February 2015 Purton Parish Council voted to ban smoking of e-cigarettes from all Parish Council premises, grounds and vehicles. This follows uncertainty worldwide about possible health risks relating to their use. The Parish Council has followed the lead from Wiltshire Council to ban the use of e-cigarettes.

**These Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:**

- N14/09468/FUL *9a The Fox*, single storey rear extension.
- N14/09590/FUL *Canlea, Ringsbury Close*, two-storey side extension to both side & rear, roof & external alterations.
- N14/00523/VAR *The Chapel, Pond Lane, Purton Stoke*, variation of Condition 2 of 11/02232/VAR relating to insertion of door, steps and reduction to size of parking area.
- N14/09849/VAR *Plot 151 Greenfields Ridgeway Farm Purton Road*, variation of condition 14 of 13/01651/REM to allow the addition of a rear conservatory to Plot 151.
- N14/09941/FUL *1 Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke*, two-storey extension, garage and dormer windows.
- N14/10400/FUL *No Parish Bungalow, Braydon*, erection of replacement dwelling and double garage, reposition vehicular and pedestrian access.
- N14/06789/FUL *Land adjacent 11 Pear Tree Close*, new dwelling with garage.
- N14/09916/FUL *12 Locks Lane The Common* porch extension.
- N14/10581/TCA *College Farm House, High Street*, fell 1 Sycamore tree.
- N14/09781/FUL *6 High Street*, recess front door for disabled access. Bay and canopy alterations.
- N14/10201/FUL *Post Office 1 Station Road*, erection of single storey extension and structural repairs and alterations.
- N14/11198/TCA *St Marys Church*, up to 2 metre branch tip reduction, crown lift to 3.5 metres, 20% crown thin and 20% crown reduction to Yew tree.
- N14/08963/VAR *Plot 161 Ridgeway Farm*, variation of condition 14 of 13/01615/REM to allow the addition of rear conservatory to Plot 161.
- N14/09002/ADV *Ridgeway Farm Common Platt*, display of non-illuminated signage.
- N14/09203/PNCOU *Land at New Farm, Bentham Lane*, prior notification under class MB, conversion of existing agricultural store to a one-bedroom dwelling.
- N14/09630/LBC *Bentham House, Bentham Lane*, masonry and window repairs to south elevation.

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- N14/09689/LBC *Bentham House, Bentham Lane*, internal alterations comprising new structural opening and removal of partition to kitchen, re-opening of dining room flue and installation of stone fire place.
- N14/ 11013/DDD *Land off Church Street*, fell 1 horse chestnut tree.
- N14/10082/FUL *Thornley, Orchard Gardens*, single storey side extension.
- N15/00070/DDD *Land at Red House Social Club*, fell 1 Swedish white beam tree.
- APP/Y3940/A/14/2215953  
*Land west of Cricklade Road, Purton Stoke*, the appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for a hay barn and six stables with tack room on Land west of Cricklade Road.

**These Planning Applications have been refused by Wiltshire Council:**

- N14/09558/FUL & LBC *5 Station Road*, erection of single storey timber framed conservatory.

**News from Unitary Councillor Jacqui Lay from the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board:**

Wiltshire Council Roads resurfacing lists include roads in Purton – Play Close, Witts Lane, Cricklade Road etc. Grant funding for new curtains for the Bowls Club has been approved. The Purton & Cricklade Dog Awareness Campaign was fully funded by the Area Board.

**How to contact the Parish Council:**

Telephone number 01793 771066,  
Email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)  
Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and sign up today.

## Latest Area Boards Survey out now

The 2015 Area Boards Survey is now available. We would like to hear your views about Area Boards, their work and how the meetings operate. The survey is so that we can find out what people think about the Area Board process helping us try to change how they operate and make meetings more relevant and useful for local people.

The survey is not just for those people that regularly come to meetings and we would particularly like to hear from those who have never been so we can find out what's stopping you and try to make changes.

The survey can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/AreaBoardsSurvey15](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AreaBoardsSurvey15)

For more information about your local Area Board, contact your Community Area Manager at [areaboards@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:areaboards@wiltshire.gov.uk).

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## News From The Trustees

### **Purton War Memorial and Village Centre**

We are very disappointed with all the litter that gets left at the Village Centre. We have such lovely facilities there for all to enjoy – a centre that was bought by the village for the village after the last war and was a War Memorial to the men who gave their lives in the 1939-45 war so that we can live the lives we have today. It is a shame that some people treat it like a rubbish dump – there are litter bins for the rubbish, although these seem a waste of time when litter is thrown anywhere. People have even been seen dumping litter out of their cars and there are those who are a few yards from the bin on the skate park and choose to throw their rubbish on the ground – this even includes the smashing of bottles. It's such a pity to spoil such a nice area and also to give our groundsmen all the extra work of clearing up.

We are trying to make more of a bond between the users of the Centre and the Trustees. Dave Woolford, who is vice chair, and myself are meeting with the Clubs individually – before, we all used to meet collectively but this did not work very well. The meetings tended to get taken over by one particular issue and there wasn't time for everyone to be heard and also it was difficult to arrange an evening when everyone could attend. The new system appears to be more successful and we have now met all four parties.

### **The Village Hall**

We are looking into installing a loop system for those with hearing aids (I am looking after myself). We want it to be the right type for the Hall with our first effort and with no short cuts.

Another item we are looking into is the heating system, only the one we have now is not very satisfactory – you are either too warm sat on top of the radiators (not literally!) or, if you sit away from them you are cold. Also they are noisy when they are working, so watch this space.

It was lovely seeing the hall used in such a manner as it was for King Arthur – the pantomime put on by PADS. When you think about all the preparation that goes into putting on a show like that it is a credit to them all and what is good is that they had some new faces. I am sure that mingling the existing members with the new ones will stand them in good stead for the future – it came through to me that it was a marvellous team effort so congratulations to all concerned.

*TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees*

*DAVE WOOLFORD, Vice Chair*

## Stoney Allotments: Upper Pavenhill, Purton

We have plots available, and sizes can be adapted to suit your needs. Rents start at £10 per year.

If interested please contact Robert Glare 07510 208217 or by email to [robertglare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertglare@yahoo.co.uk)



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## Housing for Purton People

I am often told that there are not enough properties, of the right type and size, available for Purton people to rent or buy in the parish.

With the development at Ridgeway Farm there will be several tranches of Affordable Houses, released as the site is developed, which will be to rent and also there will be some NewBuild Homebuy and these will be available for people who live in Purton or have a Parish connection. There are and will be also similar housing at Moredon Bridge (Moulden View).

In total at Ridgeway Farm there will be 210 units of which 20% will be NewBuild Homebuy and at Moredon Bridge there will up to 88 units of which 40 should be Shared Ownership. There is a good range and variety of properties, from 1-bed, 2-bed, 3-bed, 4-bed homes and Extra Care units, giving a variety and scope for all ages.

The council has a Housing Allocation Policy which was renewed last year and came into force as from 9 December 2014. The process to implement the new Housing Allocation Policy was to (1) invite current housing applicants to re-apply and (2) advise some current applicants who were adequately housed that, as they had no housing need, their applications would be closed. The Policy means that people who live in a parish or have a local connection with a parish on grounds of employment or residence of close family members (parents, grandparents, adult children) have the greatest priority for vacant properties in that parish. If people with a local connection to the parish itself do not bid, those with a connection to adjacent parishes have priority for vacant properties, with those without a local connection having the least priority. There are some exemption policies for those who are homeless etc. however with the number of properties at Ridgeway Farm and Moredon Bridge there should be more than enough to satisfy all of the needs of the parish for some years to come.

At Ridgeway the first tranche has already been released and occupied.

The key point is that if you are looking for an affordable home and are eligible to apply then you need to be on the Housing Register as soon as practicable. People may apply online at [www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk](http://www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk) and it is essential to submit ID, proof of address/income and other documents proving residency or connection to Purton or to an adjacent parish.

Please let others know about this information so that Purton people do not miss out on this opportunity.

*JACQUI LAY, Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon*

## Purton Stoke Charity Ball

After the great success of our Bell Ball Bonanza in 2013, we will be holding our second Charity Ball on 12 September 2015.

Prices will remain at £50 and Ellison's have again kindly agreed to run a coach from Purton and back home again.

If you wish to reserve tickets or book a table of 10 then please let me know. Further details will be available nearer the time but please make a note in your diaries now!

*LINDSEY HALL, tel: 771890*

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## Purton & District Age Concern



I would like to apologise for the error on the inside front cover of last month's magazine. The correct telephone number for our new minibus co-ordinator – Keith Hart is 771533. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Also, I must tell you about a recent change in the minibus service; Joe Ricketts has decided to step down as secretary and Andy White has agreed to take on the role. Things should continue to run smoothly as Joe has handed over all the paperwork to Andy and he will still be on hand if Andy needs advice. Our thanks go to Andy for agreeing to take on the job and to Joe for the years of dedicated service he has given to the minibus service. His hard work is appreciated by all in Age Concern. Joe is continuing as a driver so he will still be out and about on the minibuses. Thanks again, Joe.

Our thanks also go to Bim and Marlene Herbert in Purton Stoke for the donation they have given us from their Christmas lights display again this year, their generosity is much appreciated, thank you.

At our recent committee meeting we discussed renewing our food hygiene certificates as they expire shortly. We have agreed to do online training this time which is a first for us so watch this space to see how we get on! We also discussed some of the feedback Mick Looker had collated from the questionnaires sent out with our Christmas vouchers. Mick gave the committee hand-outs of the main points which we will review at our next meeting after we have read the hand-out properly. We have had some lovely comments so we must be doing some things right!

Colin and Sylvia have paid out £8,650 to local businesses for our Christmas vouchers. Thanks go to both of them collecting the vouchers and questionnaires and sorting out the payments.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

**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 is great fun!

**Mystery Tour** – This is on Wednesday 1 April. The coach will leave the village at 10 am. The cost is £13 for village pensioners and £14.50 for non-pensioners and those from outside our area. (Cost remains the same as last year.) If you would like to go please contact your street warden to book your place before Monday 23 March. Come along a join us on the first trip in 2015!

**Easter Market** – This is on Saturday 4 April (Easter Saturday) from 9 am - 12 noon outside the Pavenhill shops. We will have our usual sausage tasting, homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, books and a raffle. Pop along and grab yourself a bargain! Donations of cakes, books, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you.

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**3B's Evening** – This is on Friday 10 April at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £6 and includes a two-course supper. Bingo tickets will be available to buy separately. Admission tickets are selling fast, remember there is no entry on the night without a ticket so if you would like to attend please contact Ron & Heather Harris on 770850.

### **PAST EVENTS**

**Burns Night Event** – This was very successful. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening again this year. We have had some lovely comments about the way the hall was decorated, the band, the piper and the meal. Congratulations and thanks go to everyone involved in making it such a great night including, the morning team of vegetable peelers, the team of hall and table decorators led by Sarah, the kitchen team led by Maria (Kevin asked for a special mention for his delicious mashed potato!) and the team of experienced and younger waiters and waitresses who served the food so efficiently and to Richard and Josie for the part they played in addressing the haggis. Thanks also go to Ron and Heather who sell the tickets and make the gravy! We couldn't put on such a popular event without all this help and without the people who pay their money to attend so hopefully see you again next year! Almost forgot, we made a profit of £678.81.

### **INFORMATION**

**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.

**T'ai chi** – We hold T'ai chi sessions for pensioners each Thursday at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go please contact Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan & Rita Webb on 770453.

LOUISE TIDMAN

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

OFFERED: several loudspeakers, size approx. 6" x 9" x 15" (15 cm x 23cm x 38cms. Tel: 771018.

OFFERED: dark brown wooden Venetian blind, size approx. 5'9" wide (176 cm). Tel: 771018.

OFFERED: Uni-Lok 2000 Speaker Bracket (pair). Tel: 771018.

OFFERED: Samsung Digital Photo Printer: SPP-2020. Bluetooth included. Tel: 771018.

OFFERED: Solid wood single bed and matching chest of drawers (4 drawers) partly with blue detail. Would suit child's bedroom or visiting grandchild. Contact Lorna, 778013.

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

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## Swindon Dial A Ride

### **A Lifeline Service!**

Swindon Dial A Ride provides door to door transport for people of any age who are unable to use existing public transport due to a temporary or permanent impairment or disability. Community Transport provides a vehicle hire service for local community groups.

Our fleet of fully accessible minibuses travel throughout the Swindon Borough including Purton and the Lydiards. The Dial A Ride Bus service can be used for a variety of purposes, such as travelling to work or training, going shopping or social activities like the cinema or bingo. The service runs Monday to Saturday 9 am to 5 pm; to book a journey simply call at 10 am the day before you would like to travel.

To use Dial A Ride you will need to register with us. For a FREE registration pack or further information please telephone 01793 616050 after 12 noon.

Community Transport has a range of wheelchair accessible minibuses that any voluntary or community group in the local area can hire. Perhaps you run a scout group or a senior citizens club? The minibus would allow you to take your group on a day trip or longer, maybe to the seaside or for a cream tea at the local garden centre.

Additionally, we have an Access Car available for hire to individuals, small groups or families where one member has a disability. It is particularly suitable for people who need to travel in their wheelchair.

The hired vehicles can be used to travel anywhere in mainland Britain and could mean that a family member or friend can join you on a weekend break or summer holiday.

For further information about Community Transport vehicle hire please call 01793 617828.

## Knit-a-Square

The shipment of squares we sent to South Africa last November arrived at the KAS office in mid-January. Photographs of our squares being unpacked have been uploaded onto the KAS website which is very exciting.

At present we have over 1400 squares and many other items ready to go to South Africa but need to raise funds to help with the shipment cost. We will be holding a COFFEE MORNING on Saturday 14 March from 10 - 12 noon at the Silver Threads Hall. Please come along to see our display of squares and photographs showing squares being made into blankets and children receiving blankets, toys, jumpers, hats and handwarmers on a distribution day.

For more information please contact me,

*LOUISE TIDMAN, 772558*

## Cricklade Country Market

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

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## Wiltshire Good Neighbours



### Can YOU help ... ?

Can you spare a little time during the week to befriend someone who may be housebound and lonely? Could you step in to support someone who has just come out of hospital? I have been asked by Age UK and Carer Support Wiltshire to do a bit of advertising for them. Annie and Jane's contact details are below, or call me, Ellen, on 07557 110414 for an informal chat.

### Volunteers needed in this area for our Home from Hospital Service

This service is being offered to older people who have been discharged from hospital and are worried about how they will manage when they return home. Volunteers will provide short term support for 4-8 weeks, assisting the service user to regain the independence they had before the admission to hospital. An example of this would be doing someone's shopping for the first two weeks, and then accompanying them on a shopping trip on the third week. Annie and Jane, the Discharge Support Caseworkers, will support volunteers every step of the way.



### Would this type of role suit your skills and experience?

This role would suit somebody warm and friendly, who is a good listener and sensitive to older people's needs, and who has their own car and is happy to drive within their locality.

### How much time and commitment is involved?

Usually between 1-2 hours for each person visited, perhaps twice a week.

### What training is provided?

Home from Hospital Volunteer Induction Training Programme – 4 hours

For further information contact: Annie Fiducia or Jane Harber on 01380 727767.

## News from The Cedars

As we go to press, great plans are underway for one of our residents – Irene Harris who will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in style. We have lots of activities and surprises in store for her, which we will report back in next month's Magazine.



We recognised "Dignity Day" by holding a quiz in the morning followed by a tea party in the afternoon for all the residents and their families.

In the meantime our coffee mornings every Friday are proving to be a popular event and we welcome anyone from Purton and the surrounding villages to come and join us.

If you would like to find out more about living at The Cedars, or would like to join our friendly team as a colleague or volunteer, please telephone 0800 988 8133 or email [enquiries@osjct.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@osjct.co.uk).

*[All at Purton Magazine wish Irene a very happy birthday! Ed.]*



## 2015 THEME IS WILD WEST

New Year New Carnival

We have a bigger committee with more events and more plans to bring as always community spirit, fun and any needed help to our village!

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!

**New** location means more space to fill with a bunch of fantastic attractions, competitions and games! More to be revealed at a later date but so far we have a few spoilers to get you all in the Carnival spirit!

### **Main arena will of course remain! But this year will see –**

- Games for children and adults!
- Dance Groups!
- Martial art show!
- And more to be confirmed!

### **Around the outside so far we have –**

- Rodeo Bull!
- Funfair!
- Dog Show!
- Purton Bake Off!
- Bar and entertainment!
- And so much more!

### **Money you helped raise is put to use for Purton!**

4 parenting books to Purton library, for anyone wishing to take the Spurgeon classes at the Cricklade Children's Centre.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Purton Carnival Wild West Hoedown/Barn Dance!**

First ever Carnival Hoedown/Barn dance!

- Live entertainment from the "Blazing Saddles" to guide you through the evening, a great night for all ages and abilities
- Food & Drink • Raffle • Competitions
- Saturday 25 April 7.30 - 11.30 pm

#### **Tickets selling fast!**

Take advantage of discounted "in-advance" tickets on sale now.

#### **Purton Carnival Quiz & Bingo!**

The next **Carnival Bingo** is on Wednesday 1 April, 7.30 pm at the Silver Threads Hall. Great way to raise money for the village! Keep an eye out as we aim to have a Quiz or Bingo every other month!

#### **FREE Purton Planners Still Available!**

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

*Keep checking our website, Facebook page, posters for updates on all our events!  
Or find one of YOUR Purton Carnival Committee members!*

*PAIGE BASKERVILLE, Purton Carnival Marketing*

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## 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.

*Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago* ... The March 2005 issue of *Purton Magazine* carried the sad news of the death of Roy Blake. There must be a growing number of readers who do not know about Roy but we all owe the very existence of this magazine to him.

Roy was appointed Vicar of St Mary's Purton in 1974 and arrived from St Agnes' church in the multi-racial area of St Paul's in Bristol where he is remembered for starting the St Paul's festival which became Bristol's answer to the Notting Hill festival in London. It would be hard to find two more contrasting parishes, particularly as Roy succeeded Canon Willis who had been living in the parish since 1927.

On page 3 of this issue you will see that *Purton Magazine* was first published in 1975. With the help of Anthony Keast the then Methodist minister, Roy expanded the previous St Mary's church magazine with its limited circulation and set the foundations for the publication that you are reading today.

Roy is still fondly remembered by many from his 19 years as Vicar of St Mary's, not least for some of his more unusual fund raising initiatives. For example, he sat all day on a lavatory in the High Street lay-by opposite College Farm to collect money for the external toilet that was soon added to the church building. There is so much more that Roy achieved for our village, a fraction of which can be found in the article published 10 years ago which can be accessed on line – as detailed in the box below.

10 years ago, we repeated the news that the heir to the throne, Prince Charles, had become engaged to Camilla Parker Bowles – or as the local edition of the *Bristol Evening Post* had simply stated, "Tetbury man to wed."

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

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## Gaffer's Tales

You may remember the cow called Daisy had a heifer calf. The calf lay for a while at her mother's feet while she was well and truly licked all over. The bond between them was fixed. After a little while the calf tried to stand up, very shakily at first, falling over in a heap several times, but eventually she did stand, and with a few nudges from mum found the teats and pretty soon was sucking away, filling up with milk. It is very important for a calf to get this first milk as it contains a lot of nutrients and antibodies that are vital to a new born calf, or any other animal. This first milk is rich and is called colostrum. So Daisy's calf has a good start in life.

As a female she will be reared to eventually join the herd. If the calf was a bull, he would have been sold at market, and probably been reared for veal or beef. Veal calves are only fed on milk, as this makes the meat a white colour. If there are two female calves born, they are known as Freemartins, and are not able to breed because their reproductive organs are not complete. These too would have been sold on.

Anyway, Daisy's calf is fine. She will not have a name because the herd is growing larger and sometimes it is hard to identify individuals; she will get a number when she grows up a bit. All calves have a tag in their ear for identification, and strange as it seems, they are given a passport by the ministry of Agriculture, (DEFRA), and everything in their life, such as change of ownership, has to be recorded.

Just a point of interest, Daisy's assisted calving, as described in my last tale, is quite common, but most calving occurs with no help from anyone. Sometimes a cow cannot give birth at all, and the calf is born through the side by caesarean section. This is quite interesting to see, as the cow is standing up through the whole thing, and is only given a local anaesthetic. It involves quite a large incision, and much skill by the vet. He has to avoid cuts to the cow's stomachs (a cow has four) and various other bits, and with the help of the farmer, gently remove the calf through her side. Then he has to sew up all the layers he has cut through. I have seen several of these procedures; there isn't as much blood flowing about as you might think. This operation is quite common now, and is usually satisfactory in the outcome.

Well, that's enough for now, cheerio.

**GAFFER**

### **DISCLAIMER**

Contributions to Purton Magazine are always welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are known or supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. It follows that opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors.

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

Advertisements are accepted in good faith and their inclusion does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.



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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Our first meeting of 2015 began with a short AGM when the existing committee was re-elected en bloc, with the exception of Linda Roberts, who announced her resignation as chair due to work and personal commitments. We will miss Linda on our committee but look forward to seeing her at the regular monthly meetings and she was warmly thanked by David Herbert for her contribution to the running of the club. Congratulations to Moira White who was nominated to replace Linda and subsequently elected. Moira is a well-known member of the club having served as secretary for a number of years and we look forward to her returning to the committee.

Congratulations were offered to Maureen Griffin who was the overall competition winner for 2014 and received the Competition cup.

Having dispensed with the AGM formalities we settled down to welcome local resident Dave Seviour who joined us to present a talk and slideshow on the subject of 'An Alphabet of British Curiosities'. Dave explained how he set out to drive around the country in search of suitable entries for the talk along with his 'Sat Nav', aka Bernice, his wife. This appears to have been a successful arrangement, despite the occasional swift instruction to follow a route to obtain as in one case, **Q** for Quoditch, a hamlet located in Devon, where it took 23 minutes to reach but just seconds to pass through!!

Starting with **A** for Avebury with its 96 sarsen stones, Dave's talk included information and slides highlighting 44 curiosities in 37 locations across 17 counties in three countries of the British Isles, and all in under 1 hour. Some of the more well-known 'curiosities' included: **D** for Durdle Door, with its natural limestone arch on the Jurassic coast in Dorset; **G** for Gretna Green famous for its runaway marriages; **L** for the Lundy lighthouse with the highest foundations of any lighthouse in the country; **P** for Portmeirion, the Italianate style village in North Wales designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis and made famous by the TV series 'The Prisoner' and **S** for Snowdon with its Swiss constructed mountain railway.

**X** could have proved to be a difficult acquisition, but in this case Dave highlighted the Eleanor crosses erected by Edward 1 to the memory of his devoted wife who had died following him to Scotland in 1290. Having arranged for his wife's body to be returned to London, Edward ordered crosses to be erected at each of the resting places where the procession stopped along the route, hence the 'Eleanor crosses'. The final stop on the journey was at Charing Cross where a Victorian replica now stands.

Within the talk, Dave managed to include his birthplace of Harmston, Fingals Cave off the Isle of Mull, where he and Bernice experienced a somewhat dodgy navigation to acquire his stunning photo and the Glenfinnan viaduct, the best preserved rail line in the world, built by McAlpine.

If you are interested in gardening and would like to join us, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 24 March at 7.30 pm In Silver Threads Hall, when Jeff Hobson will be joining us as speaker. The subject of his talk is 'Easy Orchids' and members are invited to bring along any of their 'problem' orchids for his expert advice. The competition will be 'Five daffodils'.

*MOIRA WHITE, Chair & MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary*

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# PURTON PLACARD

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

## PURTON AGE CONCERN

### **Easter Market**

Saturday 4 April  
9 am - 12 noon at the  
Pavenhill shops  
Homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle and other bargains to buy!

### **Rock Night**

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

Raising Funds for Alice O'Brien's  
International Guide trip to Sweden

### **Table Top Sale**

Purton Silver Threads Hall  
Saturday 7 March : 11 am - 3 pm  
Refreshments to include light bites, cake and snacks  
Raffle Bric a Brac  
Plants Clothes  
Toys and more ...

Donations of unwanted items can be delivered to the hall on the morning, or before the day at 48 The Hyde or we can collect

Further information  
Kim & Alice O'Brien 770703

Group for Patients  
Purton and 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.

Please contact Purton Surgery,  
tel 01793 770207

## PURTON AGE CONCERN

### **Annual Auction**

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

### **Coffee Morning & Easter Market**

Saturday 28 March  
10.00 am to 12 noon  
Silver Threads Hall  
Proceeds to Silver Threads Funds

Purton Tennis Club

### **Bingo Night**

Saturday 28 March  
at the Red House  
Eyes down at 7.30.

St Mary's Primary School PTA

## **Fashion Show**

Friday 13 March

Big discounts on high street fashion for women's & children's wear

Doors open 7 pm, fashion show starts at 7.30

Tickets £5, includes a glass of fizz

Bar and snacks available

Over 16s welcome when accompanied by an adult

Raffle Prize Draw including vouchers to spend on the night

Purchase tickets in advance at school reception desk



**Purton Carnival**

**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](http://www.PurtonCarnival.co.uk)

for a full list of events

## **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.

**PURTON AGE CONCERN**

## **3B's Evening**

Friday 10 April at 7.30 pm

at Silver Threads Hall

Cost £6 and includes hot  
supper

For tickets please contact

Ron & Heather Harris on  
770850

## **St Mary's Church, Purton** **Round the Village Quiz**

Saturday 25 April : 6pm

Meet at Silver Threads Hall

Hot Supper after the Quiz

Please bring your own drinks  
and glasses

Tickets Adults £6,

Children (16 and under) £4

Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila  
770970, Val 771201

**PURTON AGE CONCERN**

## **Mystery Tour**

Wednesday 1 April

Coach leaves at 10 am

Cost - £13.00

(lunch included)

Come and join us on our 1st  
tour of 2015!

## **KNIT-A-SQUARE**

### **Coffee Morning**

Silver Threads Hall

Saturday 14 March

10 am - 12 noon

Admission £1

Includes tea/coffee/biscuits

Raffle, bric-a-brac, cakes

Come and see our display

of knitted items

ready to send to KAS!

**MORE PLACARD**  
**OVERLEAF**

# PURTON PLACARD

- plus -

## 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 Reponses,  
Stainer and Dupres.

Free **ADMISSION**

Retiring Collection

*also: Summer Concert 13 July  
at St Bartholomew's Church, RWB*

## Purton Churches **Easter Activity Fun Day**

St Mary's Church

Tuesday 31 March

10.30 am - 2.30 pm

Open to pupils of St Mary's School  
or children living or staying in Purton

Age 7- 11 years

£4.50

Bring a packed lunch

Application forms will be sent out  
through St Mary's school

or you can sign up on the day.

Offers of help

would be greatly appreciated

For further information see posters

or tel Kim O'Brien 770703

## Jubilee Gardens Project

Jubilee Gardens is horticultural training centre for adults with learning disabilities. We are a long established charity based at Church Bush Hall in Purton Stoke. We serve Swindon, Wiltshire and the surrounding areas.

Students find a safe and welcoming environment in which they can build everyday knowledge and skills to improve quality of their lives.

Our market stall where we sell our flowers and vegetables is a popular local feature and we enjoy much support from local people for our open days and other events.

We have a vacancy for a Director to join our Board of seven Directors who manage the charity. The Board meets in the evening every five weeks. If you would like to take an interest in our work and become a Director please contact the Chairman of the Board, Geoff Ham: [geoffham@talktalk.net](mailto:geoffham@talktalk.net)



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## Knick Knack Bric-a-Brac event for Ebola funds

Everyone involved in Christian Aid fundraising activities would like to thank Purton people for the tremendous success of the Ebola event.

We asked Purton people to contribute unwanted presents, knick knacks, bric-a-brac and other precious bits and pieces. This was to raise funds for essential equipment for medical staff working with people who have Ebola. People made donations ... some even giving us bags of dollars and euros! People brought items for us to sell: other people bought items to take away: and people sold items ... all day long!

It was a bit like the feeding of the 5000 ... because, although we sold huge quantities of 'stuff' there seemed to be even more left than when we started!

So all the rest has been taken to various charity shops and also will be available for other sales around the village in the next few weeks and months. Yet more will be sold on eBay ... once we get the hang of it ... in fact, if anyone can help us with this we would be delighted to hear from you!

We are truly grateful to all those involved: the contributors, the shoppers and the helpers on the day, including especially those who provided all the refreshments for the helpers and shoppers, and thanks to the puppeteers who entertained the children as well.

Over £1,000 was raised by this event and we feel that all of Purton should be proud of such generosity

Thank you all, so much.

*LIBBIE & MARY, on behalf of the Christian Aid Team*

To advertise in Purton Magazine telephone 01793 770648

or email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

*2015 Annual rates:* 1/8 page £85 1/4 page £170 1/2 page £340

other rates available on application

## Summer Garden Party

This is an advance notice of a garden party at 16 Church Path on Saturday 6 June. This is being run by Nicki Hall, with a little bit of other input, to raise money for the Prospect Hospice in memory of Nicki's mum Pauline Hall. Sheila and I think this is a lovely idea of Nicki's and we felt that it would be appropriate to have the party in our garden in view of the fact that, when Pauline lived next door to us, we shared the work on several garden parties and open gardens. She was a dear friend and we still miss her and I'm sure she would approve of what Nicki wants to do. We shall be providing light lunches and afternoon teas – sure to be some cream involved! Chedworth Band will be there, and there will be a big raffle and lots of stalls – cakes, plants, books, tombola etc. Don't worry if it's wet as we will move to the Village Hall so put the date in your diaries – Saturday 6 June – more details later.

*TONY PRICE*

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## Purton Diary - March 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 Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>
4	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		11.45am	to 1 pm: Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	Historical Soc course at Silver Threads Hall, then on 11, 18, 25 Mar
5	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
		8.00pm	After 8: Late Christmas Meal at the College - contact Mary Smith
7	Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Annual Auction at the 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		<b>Commonwealth Day</b>
		7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard</i>
11	W	11.45am	to 1 pm: Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		7.30pm	to 9pm: Talk at Purton Surgery - <i>Heart Matters</i>
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
13	F		<b>Red Nose Day</b>
		7.00pm	for 7.30pm: Fashion Show at St Mary's School (PTA)
		9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
14	Sa	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee morning at Silver Threads Hall ( <i>Knit-a-Square</i> )
<hr/>			
15	Su		<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service for Mothering Sunday 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: Easter Devotional Meeting
17	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Dementia &amp; Wiltshire Good Neighbours</i>
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	11.45am	to 1 pm: Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Annual General Meeting
20	F		<b>Spring Equinox</b>

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21	Sa	7.30pm	Rock Night at Village Hall
22	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church
24	Tu	10.00am 2.30pm 7.30pm  8.00pm	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>The Panama Canal</i> Communion at White Lodge Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Jeff Hobson - <i>Easy Orchids</i> After 8: <i>20 Questions</i> led by Mary S. and Christine at Barbara's
25	W	11.45am	<i>to 1 pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
26	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Annual General Meeting: Followed by Marion Hobbs - <i>Purton footpaths in 1744</i>
28	Sa	10.00am 7.30pm	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Coffee Morning & Easter Market, Silver Threads Hall <i>for prompt start</i> : Purton Tennis Club Bingo Night, Red House
29	Su		<b>Start of British Summer Time - clocks go forward</b>
		8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church
31	Tu	10.30am 2.00pm	<i>to 2.30pm</i> : Easter Activity Day at St Mary's Church Silver Threads Club: <i>Sing 4/4 Community Choir</i>

### April

1	W	10.00am	Age Concern first Mystery Tour of 2015
4	Sa	9.00am	Age Concern Easter Market at Pavenhill shops.
10	F	7.30pm	Age Concern 3B's evening at Silver Threads Hall

### Every week

Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11.00am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.00am	<i>to 11.00am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	11.15am	<i>to 1pm</i> : New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm</i> : Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church
F	10.00am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars

### Moon Phases

☾ 5 March      🌑 13 March      🌒 20 March      🌓 27 March

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

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## Purton Historical Society



### **Thursday 22 January 2015 – The Empire Theatre - Roger Trayhurn**

Roger Trayhurn gave an excellent, very well researched and entertaining presentation on the Swindon Empire Theatre which was located in the centre of Swindon, at the northern end of Victoria Road on the corner of Clarence Street and Groundwell Road. The theatre was built in 1897/1898 and was originally called The Queens Theatre. It catered for audiences of up to 1600 people. In 1907, it was re-named Empire Theatre and continued operating as a theatre and also in later years as a cinema until its demolition in 1959.

The full story is told by Roger and another local historian Mark Child in a new book called 'All for the Empire', beginning with its creation on the orders of a young entrepreneur called Ernest Carpenter.

Roger has compiled a complete list of Empire shows from the first – the pantomime Dick Whittington on 7 February 1898 – to the last, which was another pantomime, Robinson Crusoe.

The Empire saw countless appearances by familiar names, sometimes long before they became big stars. The list is endless – Betty Driver, Frankie Howerd, Norman Wisdom, Bill Maynard, Hughie Green, Bernie Winters, Tommy Trinder, Max Wall, Beryl Reid, Vera Lynne, Laurel & Hardy and many more. Roger showed one photograph of an appearance by a very young Diana Fluck later to be known as Diana Dors.

Eventually the Empire, like many other provincial theatres, succumbed to changing tastes and, crucially, the unstoppable rise of television. It closed in 1955, the building became derelict, and was demolished in June 1959.

'All for The Empire' is published by Hobnob Press, ISBN 978-1-905978-27-3 and is priced at £14.95.

### **Future Meetings/Events**

#### **Thursday 26 March 2015: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm, Purton Village Hall**

The business of the AGM will last for approximately an hour and will be followed by a talk entitled "Purton footpaths in 1744" England has the greatest heritage of public footpaths in the world. Purton Parish has an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways that are very well maintained and signposted.

Purton has a map produced just about the time of the enclosures. Marion Hobbs has walked several of the footpaths and taken photographs of buildings in that period and historic features since then. We will try to visualise who used these footpaths and why.

**Museum:** Please note that the Museum will re-open on Saturday 7 March from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

**Imperial War Museum:** As we go to press, the coach outing on 18 April only has 2 seats left. To check availability, ring Helen on 01793 770648.

**New members and visitors always welcome**

TONY & JAN NEATE, [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com)

Telephone 01793 770117

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# Great War Project

## Part 20: March 1915

### **Spanbroekmolen – 12 March**

James Pound enlisted in peacetime in 1906 at the age of 17 years, 11 months. He was born in Purton the son of Charles and Elizabeth Pound and his occupation was given as agricultural labourer. He had arrived in France in August 1914 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, was wounded in action on 31 October 1914 and transferred to the UK on 9 November 1914 with a gunshot wounds to the right groin and left finger. On 10 February 1915 he rejoined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Loche (Loker), Belgium, part of a replacement draft of 34 men.

On 12 March 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was at Kemmel, Belgium, about 6 miles southwest of Ypres. James Pound's company left billets at Loker at 2.45 am and marched 2½ miles via Kemmel to a section in front of Spanbroekmolen, near Wijtschate on the Messines-Ypres road arriving at dawn (5.30 am) and occupied trenches with the Worcestershire Regiment to their right. Mist delayed an artillery bombardment but by 2.30 pm it was clear enough for the artillery bombardment to begin and continue till 4.10 pm with field guns firing shrapnel to cut the enemy wire, and high explosives to beat down the German trenches. At 4.10 the infantry assault was launched but failed to reach its objectives and they withdrew under heavy fire at 7 pm.

The Wiltshires returned to billets at Loker having lost 32 killed, 48 wounded and 12 missing. James Pound was among those killed, aged 26. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Menin Gate at Ypres (Panel 53). Wiltshire Regiment records in Salisbury list a grave for James: "Spanbroek Molen. 2500 yards E of Lindenhoeck near Kemmel. Not marked." A number of men who died on this date, and were recorded as buried at the same location, can be found in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at La Laiterie. This cemetery was used at the end of the war to concentrate many burials from around the Kemmel area. There are 180 burial plots that are not identified; simply a Soldier of the Great War. James could possibly lie under one of these stones.\*

### **The Battle of Neuve-Chapelle – 11-13 March**

Spanbroekmolen was an ancillary attack within the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle. More troops had arrived from Britain and relieved French forces in Flanders, forming a continuous 35-mile British line from just north of Ypres south to Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée. The BEF launched an offensive at Neuve-Chapelle, 20 miles south of Ypres (and 14 miles south of Spanbroekmolen), to break through the German lines and rush on to the Aubers Ridge and possibly Lille. The French Tenth Army's involvement was reduced to heavy artillery support due to lack of troops that had not been relieved from British sectors.

Neuve-Chapelle was the first deliberate British offensive of the war and showed the new method of offense on the Western Front. The First Army prepared the

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attack with great attention to detail and achieved tactical surprise and a breakthrough. After the first planned attack, unexpected delays slowed operations, communication failures hindered the command structure as the telephone system broke down. The German defenders were reinforced and dug a new line behind the British break-in.

**Elsewhere on the Western Front:** On 7 March the Royal Flying Corps made their first tactical bombing raids in support of ground troops in Menin and Courtaix.

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

Edwin Frank Brown, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment

George Edward Butcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

John Davies, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

Arthur James Gunter, Wiltshire Regiment.

Denis Law, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, Labour Corps.

Percy Charles Matthews, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

Albert James Parsons, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Ernest Ponting, Royal Field Artillery.

**In the Turkish Sector:** Things were hotting up out east. On 4 March the French government decided to send an Expeditionary Force to the Dardanelles. And on the 5<sup>th</sup> the Greek government offered naval and military forces for operations there. Britain also commenced a naval bombardment of Smyrna (Izmir) lasting from 5 - 9 March.

Britain had landed 2 battalions of the Royal Marines on the Turkish island of Lemnos on 23 February to plan an assault at the Dardanelles to destroy the Turkish gun batteries. On 7 March, Greece requested an explanation of the Lemnos landings which Britain explained on 9 March to be a military necessity, and on 20 March, Britain guaranteed that Lemnos would be given to Greece after the war.

General Sir Ian Hamilton was appointed on 12 March to command the military operations at Gallipoli and took command on 17 March. Meanwhile on 13 March the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force sailed from Egypt.

An allied naval attack in the Dardanelles was repelled on 18 March by the Turkish shore batteries and the British battleships HMS Irresistible and HMS Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were all sunk by Turkish mines.

Also on 18 March General Sir John Nixon was appointed to command the British and Indian forces in Mesopotamia. The German General, Liman von Sanders was appointed to command Turkish forces at Gallipoli on 25 March. We shall meet these names again.

Between March and May 1915, the Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet began seaplane carrier raids against the Bosphorus and the Ottoman Empire's European Black Sea coast. This was the first time that battleships played a subsidiary role to plane carrying ships.

On the political front, on 4 March, the Russian government laid claim to Constantinople to which Britain and France agreed on 14 March. Eyeing up future territory, France lodged a claim with Britain for control of Syria and Cilicia (south-western Turkey) on 17 March.

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At Sea, Britain began a blockade of German East Africa on 1 March and on 11 March announced a blockade of all German ports. Off the coast of Chile, the Royal Navy cornered the German light cruiser SMS Dresden at the Chilean Robinson Crusoe Island (Más a Tierra). This, the last surviving ship of the German East Asia Squadron, was left with no option but to scuttle on 14 March. On 28 March a British passenger ship, RMS Falaba was sunk by a German submarine in the middle of the St George's Channel between Wales and Ireland. In response, Britain declared a complete embargo on international trade with Germany to which the Americans objected. Following a short political crisis, Britain and America agreed that the US would only export rubber to Britain.

RICK DIXON

[\*Information on James Pound and Spanbroekmolen extracted from Purton & The Great War by Bob Lloyd with permission.]

## Purton & the Great War

The PURTON REMEMBERS project has 26 members (not all Village residents); if anyone wishes to join please e-mail me through my website at [www.purton1418.co.uk](http://www.purton1418.co.uk). Regular updates are also posted on my Community FACEBOOK page PURTON AND THE GREAT WAR. Sally Cooke at Bradon Forest School has been busy creating more poppies for my extension to the project. I will bring the completed poppies to the meetings detailed below for people to get a closer look. This year I have at least 2 arranged talks with more potential talks at Swindon Central library in the future, I will also have an information stall at the Carnival and hope to arrange a walk at St Mary's Church again in the summer.

### Planned talks in 2015

**March 26 - Gorse Hill Community centre 7.30 pm:** *Purton and the Great War.* A talk detailing my research since 2007 and how one Wiltshire Parish was affected by the Great War. *Admission fee applies.*

**May 28 - Purton Village Hall 7.30 pm:** *The Purton Remount Depot at Manor Hill.* A talk detailing the specialist breaking depot established in Purton to re-train problematic horses from Remount Depots across the Southern Area Command region. The talk also details the work of horse purchasing officers and the mobilization of horses at the outbreak of the war. *Admission fee applies.*

BOB LLOYD

## Library Memory Group

### Weekly on Thursdays 11 am to 12 noon at Royal Wootton Bassett Library

For people with memory loss, dementia and their carers. Relax and listen to stories and poems read by a facilitator in a small, friendly shared reading group. The sessions are free of charge with refreshments provided. The group offers an enjoyable, relaxing opportunity to meet others and stimulate positive memories, you will be made to feel very welcome. If you wish to come along or for more information contact Rebecca Bolton, Outreach Services Manager 01225 713706, email: [rebecca.bolton@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.bolton@wiltshire.gov.uk) or Royal Wootton Bassett Library. Tel. 01793 853249.

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# Our Family's War

Libbie Sheppard has provided us with the following letters from her Grandpa, Roger Morton (b. 1893), who wrote frequently to a friend named Russell Smith, who kept them so we still have access to them. Roger had joined up in September 1914 and was obviously frustrated at not being at the front as we can see from this snapshot of March 1915, when he would have been about 22, and at the rank of sergeant:

## **Birkenhead February 1915**

I am not gazetted to the battalion, it is only a reserve one, really I am in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cheshires and I am only gazetted here for duties till there is a vacancy for me in the 1<sup>st</sup>, which is out at the front now.

## **Birkenhead 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1915**

I had a nice slack week-end at 168, sat and talked and smoked all Saturday and Sunday. I'm working pretty hard, averaging 8 hours per day, and some days more, teaching these blessed recruits how to wield a gun. How long I'm going to be here I don't know but I wish with all my heart to go out as unless one does go, there is no promotion after it. I have at last had my photo taken, I hope it will be a good one. You say something about tea for lady friends, tea for lady friends indeed! I don't think a lady has been to this place since the days of Eve and goodness only knows when there will be another here.

## **Lingdale House, Birkenhead 10<sup>th</sup> March 1915**

The above address is my new billet, I've been moved to another Co'y and am in an empty house. (I mean empty from a civilian point of view.) We have about 20 men here and four of us sleep and eat in one room, so we pig it a bit as you might expect. We don't mess till 8 and finish about 9, so I go to bed as soon as I can. The work with this company is not as strenuous as the other, but it's rather more boring as it's nearly all musketry and that is the most boring thing going.

## **Birkenhead 17<sup>th</sup> March 1915**

I've just had a pretty hard day, been on the range from 8.30 am till 4.30 pm with an hour for lunch, putting men through a musketry course – then from 4.45 to 6 pm shooting, myself, with a revolver, then I boxed, and now I'm trying to scribe to you. Thank goodness one of our men has gone out to the front so there are only three of us in the room now. Nine of our fellows went out last week so I expect my turn will not be long in coming. I certainly think I shall get out, we haven't nearly finished with the 'Boches' yet, in fact I think we have the dickens of a job before us. I'm going to the theatre with Alice tomorrow – 'The Cinema Star' – I don't know what it will be like. I'm having a pretty good time considering we're at war, and I hope to go out and fight anytime now.

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.



### **School gains funding for Design & Technology Building**

On Monday 9 February, Bradon Forest School found out that they were the only school in the Swindon area, and one of only two schools in Wiltshire, that had been successful in their application to the Government's Priority School Building Programme Phase 2 (PSB2). Bradon Forest School submitted their bid in July 2014 to rebuild or refurbish their Food Technology and Textile block. Headteacher Dr Andrew Morrison said, "This is fantastic news for our school and we are so pleased that we have managed to secure the funds to improve the learning environment for our students. Following on from the refurbishment of the Main School block last academic year this is the next stage in the development of our site."

### **NCS School Champions awarded by the National Careers Service.**

Cirencester College recently presented Mr Bray with the National Careers School Champions Award. This award was given to Bradon Forest for the outstanding effort of so many of its ex-students.

Mr Bray comments, "The NCS brings together people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and communication. The NCS run this social action project for 16-17 year olds throughout the country and it is an honour to receive this awards for the work that our ex-students have done at Cirencester College."

### **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](http://www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk).*

**Basketball Glory:** Our Year 9 Basketball Team beat St Augustine's, Bishops Wordsworth, Sheldon and St John's School to win the County finals held at St John's Academy in Marlborough in early February. The team had already won the Schools Cup with their victory over Commonweal School in Swindon. We are equally proud of our Year 8 and Year 10 Basketball Teams who also scooped the Schools Cup for their recent matches. The Year 9 Basketball Team will go on to compete in the National Cup next month.





### Vintage Tea Party, Saturday 17 January

Thank you to all who supported this event, including PADS for their entertainment. It was good to see Dr Glynis Evans looking well. We are pleased to tell you that we raised £805 towards improved surgery facilities.

### Next Information Evening – Heart Matters, 11 March

Our next Information Evening will be on 11 March when the subject will be 'Heart Matters'. Our speakers are Dr William MacCrea, Consultant Cardiologist at Great Western Hospital and Alison Rosier from the British Heart Foundation. The evening will run from 7.30 - 9 pm. Although this is a free event, tickets are required due to limited seating and are available from Purton Surgery. As we frequently have a waiting list for tickets for these talks, if you find you are unable to use your ticket then do let the Surgery know so that someone else can use your place.

### Friends and Family Test (FFT)

Practices are now required to ask their patients if they would recommend the practice to their friends and family. This feedback tool is available to all our patients, is anonymous and feedback can be via special cards available at the surgery or via our website – [www.purtonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.purtonsurgery.co.uk). The practice would be grateful for your input.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

## We Record ...

### Baptism:

8 February Edward James Harvey at St Mary's Church

### Funerals:

19 January Mary Helena Mills at St Mary's Church

20 January Doreen Joan Tuck at St Mary's Church

### Special Birthday:

21 February Irene Harris celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at The Cedars

### In Memoriam

12 March 1915 **James Pound** of Purton killed in action, aged 26, at Spanbroekmolen. No confirmed grave. Remembered on Menin Gate at Ypres.

*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 ...*



## Carnival Arts & Crafts

Purton Carnival is planning to supply a small marquee for local Arts & Crafts at the Carnival event on 4 July. Space is limited to 5 tables (bring your own). £10 per table. Please contact Emma 07860 613274 or Mechelle 07584 324844 for further details.

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## Purton Scarecrow Trail 2014 ... and 2015?

The Purton Scarecrow Trail fundraising initiative is going well. The Committee has decided to use the money raised to buy a heart defibrillator for Purton which would be available 24 hours a day for use by anyone in the village in an emergency. This life-saving equipment can be used if someone collapses due to a heart attack and needs their heart restarting and would be located in an easily accessible site in Purton. As the project was so “heart-warming” in the pleasure it gave to everyone involved, we thought that equipment related to “heart-saving” would be good use of the money. This is especially appropriate as two of the committee members (Ali Bunce & Ali Davies) work in the NHS.

We raised £470 during the scarecrow trail weekend, £40 from other sources, and also received a very generous individual donation of £100 from a villager (who wishes to remain anonymous). We have also received two wonderful offers from Purton residents. James Phipps (Chief Executive Officer of Excalibur Communications) has generously offered to personally match any future funds raised to reach our original target and Gary Phillips (Phillips & Sutton Ltd) has made an extremely generous donation to ensure enough money is available to make up the amount needed to purchase and install the defibrillator.

An organisation called Community Heartbeat (The Community HeartBeat Trust) will help us to arrange the purchase, installation and maintenance of the defibrillator including training sessions regarding its use ([www.communityheartbeat.org.uk](http://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk)).

Our major debate is whether to run the Scarecrow Trail again this year, maintaining the momentum from the 2014 event, or to wait until 2016. We do not want to interfere with the Trail run by Purton Stoke so we shall discuss that with their committee. Any feedback from Purton residents would be welcome, as would any offers of donations toward the defibrillator maintenance fund because money will eventually be required for repairs, replacement parts and future training ([info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk](mailto:info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk)). We shall also be running a training session around use of the defibrillator for those who are interested once it is installed.

Once again, thanks to our kind sponsors and prize donors, well done to all of you who took part by making the scarecrows and a really big thank you to those who bought the quiz sheets and raised so much money.

*ALISON MCINTYRE*

## The Merchant's House, Marlborough

The Merchant's House is running 3 study days on the life and times of Mr Bayly and friends in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

- Wednesday 4 March – Architecture
- Wednesday 18 March – Art
- Thursday 2 April – Politics

There is also an arranged visit to Wilton House on Wednesday 6 May with a guide. Please call into The Merchant's House shop or call 01672 511491 for more information.



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## Purton & District Probus

The meeting on **13 January** was addressed by our own member John Clark, known for his previous talks on metal detecting, including a Saxon burial at Wroughton, and techniques for building the Pyramids.



The subject on this occasion was “Too-da-loo – A French village during WW1”. It was inspired by John’s happening across, some years ago, a war memorial at Lue in the Aquitaine region of France. In 1914 Lue was a small hamlet with a population of 149 souls. Of these 66 men formed a typical Pals’ regiment and set off for the war. They were posted into the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Army but many volunteered as a band of brothers to become “Nettoyeurs de Tranchees” meaning Trench Cleaners. Their task was to rid any trench that had been overrun or abandoned of any enemy threat, ambush or booby-trap. The work was extremely dangerous and the chance of survival slim. There were many types of booby-trap. Sometimes they would raid to gather intelligence or capture an enemy soldier, but in general the policy was to take no prisoners. They were free to choose their own weapons almost always a stabbing blade for a silent approach but also a hand gun and grenades. They often wore a close fitting steel helmet for stream-lined manoeuvrability. Sadly the war memorial at Lue recorded 61 names indicating that only 5 men returned alive. Aquitaine is an area of reclaimed marshes. In 1914 the men were mainly employed in sheep farming and forestry. It is therefore hard to imagine how such men became commando-type killers (Zigouilleurs). Perhaps it was the mind-set associated with the vendetta for they certainly had a feud against the Nazis. When John, more recently, paid a second visit to Lue, he was disappointed to find that it was not how he remembered it. His original pictures of the hamlet and The War Memorial, shown during the talk, needed no up-dating.

On **24 January** the club enjoyed another visit by Bill King. This talk was entitled “Industrial Archaeology in your Garage, Shed or Attic”. Bill structured his talk as a chronological march through time identifying archaeological evidence of man’s activities from the Neolithic age and the Druids up to the present age of electronic communication and space travel. The early evidence is shaped in the land, eg; Silbury Hill, Avebury and Stonehenge. Constructions of this magnitude would have required a large and well-disciplined work force, powerful leaders and knowledgeable architects and engineers. There are lots of other clues in our local landscape:- earthworks, long barrows, strip lynchets, ridge and furrow ploughing as well as the ancient ways and the roman roads.

The talk included images of items found in the Cotswold Water Park:- tools of bone, a scapula used as a shovel, an antler pickaxe, flint axe heads and a bronze dagger expertly fashioned and decorated.

We came now to things we might find in our shed or garage; hand tools for farming, agriculture, wood-work and masonry. Examples illustrated were a scythe, a billhook, wedges for log-splitting, large gimlets for boring dowel holes and draw-knives for shaping seats and wheel spokes. There were also domestic items



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such as butter churns, milk churns and skimmers for separating curds and whey. The advent of the Industrial Revolution has created a radical change in archaeological evidence as Machines and Factories have taken over from labour intensive hand working. Most steel items are re-cycled but cast iron seems to stay in evidence. Bill showed a GWR rail-chair adapted with a brush as a shoe-scraper. An Example of a cast iron gate post can be seen at Coleshill house – it carries the name of the manufacturer “Derby, Colebrook Dale, Staffs”.

Subsequently new materials, first Bakelite and then a variety of plastics appeared. The cradle-telephone is an iconic antique as is the red telephone box. There are still collectors of 78rpm vinyl records, but we are now in the age of composite materials, electronics, solar power and robots. Bill finished with a picture of the artefacts in his own garage, the central feature of which is a 1943 Willys Jeep with American Military markings. He is obviously a dedicated collector.

Probus meets at 10.00 am in the Red House lounge. On 10 March the subject is “The Queen’s Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard”. On 24 March “The Panama Canal”.

BOB STEVENS

## After 8

On Tuesday 20 January thirteen of us turned up for the much loved New Year Quiz that Jan Walker kindly prepares for the group. This event has become a permanent fixture on our calendar – there could well be a riot if it were not included in our programme. Each year we convince ourselves that we have paid more attention to current affairs and retained much of what we have read or seen in the news over the last twelve months and each year Jan manages to pop in the odd one or two questions that show us our attention to detail is lacking...



There never seems to be an overall winner as we start off working as individuals but find there is plenty of conferring to achieve what can only be described as an average score. With the amount of discussion/pleading for half marks you would think we could have achieved at least eleven and a half out of twelve! Fortunately Jan produced some lighter quizzes to round off the evening and restore our self respect. Thank you Jan for a lively evening maybe next year we will "do better".

We have no meeting in February but two in March, our very late 'Late Christmas Meal' on Thursday 5 and 'Twenty Questions' on Tuesday 24. For more information about these and future meetings call Avril 771542.

## Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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

For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £16 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information contact John Creasey at [john@creasey.org](mailto:john@creasey.org)

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# ON THE STAGE

## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Thank you to everyone who supported us with “King Arthur” and made it a great success. It was good to see many faces, new and old, and each night we had a very receptive and appreciative audience.



Our AGM is on 26 February, 8pm at The Red House if anyone wants to come along. We desperately need people between the ages of 20 and 50 as all members but one are either under or over that!

Well done to G4P for raising a fantastic sum for the surgery! Helped I am sure by our sketches!

We are planning new Murder Nights to perform for various organisations in the Village and our next play will now be in the Autumn – “The Frogs” by Aristophanes, directed by Olli Webb.

LINDSEY HALL, tel: 771890

## RISE Theatre comes to West Swindon

As part of the 2015 White Rabbit Tour, RISE Theatre is coming to West Swindon on Thursday 12 March to present an original play that takes audiences on a magical journey of love, loss and self-discovery. Take a trip down the rabbit hole with RISE and experience for yourself the message of hope in this moving and imaginative tale.

RISE is a not for profit community interest theatre company made up of professional Christian actors. The play is suitable for 12 years and upwards. More information about the play is at [www.risetheatre.co.uk](http://www.risetheatre.co.uk)

The venue is St Peter's Catholic Church, Carronbridge Road, Eastleaze, Swindon SN5 7ES.

The performance starts at 7.30 pm, doors open from 7 pm. Please park at the Shaw Ridge leisure centre or Asda car park as parking at the church is limited.

Tickets £5 each (or £10 for Family ticket) available at the door or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or Claire Fish ([claire@battery-shed.com](mailto:claire@battery-shed.com)) or from Suzanne Bullimore ([suzannebullimore62@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebullimore62@gmail.com)).

## Royal Wootton Bassett Arts Festival hosts Wessex Male Choir

in concert at 7 pm on Saturday 18 April 2015 at the Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, Lime Kiln. Special guests will be Swindon Young Musicians Youth Choir. Tickets priced £12 and £10 concessions 01793 529678 or 01793 852749.



## Baker's Dozen & Friends

... will perform a sparkling Spring Concert at St Bartholomew's Church on Saturday 25 April 7.30 pm. This celebration of St George will also commemorate the birthday of William Shakespeare (a couple of days earlier). Join them for an enjoyable feast of song, wine and nibbles to welcome the spring!

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## The Cricklade Band

By the time you read this, the snowdrops will be making room for the crocuses and daffodils as we move closer to spring. Everyone in the Performance Band and BandAcademy has set about the new year rehearsals with only a small break after Christmas.

We were out and about in Cricklade and all the surrounding villages on 17 occasions from just before December. Our 'Christmas Present' show at the Club at Cricklade was (more than!) a sell-out with all our usual party atmosphere and live entertainment. We thank everyone for their donations for our festive carol-playing, thank you too to the increasing numbers of people coming to the doorsteps, singing along, applauding and taking pictures – you're very welcome!

Traditionally, we fund our rehearsal facilities and considerable insurance costs from the money we raise during the festive season and we also donate a sizeable chunk to a worthy cause. Prospect Foundation will once again receive part of the result of all our efforts.

The band's events list for the year is filling up and sees us returning to Bath, Cheltenham, Chippenham, Cirencester and Swindon bandstands. We're also waiting for confirmation of other venues. Our participation in local community events also has its welcome listing.

**BandAcademy** continues enthusiastically with our student youngsters and not-so-youngsters taking part in several community events of their own and also joining the Performance Band in concerts. If you would like to learn to play an instrument then we would be pleased to see you. Just call into The Club at Cricklade on Monday or Thursday evenings and say hello.

If you'd like to be involved with all that the band does we're specially looking for some new recruits to our **Crew** this year. They're the valuable people who do all sorts *except* play an instrument. Have a look at the website [thecrickladeband.co.uk](http://thecrickladeband.co.uk) or check out Facebook for all the information you might need or drop in and have a chat at the Club, Monday or Thursday evenings.

Thanks for reading our news - just a couple of diary dates to finish:

**Sunday 22 March: Spring into Spring**, at The Club at Cricklade, 7.30 pm. A concert of music you'll know and love, also with the up-and-coming musicians of BandAcademy doing their bit too. Watch for the posters – tickets are just £3.50, available from Cricklade's Council Office in the High Street.

**Saturday 28 March – Spring Table-Top Sale**, The Club at Cricklade, 11 am to 1 pm. If you're a Table-Top seller, please call 01793 750516 to book your table, still at just £5. Setting-up is from 10 am. If you're a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? The band itself will have our famous eat-in or takeaway home-made cake array, tea, coffee, games of chance and a raffle or two.

## Something to Think About

The most difficult character in comedy is that of a fool, and he must be no simpleton who plays the part.

*Miguel de Cervantes (1547 - 1616), from Don Quixote,*

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## Church Floodlighting

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



- 5 March St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of My Darling partner, **Jeffrey Waite**, on the third anniversary of his death. He was very much loved and is missed by Iris, Roslyne, Lesley and family: and also Jeff's family, Ann, Julia, Robert, Helen and Annette
- 7 March The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Ray Herbert**, Loving Husband and Dad. Forever in our hearts. Jane and family
- 19 March The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Bob Totterdell**, who passed away six years ago. Dearly missed and loved always. Jean and family.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie Sheppard](#): 771018.

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

## Lent Lunches

Every Wednesday 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

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell and Bagbury Lane*.

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or 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 Keith Hart, tel 771533.

BOB TINSON

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## Active Kids ... why not sign up your group?

Active Kids is back at Sainsbury's in Swindon. Customers can collect vouchers in their stores at Brunel, Bridgemead, Stratton and Royal Wootton Bassett from now until 5 May to help registered schools, groups and clubs across the Swindon area receive active and cooking equipment, and experiences.



The scheme, which is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, is supported by Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge, double Paralympic gold medal-winner Ellie Simmonds, and world record breaking sprinter Jonnie Peacock (*pictured*). The three ambassadors are committed to encouraging children to eat well, move well and live well.

New cooking equipment has been added to the collection of items available to collect in 2015. The popular Cooking and Nutrition Toolkits, endorsed by the British Nutrition Foundation, and recipe cards will keep children excited about cooking.

*Active Kids Ambassador, Ellie Simmonds, said:* "I've been a Sainsbury's Active Kids ambassador for five years now and seen the amazing things the scheme has achieved. I'm looking forward to inspiring even more children this year to live their lives to the full.

"It's important that sport and activity is part of a wider healthy lifestyle, and the new emphasis on cooking and nutrition will help bring this to life in the classroom."

*Val Atwill, Store Manager at Stratton, said:* "The Active Kids scheme is a brilliant way for our colleagues to get involved with schools, groups and clubs in our local area. We love visiting local organisations and seeing the benefits the equipment and experiences have brought to the children."

There are now well over 300 organisations registered to the Active Kids scheme in the north Wilts area, including Ferndale Table Tennis Club, [Purton Brownie Unit](#) and Covingham Roundabout Playgroup thanks to Sainsbury's customers. Since 2005, the scheme has donated almost £16 and a half million worth of equipment to organisations in the South West alone.

Since 2005 the scheme has provided over £150 million worth of equipment and experiences across the UK. This has given children the opportunity to have a go at activities like cooking, martial arts and dance. For T&Cs and to sign up to the scheme, organisations can visit [sainsburys.co.uk/ActiveKids](http://sainsburys.co.uk/ActiveKids). This year, organisations who order online will receive an extra 50 Active Kids vouchers.

Active Kids is designed to inspire and enable children to take more exercise and to eat healthily. Launched in 2005, the voucher collection scheme is open to all nursery, primary and secondary schools, as well as Scouts, Girlguiding groups and sports clubs in the UK. Since it launched, over £150 million worth of equipment and experiences have been donated to registered schools, clubs and organisations. The programme continues to evolve and reflect changes to the curriculum, with developments such as additional cooking equipment and toolkits introduced to support this new emphasis in the classroom.

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## Purton Evening WI [purtonevewi.wordpress.com](http://purtonevewi.wordpress.com)



Attendance was not so high on 21 January and we have to admit to a damp, dark night persuading some of us to stay home. I dared not miss any more meetings – firstly, a suspected heart problem (false alarm) and not so clever the second time wit: a thumping dose of pneumonia – genuine! They locked me up in a ward and tried to keep me quiet for a fortnight – what a hope! I missed you all dreadfully. And as for the hospital tea ... Yuk. Anyway, it was a jolly good meeting, fronted by a lovely display of tulips which hinted that spring was well on its way. Untrue!

We had a fine illustrated talk by Mr Martin Collinson revealing the hard life that Cockneys endured in London, early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Such cold, such poverty, yet they seemed to have fun with their street parties. Easter bonnets, singsongs, children and elderly alike. At least the annual hop picking was held in reasonable weather and provided country air and some kind of summer holiday. The families intermingled, inevitably leading to larger families and I lost track of family names! But they all seemed decent hard-working folk and Mr Collinson was justly proud of his own family. It was a great talk.

Now to modern times. We hope there will be many new members signing on 18 March – which is also the Annual General Meeting, where keen members come forth to make up the new Committee. Many ladies have taken office before and have been so good that we wish they could stay on but, like most groups, we have to share our abilities which, of course, makes the programme even more interesting. Every third year a new President is elected with her own bright ideas and she is supported by a friendly committee, so whether you are just responsible for one aspect of W.I. life, or are the Boss for three years, you can get a great deal of pleasure in the power that is yours!

And if you are a Bright Young Thing but haven't yet had the experience of Committee work, here's the chance to learn in the easiest way. Try your hand at the coffee machine, or make a lovely flower arrangement now and then – or produce three attractive prizes for the monthly raffle, or help with the sales table, or learn a new game, or sing – we have a fine choir. Everyone has a place in the Purton WI. Actually, young members with bright ideas would be extremely welcome as life is changing so much, so rapidly, that I for one cannot keep up with the latest range of clothes, or exciting drinks, or explain the words of some of the songs that young people sing so easily. Perhaps you could teach us about modern living.

There are, of course, higher echelons and you can have the joy of being caught up in the activities of Denman College, going on holiday to exciting places, learning a thousand hobbies with other Institutes – there are many other WIs around us in Wiltshire and every door is open to you. I joined as a modest – very modest – member and look at me now – my natural bullying has surfaced and developed and just awaits one of you to arrive and put me in my place (whatever that may be) ...

Don't forget the WI Quiz sheets are available, price £1.50, from Best One, In Touch Services, Andrew's Butchers and WI Committee members. Return date is 29 March.

See you on 18 March! At least it will be warmer in the evenings.

CONSTANCE REED, tel: 771571

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## Purton Cricket Club [purton.play-cricket.com](http://purton.play-cricket.com)



In February Craig Miles, selected as a potential England fast bowler of the future, travelled to South Africa to take part in an intensive skills and fitness programme. PCC looks forward to Craig's continuing progress and success in 2015.

On the home front the club's annual 'Race Night' will take place at the Red House on 25 April starting at 8.30 pm where we hope for good support and a successful evening to help us with funds to carry out essential repairs to the practice nets and wicket covers.

Early fixtures this season include one against Bournemouth 2<sup>nd</sup> XI where Neil Pack, a Purton player from the 1980s/1990s, is a current player and committee member. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain this year will be Aaron Lee and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI will be led by Phil Duffell. Most of last season's players have made themselves available for 2015.

### **From the Archives**

1865 – 150 YEARS AGO - On the 16/17 August Purton played against a team called Variegated Annuals. The result was a heavy defeat for the Purton team which scored 36 and 91 to the visitors' 174.

1965 – 50 YEARS AGO – The team picked for the first match of the season against Cheltenham Civil Service was:- J.Gardner, M.Crouch, M.Canter, A.Grant, B.Marchant, D.Rees, E.Dodson, D.Bisset, D.Evans, F.Eatwell and W.Benham.

*JOE GARDNER*



The winter league is nearing completion with both the A and D teams topping their respective divisions. The B and C teams are competing well and look like finishing in the top half of their divisions. Seventy-eight children have enjoyed the coaching throughout the winter months and are now looking forward to warmer sessions (as are their parents)!

The Saturday morning sessions for Junior Club Members recommence on 11 April and will run right through until 29 August.

The club is preparing for the summer season with the courts 'over the road' having been thoroughly cleaned in preparation for a lick of paint before play can commence.

Members will be asked to attend pre-season sessions this month and next in readiness for the selection of teams for the coming Swindon and District League Summer season.

On the social front the club is hosting a Bingo Night at the Red House on Saturday 28 March with 'eyes down' at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend what has become a very popular addition to the annual social nights.

Later in the year, around Wimbledon time, the club will be taking part in the 'Great British Tennis Weekend', an LTA initiative, to try and encourage more people (young and old) to participate in tennis. More information to follow nearer the time.

*NICOLA GARDNER*



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## Purton F.C.



After a period when the Hellenic side lost four games on the trot, Manager Justin Miller and his team have turned things around and currently lie 3<sup>rd</sup> in the League having gone their last 11 games without a defeat.

After the bad run of results the players have responded with some really good performances. With 8 games left to play (7 of which sadly will be away games with only 1 remaining at home against Clanfield at the Red House) the team will be hoping to maintain current form and hopefully end up at least in the top form.

Ben Carter, whose games have been limited, is the leading goal-getter having notched 7 goals followed by Ritchie Saunders with 5 and Joe Dorey and Dave Slattery on 3 a-piece.

The club has received excellent support during the season and we are most grateful to villagers who have come along and supported the lads. We have the best attendance record of all the clubs in our league and more than many clubs in the Premier League, a league above us.

Next month we will be notifying everyone of our Annual Presentation Night and AGM dates so please look out for those dates and times.

On the Youth front the Under 11s are at the top end of their league while the Under 16s are having an excellent season and look capable, as they did when they played at U15s level, of winning their league and are still in cup competitions. Sadly our Under 18s have not fared well, a lack of players at times meaning they have had to forfeit points by not being able to fulfil their fixtures at times. That has been a headache for their hardworking Manager Andy Cowan

*ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman/Hon Sec*

# Purton Magazine