

Purton *Magazine*



St Mary's Church, Purton
Photo: Barry Davies

December 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 <i>(Wed: 2 - 5pm; Sat)</i>	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	770775
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Minibus	Richard Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane	<i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>	
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

As November slips into an even darker December, it seems that Christmas becomes a much greater reality. Perhaps your first Christmas card has already arrived – but is it a positive or negative feeling about the sender when you open it? Maybe instead it's a mild feeling of panic that you have yet to start yours.

A recent Christmas planning survey of over 1000 people has revealed that at least 75% start planning festive menus in November – but here's the rub; 71% will still rush to the shops on 22 or 23 December to do the big Christmas shop. Apparently there will now be a "Mayhem Monday" – specifically 21 December this year – when the shops with perceived higher quality products will see the greatest increase.

Where does the time go? Here we are, several weeks before the big day and all seems calm. We can recall the smells of spices, pine and warm log fires while spending time with family and friends, quite probably with some crackers, silly hats and mildly annoying family games. And so the objective is clear – but getting from here to there usually seems to become an ever-increasingly frenetic ritual. Getting a present for so-and-so or realising that a long lost friend has sent you a card and you haven't reciprocated all grow hugely out of proportion in the run-up to Christmas.

From a distance of perhaps as much as four whole weeks, all that is needed is your diary and a pencil. The reason is that, within this issue of your magazine, there are many opportunities within the village between now and then for you to be able to complete most of the things on your to-do list and still have time to enjoy the local entertainments that are also listed.

However, many tinsel tangibles can often hide the real joy and peace that is available and so easily achieved from the pure pleasures of giving and sharing with all those around you – the best Christmas celebrations imaginable.

Before you get too involved with your Christmas preparations, please can we remind you that all contributions for the January magazine are required by 10 December so that our magazine distributors can circulate the next issue over the Christmas period. In closing we wish all readers and advertisers the happiest of Christmases and thank everyone, especially our volunteers, for helping to keep this magazine vibrant and viable.

3Bs

The sell-out success of 3Bs continues and the next event is on 4 April 2016
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34

years since the After 8 group began life in the village
- see [page 36](#)

>60

members of the Purton Walking Group who arrange fortnightly adventures
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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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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Christmas/New Year Office Closure: The Parish Council Offices and services will be closed from Wednesday 23 December at 5 pm until Monday 4 January 2016 at 9 am. On behalf of Purton Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Happy, Prosperous New Year.

Welcome our New Councillors: Six new councillors allocated to new committees and ready willing and able. Please welcome our new Councillors, full details available on the website and notice boards. Councillors Mike Fawcett, Scott Harflett, Neil Hooper, Mark Lewis, Chris Mason and John Saunders.

Cemetery Parking Notice: The Cemetery has a new sign which will be in operation during funerals only. *"No parking today, funeral in progress"*. This will enable the funeral cortege uninterrupted access when required. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Purton Footpaths: Purton Parish is lucky to have an extensive network of footpaths. At the last survey carried out by Wiltshire Council in 2012 they recorded some 160 footpaths with a total length of nearly seventy miles, some 350 stiles, 100 sleeper bridges and 100 kissing/bridleway gates. There are also about 5 miles of footpaths in Braydon Parish mainly in the area of Red Lodge.

The footpath team's challenge is to keep them all open for access and in good repair. They currently have two teams of volunteers which are referred to as 'the stile gangs', one is lead by George Young and the other by Peter Andrews. George's team goes out on a Monday morning and has been working in the western part of the parish this year. They have also carried out repairs to stiles and bridges. Peter's team goes out on a Tuesday morning. They have been working in the Bentham/Purton Stoke area this year. The Swindon Ramblers spend some time in our area carrying out clearing and minor repairs. This year they have been working in the Swindon side of our Parish.

Wiltshire Council and the landowners have a responsibility for keeping all footpaths open but unfortunately this does not always happen.

To keep all of these footpaths open and in a good condition we need more volunteers. The work involves trimming back vegetation at stiles, some strimming of footpaths which have a restricted width, adding "way marking" signs and the repair and reconstruction of broken stiles, bridges and handrails. It would be nice if we could cover all of our footpaths at least once a year. If you are able to volunteer to help in this work please contact the Parish Council Office on 771066 or email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk. You do not have to commit to working every week; it is all voluntary. It is very enjoyable and satisfying – the camaraderie of putting the world to rights; discovering local knowledge and exploring all of our footpaths.

Issues with the footpaths are reported to the Council Offices by the stile gangs and can also be reported by members of the public by phone or email as above or by calling into the Offices. Some problems can only be dealt with by Wiltshire Council ie: blocked stiles/locked gates. These reports are recorded on action lists to be dealt with either by the volunteers or by Wiltshire Council and are marked off

as they are actioned. These can be viewed on the Purton Council website.

There are just a few footpaths which are not currently open, mainly because they have been allowed to go out of use over many years. All footpaths are recorded on what is termed 'the definitive map' and if they are on the map then they should be available to walk. The footpath numbers of those which are currently unavailable can be viewed on the Parish website under Footpaths - Action Lists as above. There is ongoing dialogue with Wiltshire Council to make these footpaths available again.

A large copy of the definitive map is available to view on request at the village library. Copies of the map of Purton's parish with the footpaths can be purchased from the Council offices in various sizes. There are also two booklets for sale of suggested routes to walk around the Parish. Prices and available on request.

[You might be interested in joining the Purton Walking Group - see [page 13](#) for more information. Ed.]

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Monday 7 December Council meeting

A full list of Council meeting dates for 2016 is now available on our website and will be posted monthly in the magazine.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

Just one click away will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures, meet the staff, "did you knows", photographs and much more. If you have an event in the Parish that you would like us to promote on any of the above media sites please contact the Clerk on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call 771066.

Find us at :- Facebook – Purton Parish Council, Twitter - @PurtonPC

On our website you can join up to receive regular updates 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 www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Bassett Business Expo 2015

This free event for small businesses, freelancers and self-employed people has specialist advisors on hand with information and advice, pointing the way to the next step. There will be information stands, a programme of workshops and presentations, and plenty of time for networking with other small businesses.

Workshops on 5 December, (11 am to 3 pm) at Manor House Enterprise Centre, High Street (corner of Lime Kiln), Wootton Bassett include social media and marketing, staffing, business planning, websites, money issues, and customer care.

Businesses might like a free stand at the event.

Contact Jol on 01793 230708 or manorhouse@theenterprisecentre.co.uk. Further details can be found online at: www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk/expo

Christmas & New Year

Waste and Recycling Collection Changes

There will be no collections on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from Friday 25 December and restart on Saturday 9 January.

You can check your revised waste and recycling collection dates and print off your waste calendar at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

If you have paid to have your garden waste collected at home you can leave your real Christmas tree alongside your garden waste bin for collection between 9 and 31 January only. Alternatively they can be recycled at any of Wiltshire's 11 household recycling centres.

From 25 December to 8 January, household waste, black box and blue bin collections will be **one working day** later than usual. Back to normal by 11 January!

Household recycling centre opening hours

All household recycling centres will be closed from 1 pm on 24 December, and also all day on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January. At all other times the centres are open during their revised normal opening hours, 10 am - 4 pm, five days per week. Please check when your local household recycling centre is open before travelling. You can check the opening times at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste or on 0300 456 0102.

The Purton Household Recycling Centre (Mopes Lane) will be open 10 am to 1 pm on 24 December, closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day, open normal hours on Sunday 27, Monday 28, Thursday 31 December. Schedules are back to normal from 2 January onwards.

Please note that all household recycling centres are likely to be very busy over the Christmas and New Year period. Remember you can put out extra black box recycling by your box in separate plastic bags. Second black boxes and blue lidded bins are available to any resident free of charge.

Don't forget to recycle the following items this Christmas:

In your blue lidded recycling bin – Christmas cards, cardboard tubes, wrapping paper (not foil or plastic).

In your black box – Chocolate and biscuit tins, clean foil, including cake cases and washed foil turkey trays, Christmas card envelopes.

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.

Purton & District Age Concern



Richard Woodbridge is our new minibus co-ordinator. We are very grateful to Keith Hart for volunteering when we were looking for a co-ordinator twelve months ago and would like to thank him for all the hard work he has done during his time with the minibus service; it is much appreciated. If you wish to book the minibus Richard Woodbridge can be contacted on 770862.

By the time you get this magazine, our Christmas tree and lights should be on the Institute Building. Thanks go to Mick Looker and his group of friends for organising this. The Christmas decorations will be up in the Silver Threads and Village Halls in time for our Christmas parties.

Our Christmas vouchers and newsletters should be with you by the beginning of December. Please treat yourselves to something by spending your voucher at one of our supporting outlets. Thank you to all street wardens for delivering these items on our behalf, your help is much appreciated.

FUTURE EVENTS

Christmas Party – Our main Christmas party this year is on Saturday 5 December from 5 pm to 8.30 pm at the Village Hall. The cost is £5.00 and the entertainment will be provided by Bradon Forest School, who will perform a variety of entertainment. Please contact your street warden to book your place before Friday 27 November.

Christmas Market – Our Christmas market will be held on Saturday 12 December outside the Pavenhill shops. There will be sausage tasting, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, mistletoe and other festive items; also it's your last chance to buy our Christmas raffle tickets. Come along a grab yourself a bargain! Donations of cakes, books, bric-a-brac and festive items will be much appreciated – thank you.

Christmas Raffle – Our Christmas raffle tickets are on sale now. All committee members, street wardens and minibus personnel have tickets to sell or contact Tony on 770696. Donations of items we can give as raffle prizes will be much appreciated. The raffle draw will take place on Tuesday 15 December at our committee meeting in the Silver Threads Hall.

Carols under the tree – This will be held on Christmas Eve from 7 pm under the Christmas tree on the Institute Building. Music will be provided by Mark Blackwell and his musicians and warm mince pies and punch will be served during the interval. What a lovely way to start your Christmas festivities.

Burns Night Celebration – This will take place on Saturday 23 January 2016 at the Village Hall, the doors opening at 6.30 pm. The haggis is piped in before the start of the three-course meal, there is a licensed bar and a band with a caller for the dancing. Tickets cost £20 and are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339.

PAST EVENTS

October Mystery Tour – Our final tour of 2015 was enjoyed by all who attended and included a delicious lunch served by a friendly WI group. Several people have asked to return to this destination in the future. Watch this space!

3B's x 2 was sold out, the second time this year! Everyone seems to really enjoy what is a fun evening. Our thanks go to John & Brenda Lilley for organising the bingo and to everyone who helped out on the night. We had a very successful evening and made a profit of £622.91. For those of you who have been asking me, our next 3B's evening will be Friday 8 April 2016.

Our Antiques & Collectables Fayre was held on Sunday 18 October. It was a lovely social occasion and very well attended. We made a profit of £698.44, which is fantastic. Thanks go to all who helped out on the day and to those who made cakes for us to sell. Your support is always much appreciated.

INFORMATION

Fire Service & Bobby Van – If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 01225 756514 between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. *Note this is a new contact number.* If you need the Bobby Van please call 01225 794652.

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

Minibuses – Please contact Richard Woodbridge on 770862 if you would like to book the minibus. If you are thinking of volunteering as a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on the minibuses please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at andywhitepacmb@gmail.com. (New volunteers are always welcome.)

Introducer Service – A recent change has been made to the Introducer Service which should have a positive impact on Purton Age Concern. From now on, anyone who contacts Age UK Enterprises Ltd on 0800 032 6476 for a quote for one of their products or services, will generate a small amount of commission for Purton Age Concern even if the product or service isn't purchased.

Home Insurance, Car Insurance, Travel Insurance, Gas & Electricity, Funeral Plans, Annuity Service, Equity Release Advice Service, Hearing Aids, Personal Alarms, Stair Lifts, Mobility Scooters and Bathing Aids. If your home, car or travel insurance is due for renewal give Age UK a call on 0800 032 6476 for a quote. When prompted, tell them you got the telephone number from Purton Age Concern.

If you would like a product and services leaflet containing more information please contact Louise on 772558.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

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



ELLEN BLACKER

Tel: 07557 110414 or email me at rwbrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk

St Mary's CE Primary School

At the time of writing, we are entering a very exciting time of year for the children at St Mary's. All the activities and events relating to Christmas are just beginning. These include Christmas Plays, learning carols, Christmas Shopping organised by the PTA, a Christmas Disco evening, Christingle at the Church, visitors and many other events. The Christmas buzz is starting to be felt ...

We would like to wish the whole community a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Mrs NAOMI CLARKE, Head Teacher



Other News

As those of you who come into school will have seen, the Half Term Break saw the **redevelopment of the Foundation Stage outdoor area**. This has provided different zones for the children to use and enabled the staff to zone their learning much more easily.

We welcome our new SENCO, Mrs Lisa Tew to the staff team (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). Mrs Tew has many years of experience leading special educational needs in a school in Swindon and will provide us with some great expertise in this area. Mrs Tew will be in school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

On Wednesday 4 November the Girl's Football Team spent the afternoon at St Sampson's School at a **Cluster Football Festival**. They took part against 6 other teams in mini games. The aim of the afternoon was for it to be a fun event to start getting to know the other teams, have a chance to test out their skills and have some fun! Even though there were no points being scored, our two teams did an exceptional job winning 8 of their 10 games. There was even the chance at the end for a friendly game against both teams, which the girls thoroughly enjoyed! A well organised event and 13 very happy and proud girls!

Miss PALMER

Year 3 News

The children returned to school full of enthusiasm. Year 3 enjoyed their visit to Bradon Forest Library to discover and learn all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, and performing their Wind in the Willows songs during their sharing assembly on Friday. Excitement built as the performance of 'The Wind in the Willows' by the Flying Pizza Company crept closer (25 November).

Weather allowing, the children will have completed their 'Walk safe' guidance on 24 November. The sessions focus on road safety when walking near traffic.

In Year 3, we encourage the children to 'Show and Tell' their news, achievements, and items of interest. This gives the children an opportunity to speak in a relaxed environment to their peers, boosting their self-esteem and confidence.

Mrs LAMBE

Book Shop

The book shop remains very popular and continues to provide books at a very reasonable price for the children. Thank you to Mrs Southern and Mrs Howse who organise and run this valuable resource for our school. Parents, children and other family members have enjoyed browsing the shelves and purchasing some lovely books recently.

Remembrance

A group of children and members of staff attended the Remembrance service at the Cenotaph on 11 November. We would like to thank the Royal British Legion and others who made our children feel so welcome and ensured that they were able to take part in this important community event.

“We were very proud to be part of the experience of going to the Cenotaph. We got to think of all the people who had lost their lives, their family and friends. We remembered those who had died for us. We will always remember them at the Cenotaph. We spent two minutes in silence and put a small cross into the ground with the others.”

KIRSTY and EVIE

Purton & District Guide Dogs

We have a Jumble Sale on Saturday 9 January in the Silver Threads Hall, starting at 2 pm plus Bric-a-Brac, Raffle and Refreshments of tea coffee and biscuits. We will be there to receive any donated items from 12 o'clock.

The Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. And many thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group.



Purton Scarecrow: Defibrillator Update

We are delighted to say that a second defibrillator will soon be installed in the village. The Purton Carnival Committee has generously donated the funds to enable us to purchase another set of equipment: many thanks to them all. Once again, we are purchasing the defibrillator through the Community Heartbeat Trust, a charity whose staff advise and support us with everything. This one will be located on the outside of The Royal George pub in Pavenhill and will be supervised by the landlady Mel Gravestock. A big thanks to Mel for arranging this with the brewery.

As Purton is a large village it is advisable to have this type of equipment situated at more than one location because in an emergency the sooner a defibrillator is used the better. Shortly after it is installed we shall arrange another Awareness Session at The Royal George for anyone who is keen to learn about defibrillator use.

We plan to hold more fundraising events in the future to ensure that funds remain available for insurance and maintenance of the defibrillators and to replace batteries and other pieces of the equipment. Purton Parish Council has been very supportive throughout this process and we wish to offer a big thank-you to all of the team there. There is a fund that the Parish Council administers for us: any donations towards defibrillator maintenance may be sent to the Parish Clerk Debbie Lawrence.

Thank you again to everyone who has been so supportive.

ALI

Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you very much to all those who came to Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall to support the Macmillan coffee morning on 2 October. The generosity of all who attended and those who gave donations raised the fantastic sum of £690.22 and with £65.45 Christmas card sales made a grand total of £755.67.

I am indebted to the willing helpers who worked so hard to help make the very busy morning a success. 2015 is the 25th year the coffee mornings have been raising funds for Macmillan and it was good to see so many friends and neighbours meeting for coffee to support the event.

VILMA MUNRO

Send Christmas Greetings with Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight is asking people to wish their colleagues a Merry Christmas on one of their festive posters and donate what they would have spent on cards to support those with sight loss.

Writing Christmas cards to everyone in the workplace can be time consuming and occasionally someone gets forgotten. Wiltshire Sight has come up with a solution. A festive Christmas tree poster on which everyone can write a message on a bauble and donate money saved. It is simple; it saves time and it enables Wiltshire Sight to continue its work with people of all ages who are visually impaired.

"I hope that offices across Wiltshire and Swindon will get behind this very simple idea," said Eleanor Brown, a volunteer organising the campaign. She continued, "Every workplace can make such a difference to people living with sight loss. People will still be able to spread the Christmas spirit at work but save themselves the effort of writing cards."

If your workplace would like a Christmas Greeting pack please e-mail ebrown@wiltshiresight.org.uk or call 01380 739113.



Shoebox News

I am very pleased to tell you that, this year, we have sent 422 filled shoe boxes from Purton for the children of Operation Christmas Child. They were collected and taken to the distribution depot at Westbury, where they will be packed into large cartons and sent to one of 5 countries. A cheque has been sent to Samaritans Purse head office for £1270 to cover the cost of transporting our boxes.

We will know where our boxes went and hopefully, I will be able to report on this in the January issue of the magazine. Our house was free of shoebox items for all of 7 hours! Then the front door bell rang and yes, it was items suitable for next year. The same thing happened the next morning. So, we begin again for 2016. If you do have anything that you think would be suitable, including of course, empty shoe boxes, please do not hesitate to drop them off, as I do have storage space.

What else can I say? except THANK YOU to so many of you, for helping to make this year's project so successful.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Co-ordinator



T'ai Chi Group

Would you like to improve your balance and posture and reduce your risk of falls? Are you age 50+? If you have answered yes to these questions why not join the T'ai Chi class held at 2 pm on Thursday afternoons at the Millennium Hall in Purton.

The group is run by Steve Rouse, a qualified T'ai Chi instructor. We practice a gentle form of T'ai Chi called Qigong which is ideal for people with balance problems, as some of the moves can be done while sitting down. The cost is £3 per session.

If you would like further information please contact Mick Hull on 772453 or come along on a Thursday afternoon to meet the friendly group of participants.

Purton Walking Group

Purton Walking Group was set up in January 2011 with the aim of having two walks of around 5 miles each month organised by the members. We now have over 60 members who take their turn in organising the walks, emailing out the details about a week beforehand. Some of our walks are local, some we drive to, sharing cars. In addition we sometimes finish near a hostelry where we can have refreshments, though there is no pressure to do this. Our normal start time is 10 am, meeting in the Village Hall car park. We can have any number on our walks, from about 6 to over 20.

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

If you would like to find out more or to join us then contact Sheila Fowler: fowler72@waitrose.com or Susan Pagett: susan_pagett@hotmail.co.uk

There is an article by the Parish Council on footpaths in Purton on [page 5](#).

Purton Silver Threads

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past year. We have received a very generous gift from the Carnival Committee of £400, to be used for the purchase of tables and other items for the benefit of the hall. We do appreciate this donation and wish the Committee every success for future fundraising during 2016.

The Silver Threads meet every other Tuesday at 2 pm when a variety of entertainment is provided (see Diary Pages). Members are treated to speakers, choirs and recently the sharing of memories of childhood holidays – ice cream cones with sprinkles were available for all! Bernice is kindly putting together the programme for 2016, which looks interesting and fun! Do come along and have a taster!

We would like to thank the ladies who provide the delicious cakes at all out meetings and also the minibus drivers and 'shotguns' who provide the transport. Thank you to the Age Concern Committee for decorating the hall for the festive season. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

JENNY BARNES, tel. 770339

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.



What is a generic medicine?

When drugs are first developed and marketed by drug companies they are protected by a patent for a number of years. When this patent expires then other drug companies can begin to produce and market the same medicines to exactly the same formula and standards. The effect of these 'generic' medicines is exactly the same as the branded item. The cost will, however, be significantly less. This is because the prices of the original branded forms have to include an element to cover the research and development costs. Without this protection drug companies would not be so keen on developing new treatments.

Therefore patients who have repeat prescriptions may have noticed that sometimes the 'brand' of their medicine has changed. As explained above, patients can be reassured that these medicines are just as effective as the original branded version and are subject to the same rigorous checks and quality control.

As you may realise, the NHS is under severe financial pressures and generic prescribing is one way of reducing costs without compromising the quality of patient treatment. The move to increase generic prescribing is a government initiative, so please do not complain to receptionists who are unable to do anything to alter the situation.

Vintage Tea Party, Saturday 16 January 3 - 5 pm, Purton Village Hall

We will be holding our second Vintage Tea Party on Saturday 16 January. Money raised from this will be given to the Surgery to support the recently installed patient check-in system. The new system is working well and has reduced queues at the desk thereby enabling receptionists to spend more time on incoming calls and help patients with longer, more complicated queries.

Again PADS is providing entertainment. Tickets are £8 and are now available from Purton Surgery, or from any member of G4P. Do come and support us.

Information Evening – Arthritis, Tuesday 13 October - Our second evening on Arthritis was well attended and we thank Dr David Collins, Consultant Rheumatologist and Director of Research at Great Western Hospital, for his very interesting and informative talk.

Heart Matters Evening – Monday 9 November – This was also a very interesting and well-attended evening when Dr William McCrea, Consultant Cardiologist from Great Western Hospital dealt with his subject in an entertaining manner. It is likely that following Dr McCrea's advice many of those present returned home to enjoy a glass of red wine! Keith Smith, Chair of British Heart Foundation, Swindon explained the work of the BHF, giving a breakdown of all the important research and clinical staffing which are funded by donations to the charity and at the end of the evening the donations made by those present will enable G4P to send a cheque to BHF to support its work.

Ordering Repeat Prescriptions – Please remember to allow 3 working days when ordering repeat medication and be mindful of the coming Bank Holidays over Christmas and New Year.

Appointments – When making an appointment please note which surgery your appointment is for, i.e. Purton or Green Gable, Cricklade Surgery. It is very easy to attend the wrong surgery – it has been done!

Online appointments – The surgery is normally able to offer appointments within two working days, though patients may not be able to see their doctor of choice. Please note that on-line appointments are separate from those made with receptionists who do not have access to online appointments.

'Flu and Shingles Clinics – Over the two Saturdays in October more than 1200 patients received 'flu vaccinations and a lot of positive feedback was received regarding the organisation of these clinics. Notification regarding shingles vaccines will shortly be sent out to those eligible this year.

Practice website – The website is full of useful information, so do check it regularly – www.purtonurgery.co.uk

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

The December 2005 issue of Purton Magazine had details of two festive family walks with a quiz for younger folk. Purton is steeped in history and is rich from many benefactors over the years and the quiz was a great effort to help children make more sense out of their surroundings.

The two walks were carefully constructed and contributed by Roy and Marion Hobbs. Both walks start from the Red House car park and you can download the article from www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/2005-12_dec.pdf where it can be found on pages 19 and 20. Although the quiz was designed for ages 11 and under, it is also an interesting introduction to a little of Purton's history that new readers and residents might enjoy – although boots will be needed for the longer, muddier, but more scenic walk.

If you are worrying about Christmas presents, that issue also reproduced a true story taken from the 2001 Recipe Book published by the North Shields Corps of the Salvation Army. A small, white envelope was stuck among the branches of the family Christmas tree but without a name or inscription and certainly provides another angle on present giving. You can read the story using the internet link above and it appears on [page 5](#) of the on-line version of Purton Magazine.

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

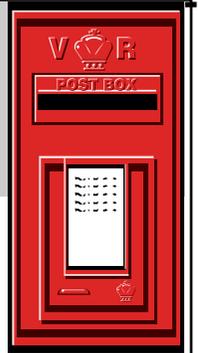
Prayer for Purton

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

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

PURTON POSTBAG

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



■ PLANNING

With the population growing and more housing required and possibly in our Purton, area, I wonder if planners will heed my advice. In my area of Proud Close, where I have lived since 1989, we had 2 allocated parking spaces for each property. Applications for extensions were applied for as years went by and I knew people had growing families, but I voiced my concerns that the parking allocation would be reduced with extensions taking up the 2 allocated spaces, thus resulting in on-road parking. We have, in fact, experienced a problem with a Fire Engine not having immediate access to a property fire.

We do have really good neighbours who would help anyone in need, but I now have to question attitudes to others as I try to maintain the areas outside of my property around parked vehicles that are left there daily, hence people not wanting to inconvenience themselves but seeing no problem inconveniencing me. There are a few neighbours who have that lovely attitude of 'consideration' but sadly not all.

I have to have stones to stop parking on the grass areas that are to the exterior of my property, signs to keep the side access clear, and have to trim and mow around parked vehicles and negotiate vehicles parked within turning circles.

I have, myself, had a garage extension built but have maintained my own parking facilities as well.

Parking is a problem but Planners,

please consider the implications of granting permission for extensions and the problems it can cause especially when I now find my property surrounded by other people's vehicles as their own parking allocation has disappeared for one reason or another.

Kind regards,

Chris Gleed (FAIRSO)

■ VERA LOCKE

Janice and family wish to thank everyone for the many lovely flowers, cards and messages of condolence also donations received in memory of mum for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Service.

Our thanks to all who attended the service at the crematorium and to Revd Judith Wells for the lovely service and special tribute to mum's long life of 103 years.

Janice Simpkins

■ IS 20 PLENTY?

I was following a car up Purton High Street the other day crawling along past the traffic-calming measure known as parked cars in the section close to the vets. Once we got past the obstruction and the road cleared, the car in front roared away at more than 30mph, with a "20 is Plenty" notice taped in the back window ...

Rick Dixon



Student Success at LGE Dance, Drama & Music Festival



Year 8 student Tamara Lee was very busy over half-term, winning medals and cups for her dancing, singing and acting performances at the recent Longwell Green Eisteddfod Festival. Tamara came first in two solo dance performances as well as a dance duet. Tamara dances with the Tamwood School and loves performing on stage.

Bradon Forest School in Remembrance

On Remembrance Sunday Senior Prefects, Ben Etheridge and Erin Donnelly, laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Purton on behalf of all the students and staff at Bradon Forest School. Alongside the wreath this year were 14 ceramic poppies made by Mrs Sally Cooke from the school's Art Department. Each of the ceramic poppies were named and represented a soldier from Purton who died during World War 1. The beautiful ceramic poppies were made in a variety of colours to indicate where each soldier had died.



Red poppies for those soldiers that had perished on the Western Front, white poppies for India and mixed coloured Turkish poppies for those that were lost at Gallipoli.

It was during the World War 1 centenary year last year that local military historian Mr Bob Lloyd's remembrance idea became a reality when Art Technician Sally Cooke Bradon Forest designed and created the first three ceramic poppies in remembrance of three young men from the Purton area.

This is the second year that the ceramic poppies have been laid at the Purton Memorial. In future years Mr Lloyd's plan is to create a total of 93 ceramic poppies to commemorate all those who lost their lives from Purton during World War 1.



A rip-roaring tale of living gargoyles, hunters, wily foxes and dodgy politicians
Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 December 2015
7.30 pm
Tickets: £5. Concessions £4
Box office: 01793 773981
www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk

Bradon Forest School has been focusing on remembrance early in November with special assemblies organised by Miss Mazelin from the History Department. The Year 7 assembly was led by Mr Geraint Hughes from the local Purton branch of the Royal British Legion. *Mr Hughes commented, "I am gratified and moved that the school still sees the importance of commemorating Remembrance Sunday."*

Christmas Carol

Wednesday 16 December 2015
7 pm
St Mary's Church, Purton
Donations welcome for the Church
www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk

PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Under 5s' Community
Playgroup

Christmas Bazaar

Purton Village Hall
Sunday 6 December
2 - 4 pm

Stalls, games, crafts
and meet Father Christmas.

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Christmas Party

Saturday 5 December
5 pm - 8.30 pm
at the Village Hall
Cost £5.00

Join us for festive fun!

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Christmas Market

Saturday 12 December : 9 am -
12 noon

Outside Pavenhill Shops
Lots of Christmas bargains!

Purton Twinning Association Quiz

Silver Threads Hall
Friday 18 December at 7.30 pm

Teams of up to 6
£6 per person
to include a supper

Licensed Bar
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and Last
Tel 770160 to book

Purton Patient Participation
Group, G4P

Vintage Tea Party

Saturday 16 January, 3-5pm
With entertainment from PADS
Tickets £8 from Purton Surgery

Bradon Forest School
India Link

Christmas Fair

Saturday 5 December
12.30 pm - 3.30 pm
Silver Threads Hall

£2.50 on entry (£1 for children)
All money raised will go to our India
Link Fund, thank you!

Sophie and Harriett Kell - 01793
770217 / 07471 203701



Brinwell Singers and Friends Charity Carol Concert in aid of Prospect Hospice

Sunday 13 December at 4 pm
at Purton Club

(entrance at the rear)
Admission £2 for adults,
Children Free
Teas and Coffees and Minced
Pies

Licensed Bar available
01793 759069 for details

Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's Church
Sunday 27 December at 6 pm
With St Mary's Church Choir &
members of Chedworth Band
Followed by
mince pies & mulled wine

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Carols under the tree

Wednesday 24 December at 7 pm
All your favourite carols with
Mince pies and punch!

Purton Carnival
Christmas Bingo

Silver Threads Club
Wednesday 2 December 7.30 pm
Enter on the night
£10.00

Including: The night's bingo, the
flyer & tea or coffee and mince pie

Purton Carnival
**Christmas Quiz (in
November)**

Royal George
Friday 27 November at 7.30 pm
Enter on the night team of up to
4 people
£10.00 per team

PURTON AGE CONCERN
Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 23 January 2016
At the Village Hall
Doors open at 6.30 pm
Tickets cost £20 and include a
3-course meal

Tickets available from
Jenny Barnes on 770339

Classic Christmas Carols

at St Mary's Church
Sunday 13 December at 6 pm
With Bradon Forest Musicians &
St Mary's Church Choir
Followed by pies & punch

Royal Wootton Bassett
Choral Society
Concert for Christmas

Monday 7 December at
the Methodist Church,
High Street, RWB.
Starts at 7.30 pm.
Free admission retiring
collection.

Sing 4/4 Community Choir
Musical Director Mary New
With guest musicians and soloists
Including the Purton Pealers hand-bell
group

present their annual seasonal celebration

"The Spirit of Christmas"

PURTON VILLAGE HALL
Thursday 10 December at 7.45 pm
Tickets £6:50 (including light
refreshments)
Available from Choir Members
and 'In Touch Services'

Enquiries Mary New 01793 770630
This Choir supports local charities

Purton Carnival
**Santa comes to:
Top of Purton**

from 6 pm Thursday 17 December

Bottom of Purton

from 6 pm Friday 18 December

Guide Dogs
Purton Support Group
Will be holding a

JUMBLE SALE

In the Silver Threads Hall
on Saturday 9 January
from 2 pm to 4 pm

Jubilee Gardens Project
Purton Stoke
Christmas Open Day

Saturday 5 December
10 am - 2 pm
Pickled Shallots/Onions Pickled
Eggs Pickled Cabbage Chutney
Cakes Bulbs
Cyclamen Christmas Wreaths
Refreshments Raffle Tombola
Free Admission

We Record ...

Baptism at St Mary's Church:

23 October Alexander Shunsuke Toyoda Hudson

Funeral sat St Mary's Church:

5 October Carol Ann O'Hara (72)

20 October Marion Joy New (89)

Funerals at Kingsdown Crematorium:

15 October Peter Christopher Gardner (70)

9 November Vera Maud Locke (103)

11 November Eileen Barbara Price (88)

Funeral at the Millennium Hall:

14 September Pearl Magun (94)

In Memoriam:

27 December 1915

Albert Parsons, 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, died of wounds received. He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His headstone inscription reads "Peace perfect peace, the strife is over, the battle done".

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 ...



Volunteers needed to help at Purton Library

We are currently looking for extra volunteers to get involved at Purton Library. Our Community Library Volunteers operate the library during its opening hours. This is a great role if you enjoy meeting people of all ages and have a love of books and reading.

Our volunteers provide a friendly welcome to all visitors and assist them with using the library services. This includes dealing with straightforward enquiries; assisting with the self-service machines, shelving the stock and helping customers to log onto the public access computers.

We are looking for volunteers who can be flexible about their availability and are able to do a minimum of two sessions per month. Volunteer sessions normally last between 2 to 3 hours. Please see below for the current volunteer-operated opening hours. All volunteer sessions are within these opening hours:

Purton Library opening hours

Monday	2 - 5 pm	Wednesday	10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday	2 - 7 pm	Friday	2 - 5 pm

If you are interested in volunteering at Purton Library and would like further details about the Community Library Volunteer role please contact Jane Hunt either on 01225 713792 or by email at jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Seasonal events provide a backdrop for unit programmes. The Rainbows got the paint pots out to create night-time firework pictures and 2nd Purton Brownies held a bonfire-themed evening which included a treasure hunt in the dark and edible bonfires. The Rainbows also painted poppies for Remembrance Day whilst Brownies, Guides and Rangers joined with other members of the community for the Act of Remembrance at the cenotaph.

Lots of promises have been made or renewed: Isabelle, Kennedy and Sophie in Rainbows, Eavie, Anna and Lauren in 1st Purton Brownies and Ellie, Rachael, Scarlett and Anna in 2nd Purton Brownies.

Community action has been a focus this month. 2nd Purton Brownies held a fundraising evening for Macmillan organised by their eldest Brownies. Each six had a sideshow. Summer ran a cake stall, Lauren and Lucy ran a teddy tombola and Amber and Rhiannon ran a raffle. It was a very successful evening, raising £142 thanks to the support of families and friends. Rangers have decorated and filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child charity. The gifts are given to girls and boys around the world who may not otherwise receive a Christmas present.

Despite the rainy weather, the Guides haven't been confined to the hall. They've been on a night hike around Purton as well as a day of activities at the County Campsite including tent pitching, compass work, cooking pancakes on an open fire, morse code bracelets and learning about knots which resulted in gaining the Backpacker's challenge badge. Some of the Guides also joined with others in the Division for adventures inspired by books on a weekend away: archery, muggle quidditch and a spooky night-time walk were some of their activities.

A date to put in your diaries is Tuesday 22 December when 1st Purton Brownies will be carol singing; look and listen out for them outside the shops at The Parade that evening around 6.45 to 7.15 pm, or better still, come and join in with the singing.

We're delighted that we've been able to say welcome back to some volunteers: Libbi, who was once a Rainbow, is now volunteering as a Young Leader with the Rainbow unit; Beth has returned to 1st Purton Brownies for the service element of her Silver DofE Award, and Kate has joined the Ranger unit as a Leader in Training, having previously been a Rainbow, Guide and Young Leader.

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

www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested
or www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



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 Richard Woodbridge, tel. 770862.

BOB TINSON

Purton Diary - December 2015

2	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
3	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
4	F	7.30pm	Historical Society Annual Christmas Social, Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Dodecantus Christmas Concert, St Giles' Church, Tockenham
5	Sa	10.00am	to 2pm: Christmas Open Day at Jubilee Gardens Project
		10.00am	to 4.30pm: Christmas Market at Purton House Farm Shop
		12.30pm	to 3.30pm: India Link Christmas Fair at Silver Threads Hall
		5.00pm	to 8.30pm: Age Concern Christmas Party at the Village Hall
<hr/>			
6	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	to 4.30pm: Christmas Market at Purton House Farm Shop
		10.30am	UJC Anniversary Service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
		2.00pm	Purton Under 5s' Christmas Bazaar, Village Hall
7	M	7.30pm	RWB Choral Society concert at RWB Methodist Church
8	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Sylvia Freemantle - <i>Origins of Christmas</i>
		8.00pm	After 8: Christmas Sing along at Mary S's
9	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship Christmas Meeting at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
10	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
		7.45pm	Spirit of Christmas concert by Sing 4 Four at Village Hall
11	F		100th Anniversary of opening of Toc H - see page 42
		9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
12	Sa	9.00am	to 12noon: Age Concern Christmas Market at Pavenhill shops
<hr/>			
13	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion & Baptism at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Brinwell Singers carol concert at Purton Club
		6.00pm	Classic Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church with the Church Choir and Bradon Forest Musicians
14	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
		7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Carols, Poems & Readings
15	Tu	4.00pm	Last posting for Scouts' Christmas Post!
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
16	W	10.00am	to 12 noon: Carols at Coffee & Chat. Come along, sing your favourite carols, enjoy some festive food. Everyone welcome
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.00pm	Purton Evening W.I. Birthday Meeting at Silver Threads Hall

17	Th	6.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : Santa comes to top of Purton, courtesy of Carnival
18	F	6.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : Santa comes to bottom of Purton
		7.30pm	Twining Association Quiz at Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Christmas Concert, Holy Rood Church, Groundwell Road, Swindon
20	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Carol Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Cricklade Band concert at The Club at Cricklade
21	M		Winter Solstice
22	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
24	Th	4.00pm	Village Carol Service at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Age Concern Carols under the tree at The Institute
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St Mary's Church
25	F		Christmas Day
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
26	Sa		Boxing Day
27	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's Church
28	M		Bank Holiday
31	Th		New Year's Eve
		1.30pm	<i>to 4pm and 4.45 to 7.15pm</i> : Blood Donor sessions at Village Hall www.blood.co.uk

Every week

Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11am</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 11am</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

 3 December
  11 December
  18 December
  25 December

If your Club or Organisation's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
 Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk
 Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

Pips: Growing funds and momentum

Purton Food Festival on 14 November was a great success and although totals are not yet available, money raised from this event will help the ever-growing funds of the Pips Community Café project. It's nearly two years since the



concept of the Community Café was first discussed and a great deal of local interest and support has helped the project progress significantly in that time.

We have now received a signed agreement from Purton Club, allowing us to use the Function Room from Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 2 pm. The Club is letting us use the room rent-free and this generous arrangement will greatly assist the financial viability of the Café once it is open. We'd like to thank the Club committee for the time and consideration they have given our proposals, this stands us in good stead for a positive long-term working relationship, which should hopefully see benefits for both parties.

With the generous help of MJF CAD Solutions we were able to submit detailed plans to Wiltshire Council for the building of a kitchen and accessible toilet at our agreed venue. We are hoping to receive a decision as to whether planning permission is granted before the end of the year.

News of the Café's progress has reached various organisations who have expressed an interest in using the facility for the benefit of local people. The Purton Parish Plan calls for a coffee shop to provide internet services in the village, which can be used to help those who don't have access to a computer or the internet. We have also been approached by the Wiltshire Youth Community Officer who, following the closure of Purton Youth Centre, is seeking to use the Café to host an after-school club.

We have obtained an estimate for building and equipping the kitchen and accessible toilet, and making a few changes to the room in order to make it fit for purpose as a Café. This cost is approximately £45,000, and we have been busy, behind the scenes, seeking grants and other methods of financial support.

To date, we have received or have applied for the following sums: Purton Carnival grant (£200), donations and loans from individuals (£5,800), Prince's Countryside Fund (applied for £17,000), Wiltshire Council Community Fund (applied for £5,000, we will be attending the board meeting to present our application), Purton Parish Council grant (amount TBC).

We have submitted an Expression of Interest to the Landfill Community Fund and they have indicated they will welcome a full application for a grant of up to £10,000 when new funds become available.

We have also had an offer from a local company to carry out the electrical work for the build, and would be keen to hear from any other local trades who feel they have the necessary skills to help get the Café up and running.

We will continue researching and applying for financial support and welcome any donations or loans from individuals or local businesses. If you would like to help the project, please contact David Nettleton, tel: 772298 or email: david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Pips Community Café Project Team

Gaffer's Tales

Hello Folks. Pigs. Very useful are pigs, you can use every part of them, except their squeals. They are misjudged too, when people say 'you dirty pig'. They are actually very clean animals, yes they are. They like to wallow in mud as they don't sweat – a bit of mud on them helps them keep cool. When they are in pens for whatever reason, they do all their droppings in one place, keeping the rest of the pen clean.

The first pig I owned was a wedding present from an uncle. Different! It was an in-pig (pregnant) gilt, which means a first-time mum. She was a large white breed, quite a friendly animal. I housed her in an old railway van, made of wood, very sturdy as all the old GWR products were. I re-felted the roof so it was very cosy. She had a paddock to roam in, and wallow. She gave birth not long after she arrived, and produced 15 little pink piglets. Sadly she was a bit clumsy and lay on some of them, killing them. When a pig gives birth (farrows), she makes a 'nest' with the straw bedding, and the piglets are born at about five-minute intervals. The new borns find their way round to their mum's tummy, and latch on to one of her teats. A pig has 12-14 teats, and each piglet seems to go to the same one each time! It's quite a sight seeing 8-10 piglets sucking away, and their mother grunting contentedly.

My first pig reared 12 out of the 15 – for a gilt who had never been a mother before, that was very good. I enjoyed taking a little piglet indoors to show my young children, who were very excited and stroked the little animal. The little ones grew very fast and when they were 8 weeks old, I sold them as weaners to a farmer to raise them for pork or bacon. Oaah! I increased the herd by buying some more sows. These were black and white ones, the breed of Wessex Saddle Backs, renowned for being good mums. I also had two Welsh pigs, which were very good for producing bacon. As with sheep, you have to get them pregnant a while after weaning, so off I go in my Morris van to hire a boar. I get one from a local farmer. The boar was a Welsh breed, lovely fellah, ears forward over his eyes, and rings in his nose to stop him rooting up all the grass in the paddock. He was called Arthur. I hired him several times during my pig stage. He did his work well and was easy to handle.

I didn't have much trouble with the pigs, an exception being one sow farrowed and didn't seem to have any milk for her babies, so I called the vet. He came and examined the sow and said he had a drug that might help, called Oxytocin. The vet injected the drug and waited to see what happened. Well, a few minutes later there was a fountain of milk, the little piglets were put with mum, and everybody was happy.

Sometimes I used Oxytocin on cows when they would not let their milk down, but that can lead to the cow getting addicted to it, as for the pigs. It was a rewarding and satisfying part of my farming life. After ten years they were all gone, and I turned my attention to something completely different: Bees. I kept them for about ten years too, but that's another story. Bye for now.

GAFFER

Jubilee Gardens Project, Purton Stoke

Our Christmas Open Day is on Saturday 5 December from 10 am to 2 pm.

Look out for our pickled shallots and onions, pickled eggs, pickled cabbage, chutney, cakes and bulbs. Also cyclamen and Christmas wreaths.

Refreshments, raffle and tombola. Free admission!

Great War Project

Part 29 December 1915

In December 1915, the following men with Purton connections were mobilised:

To France:

Richard Beasant, "C" Battery, 88th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery
John Reginald Lane, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
Frederick Walter Sutton, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
Bertie Woodward, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry

To Gallipoli:

Charles Reginald Edmonds, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. (3 Dec 1915)

To Egypt:

Elliott Leonard Woolford, Royal Army Medical Corps

Western Front:

Albert Parsons of Purton (*pictured*) had been in France with 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps since March 1915. On 13 November his group was moved from Bethune to Fosse Cottages in preparation for taking over the Front Line just north of Hohenzollern Redoubt. They were moved again on 30 November to billets in Beuvry, holding the same line and alternating A and C Companies into Z1 trenches, and B and D Companies to billets every three days. On 24 December a mine exploded near Hohenzollern but, although there was much enemy shelling, there were no casualties.



Albert died of wounds received in the trenches, aged 21, on 27 December 1915. He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery (*left*), Pas de Calais, France. His headstone inscription reads "Peace perfect peace, the strife is over the battle done".

Reorganisation & Conscription:

The British and French High Commands were changed drastically in December. General Joseph Joffre became Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies on 3 December, with General Castelnau appointed as his Chief of Staff on the 9th. The French President, Raymond Poincaré, had appointed Aristide Briand as Prime Minister back in October 1915, and Briand formed a "war government" on 9 December.

On the British side, Field Marshal Sir John French resigned as Commander-in-Chief of the British armies in France and Flanders on 15 December. General Sir Douglas Haig was appointed as his replacement. Lieut-Gen. Sir A.J. Murray was replaced as Chief of the Imperial General Staff by Lieut-Gen. Sir William Robertson and Lieut-Gen L. E. Kiggell became Chief of the General Staff.

Recognising that volunteer enlistments were not keeping pace with casualties, compulsory military service was brought in on 28 December. Single men would be conscripted before married men.

Gallipoli:

Hardly had 18-year-old Charles Edmonds arrived at Gallipoli, than the rules were changed. On 8 December the allied forces at Anzac Cove and Suvla Bay were ordered to evacuate; by 20 December the evacuation was complete. Then on 28 December the British and Indian force at Cape Helles was ordered to evacuate, with the remainder of the Gallipoli Peninsula forces ordered out on the 28th. The last units of the Indian Expeditionary Force left, bound for Egypt, on New Year's Eve.

What had seemed back in April 1915 to be an easy stroll into Istanbul, had resulted in no strategic gain for the loss of:

Ottoman Empire:	174,800 casualties	(56,600 deaths)
United Kingdom:	120,200 casualties	(34,100 deaths)
France:	27,200 casualties	(9,800 deaths)
Australia:	28,200 casualties	(8,700 deaths)
New Zealand:	7,500 casualties	(1,600 deaths)
India:	4,800 casualties	(1,400 deaths)
Canada:	142 casualties	(49 deaths)

(Figures rounded)

Serbia:

All was over bar the retreat. Austro-Hungarian forces continued their push into Montenegro. As the Bulgarians and Austrians closed in to wipe out final resistance, French troops withdrew back to Salonika, and the Serbian Government and military headquarters were set up at Scutari in Albania (Shkodër)

After fighting at Kosturino in modern-day FYR Macedonia, British forces began their retreat back to Greece on 7 December.

The neutral Greeks weren't helping the allied withdrawals, so on 6 December the British Government tried to put economic pressure on Greece by making the wartime "export restrictions" apply to that country and the French General Sarrail demanded full withdrawal of Greek troops from Salonika. The Greek Government refused to withdraw from its own territory.

By 13 December, Britain partially relaxed its economic pressure and the last Allied forces in Macedonia withdrew into Greek territory on the 15th.

The Bulgarian and Greek General Staffs concluded an agreement establishing a temporary neutral zone along the Greek frontier. However on 30 December the Consuls of the Central Power nations were arrested in Salonika and deported.

At Sea:

On 17 December the German light cruiser SMS Bremen was sunk after hitting Russian mines in the Baltic. Most of her crew of 290 men were lost.

HMHS Britannic departed from Liverpool on her maiden voyage as a hospital ship on 23 December. Then on 30 December the armoured cruiser HMS Natal blew up in Cromarty Firth as result of series of internal explosions, possibly due to faulty cordite. Around 405 were killed.

In the Air:

Powered flight, from being a flimsy, whimsical invention in 1903, made headway with the first all-metal aircraft, a Junkers J-1, which had its test flight in Germany in December 1915. This aircraft became known as the "Tin Donkey".

Other News:

On 8 December, John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields* appeared anonymously in "Punch" magazine.

In the US, the government demanded that Germany withdraw its military (von Papen) and naval (Karl Boy-Ed) attachés from the Embassy in Washington for alleged complicity in the planning of acts of sabotage. They were recalled to Germany on 10 December.

Also on 10 December, the 1 millionth Ford car rolled off the assembly line at the River Rouge Plant in Detroit.

RICK DIXON

Our Family's War

Childhood Memories, by Rick Dixon

On 11 December 1915, an army padre, the Reverend Philip "Tubby" Clayton, opened an abandoned house at Rue de l'Hôpital 43, in Poperingen, Belgium. The address has since been renamed Gasthuisstraat in its Flemish name. He formed a new club there welcoming all British soldiers. It became a rare place where soldiers could meet and relax regardless of rank, an Every-Man's Club. A notice was hung by the front door bearing the message: "All rank abandon, ye who enter here."

This was Talbot House and became known as Toc H, toc being the army telephone alphabet name for "T", just as ack was for A, hence Ack-Ack anti-aircraft guns. In the current NATO alphabet, T is Tango.

At school in the 1960s, I would often see older teachers wearing a little enamel lapel badge shaped like an ancient Roman oil lamp. I never knew why until one afternoon whoever was supposed to be teaching us, whatever subject it might have been, was not available. An old padre attached to the school's teaching staff took the lesson and soon had us all enthralled and horrified simultaneously.

More as a discussion group than a lesson, and very avant-garde for the time, he told us about the formation of Toc H, just behind the front line and a safe haven for anyone to "chill-out" as you would say today, with no rank being more important than another.

My abiding memory is of him telling us that, as a non-combatant padre, he was dealing all the time with wounded soldiers in the trenches. He said, "What do you do, what can you possibly do, faced with a man half of whose face has been blown away by an exploding shell, when all you have is a pitifully small field-dressing?"

It still makes me cry to think about it. Such as when typing this note.

I looked out for those little lapel badges ever after. Their wearers were the men who were just "old teachers" but had in fact been heroes in the trenches, gaining just a little bit of respite courtesy of Tubby Clayton.

Purton Historical Society



Thursday 22 October 2015 – Life in the East End – a story of a Fancy Box Cutter

Martin Collisson entertained us with the accounts of life in the East End of London. It was a story of social history with personal tales of Martin's family life.

Where exactly is the East End? Well it was defined by boundaries covering a four-mile area and included Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Stepney and Cheapside. A true Cockney could hear the bells of St Mary-le-Bow. The population of Bethnal Green in 1901 was 5000, but fell dramatically after the First World War. Martin covered the origins of Cockney Rhyming Slang and also included the advent of the Pearly Kings and Queens. We were told of the hardships of life especially from the 1600s when many immigrants came from far and wide including the Huguenots, Chinese, Irish and Jews. Chinatown was established in Limehouse. In the late 18th century Petticoat Lane and Billingsgate Fish Market were founded and of course Whitechapel became famous through Jack the Ripper.

Martin painted a very vivid picture of his childhood going with his family to the hop picking in Kent. There, whole families would go for a holiday and also supplement their incomes. Times of course were changing with many houses being demolished in the East End during the Second World War blitz and the once-famous docklands have now become expensive buildings.

ANNE SWEET

Future Meetings/Information

Friday 4 December 2015 – Annual Christmas Social, The Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm

The Annual Christmas Social is always a friendly, relaxed, festive occasion. It is very good value with tickets at £12.00 each which includes a buffet supper, glass of wine, entertainment and lucky ticket number. There will also be a very good raffle with lots of prizes.

This year the entertainment promises to be something really special. The Purton Amateur Dramatic Society is staging a 'Murder Mystery' play. Suspense and intrigue, supper and wine all for £12.00 – we're sure this will be a very special Christmas event with lots of atmosphere!

Tickets are available from Society Meetings, from In Touch Services (115 Pavenhill, tel. 01793 772954) or Purton Museum (open until the end of November, Wednesday 2 to 5 pm, and Saturdays 10 am to 12.30 pm). Alternatively ring us on 01793 770117 and we will organise the tickets for you.

Visitors and guests very welcome.

The Society Bulletin – The Autumn 2015 issue is now on sale in Best One Shop – cost £4.50. Combat Stress will receive 50p from the sale of each copy. It contains articles on Purton Remount Depot (a comprehensive report on the training of horses sent to Purton from all over the country and abroad during The Great War) at Manor Hill, St Mary's Church from the Reformation to the present day, Purton Footpaths in 1744, The Village Doctor, Purton Museum and the Society's early years.

MARION HOBBS

Dates for the New Year

Thursday 28 January 2016 – The Canal at Swindon – Jan Flanagan

Thursday 25 February 2016 – WW1: The War at Sea – Paul Booy

New members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JAN NEATE, email: tjneate57@gmail.com

tel: 01793 770117

Museum News

Purton Museum will be closing for the winter on Saturday, 28 November and will re-open on Wednesday, 6 January 2016. We will enlarge our 'Purton - Then and Now' exhibition and will keep the 'History of Purton in 50 Objects' display in place for at least two more months. The Museum can be opened by prior arrangement with Jan Walker on 01793 770124.

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



From the Archives

1955 AGM – Mr H Smith commented upon the past season's records and the President (A J Woolford) congratulated Mr W Benham upon topping the bowling averages again with 87 wickets at an average of 7.79 and Mr A Smith for heading the batting with an average of 24.53.

1980 – New members. The applications of Robert Preddy, Andrew Sampson, Stephen Brown and Miss Barbara Jones (the latter after some discussion) were approved by the meeting.

2003 – The access via the Milk House has benefited from substantial repairs and the provision of passing bays on the track. The two seats in the Dingle, provided by the Parish Council, will help people to appreciate the newly planted trees and shrubs as they blossom and flourish.

JOE GARDNER



At the recent AGM club members thanked the retiring Chairman, Neil Saunders, for all his hard work and perseverance over the last three years, especially in obtaining the floodlights. Neil will be a hard act to follow but the club has been very lucky in that Lindsey Hall has agreed to take on the role. This means Lindsey giving up Treasurer, a post in which she had been, she thought, about twenty years! We welcome one of our younger members, Ethan Gunton, into this role for the coming season ... or maybe we should say 20? A group of 15 people went on to The Maharajah after the AGM where Khaliq was presented with a photograph of the 'Khaliq Trophy' winners Ange Baldock and Jason Stevens to hang on his wall.

Although it is the winter season, the club remains very active, both on and off the court. Phil Kerley's coaching sessions for children and adults alike are running after school, the ladies night takes place on a Tuesday, cardio tennis on a Wednesday, adult team tactics on a Thursday and Social tennis on a Friday. The Swindon and District Winter League has started and although it has been unseasonably warm the rain has led to a couple of postponements for our 4 teams.

The Christmas Dinner and Dance is on Saturday 5 December at the Cricklade

Country Club with 21 members attending.

The second annual Touch Tennis Tournament will take place on Wednesday 16 December with a 6.30 start. Members are encouraged to come along to compete and/or to enjoy the food and drink!

Finally a Christmas Sunday Social morning will take place on 20 December from 11 am to 1 pm, the tennis being followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Members are being encouraged to bring along friends and family and to wear something 'festive'. If it should snow a walk will take place instead!

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Darts League

We are now ten games into the season and the new home of Wiltshire Darts, The Club at Cricklade, have started where they left off last season and taken a 19 point lead at the top of the table with Charrins Bar & Grill A and the Purton Club West chomping at the bit just behind them.



We already have a 170 start from Jim McDonald (Charrins A), with 33 x 180's hit collectively. Lee Evans (Cricklade Club) has achieved a 9 dart 401 in the singles and Martin Barnes (Cricklade Club) has the highest finish of 150. New lady on the block Claire Feary (Charrins B) has a 105 start and 3 x 140 high scores.

Our first competition will be the Christmas Pairs Charity Knockout to be played at the Red House Club on 17 December. Doors open 7.30 pm. Then followed by the Peter Leatherbarrow Mixed Triples on Thursday 21 January 2016 at the Angel Inn – Register 8 - 8:15 and starting 8.30 pm both tournaments.

Some committee changes this season: Pierce Bolger (Red House Club) has resigned. We express our gratitude and say a big thank-you to Pierce for his work over the past seasons. We welcome Brian Pinhorn (also from the Red House Club) who was elected onto the committee at the last AGM.

Bim Herbert, our chairman of thirty-nine years was also going to retire but has now decided to stay on and make it a big round fortieth.

Four teams have dropped out of the league and we are now down to twelve. So this season will be shorter than normal with Finals & Presentation Night on Friday 1 April 2016 at the Red House Club.

If you would like to play in the Purton & District Darts League on a Thursday night or would like to start an new own team, please contact me as soon as possible and we will try to accommodate you as best we can.

The Purton & District Darts league prides itself in people of all standards. It's a fun and friendly atmosphere where all are welcome.

MARTIN RICHELL, Secretary

Email: secretary@purtondarts.com Tel: 07802 266417

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

OFFERED: homemade chocolate moulds, Easter egg mould and other Christmas moulds. Eve 770755.

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

Church Floodlighting

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



- 10 November The church was floodlit in memory of **Pete Holland** on the anniversary of his wedding day and birthday. From all the Holland Family
- 19 November St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Duncan Bamford's** birthday. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey and Howard and family
- 3 December The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith**, on his 25th birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends
- 5 December The Church will be floodlit to celebrate a very special man and remember **Les Coole** my Dad, Happy Birthday xxx
- 9 December The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Elsa Trotter** on her birthday. A loving Mum, sister and wife.
- 19 December The church will be floodlit for my wife **Elsie Goodings**, on what would have been her birthday. Pete Goodings.
- 24 & 25 December St Mary's will be floodlit to wish all Purtonians, their families and friends, **a Very Happy Christmas** to you all.
- 28 December The Church will be floodlit for **Nelson Woodford**, on the 15th anniversary of his death. Also for Mary. Loved and remembered always. Barbara, Martin, Alan and families
- 31 December St Mary's Church will be floodlit to welcome in the New Year. **A Very Happy New Year** to you all.

If you would like the church floodlit, for a special date, occasion, memorial, please contact Libbie: 771018. The cost is £17 for one evening and an announcement can also be put in this magazine for no extra charge.

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £18 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

Contact Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157, or sandra_horsnall@yahoo.co.uk

Purton Purton & District Probus Club

On 13 October, Brian Barber, an expert at installing Radio Communication Systems, gave an illustrated account of his experience in 2006/7, while setting up a radio system in South Sudan. Brian's many projects in similar trouble spots, where Referendums or Elections were being conducted, included Liberia, Nigeria, and Afghanistan – situations always dangerous, particularly to foreign workers. Until 2005 a Civil War had been going on for 15 years between North and South Sudan. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 was signed supposedly to bring an end to the fighting, but there was still unrest over Oil Revenues, which were to be shared equally, and border areas yet disputed. A Referendum was proposed by which, the then semi-autonomous, South Sudan would become a sovereign state in its own right. Brian's task was to set up four Radio Stations along the Border from Maryal Bai (West) to Malakal (East) with central control at Rumbek. There are no roads except along the pipelines. Aircraft to Rumbek land on a grass runway, impossible in the wet season and infrequent at any time. There are no supplies within the country. Everything has to be ferried in. In the flat desert areas, high masts were needed to project the range of the radio signals. Masts and technicians came from Kenya. We saw the mast seatings set in concrete followed by a Meccano technique for bolting the rising framework together. As the column rose higher, and without any safety harness, each component was hauled up by rope to the highest point and bolted in position. The Radio Shacks were built from bricks made on site and lined with hessian drapes for sound proofing. A remote Relay Installation needed to be mounted on a hilltop. In the intense heat Brian was embarrassed to be outpaced by a local lady carrying a heavy load. In anticipation of the referendum 100,000 radios were given to the Sudanese. Power for the stations came from photo-electric cells and some of the radios were the hand-winding type. On 9 July 2011, with a 99% vote, South Sudan became an independent country but, having a great many ethnic groups, democracy has been hard to establish. Subsistence in this Upper Nile Region, before the discovery of oil, has always been dependant on cattle and enmity between the Dinka tribe (35.8%) and the Nuer tribe (15.6%) has been continuous, In 2013/4 a renewed civil war broke out led by the Nuer Vice President against the Dinka President. Both claim to be fighting for democracy but when they understand how a Democracy works they refuse to share power. The country is suffering and many are starving. George Clooney and John Prendergast have set up the Satellite Sentinel Project to record aerial photographs of the conflict hoping to identify those committing war crimes, but only a return to the negotiating table will resolve the troubles. Brian's talk was informative and interesting.

On 27 October Peter Donovan recalled “Women Flyers in WWII”. In August 1939, with war imminent, Gerald d'Erlanger, Chairman of British Airways wrote to the Director General of Civil Aviation, suggesting the idea of a pool of civilian pilots to fly aircraft as back-up to the war effort. Veteran civilian flyers would ferry new, damaged and repaired aircraft to their operational airfields. Thus the **Air Transport Auxiliary** was formed, but recruiting enough qualified pilots was

difficult, as illustrated by the acceptance of Keith Jopp who flew with one arm and one eye. In wartime civilian flying was curtailed and as civilians were not expected to be found in military aircraft, a dark-blue uniform was issued. Pauline Gower, who had run a pleasure-trip business in Kent, had carried 33,000 passengers and logged 2000 hrs flying, persuaded the Civil Aviation Authority that "Women Flyers" could fulfil the same tasks, and make an invaluable contribution by releasing male pilots for operational duties. The RAF establishment could not believe it would work, but the ladies proved otherwise. Pauline's initial task was to recruit 8 women to deliver light aircraft to training stations in the north of England and Scotland, but these 8 pioneers developed into a very significant force. Some took command and set up training programmes for additional recruits to pilot all manner of aircraft including heavy bombers such as the Halifax, Lancaster and Stirling. Joan Hughes, Flying 'solo' at 17 years, by the age of 22, had booked 600 hours ferrying planes with the A.T. Auxiliary. Margaret Gunnison became main instructor at Hatfield and 'checked-out' most of those who joined later in January 1940, including the Americans at Luton. Mona Friedlander, pilot and navigator, towed targets for AA gun and Searchlight Practice. Rosemary Rees, as war was declared, escaped an Airshow in Germany to return to England. She delivered over 200 four-engine bombers and became Second in Command at Hamble Ferry Pool. Marion Wilberforce, who flew her own Gypsy Moth, rose to Deputy Commander at Hatfield and to Commander at Cosford. The Hon. Margaret Fairweather, with 1000 hrs of flying, trained women to fly armed fighters and heavy bombers. Unfortunately, in 1944, she died landing a Percival Proctor. Gabrielle Patterson was the first woman to be appointed as a Flight instructor. Winifred Crossley Fair served 5 years in the ATA and was married to Peter Fair, Head of BOAC. Of these eight, Joan Hughes and Pauline Gower were awarded the MBE. Amy Johnson, who flew solo to Australia in 1930 and held the speed record for a flight to Cape Town, joined the ATA in June 1940. War time flights were often urgent and necessary. Navigation was primitive, usually a compass, map and stop watch. Trips to the North and Scotland followed, visually, the railway line crossing to the west at Barnard Castle. Visibility needed to be 200yds horizontal and 800ft vertical. Lost in low cloud, the elevation of an airfield could be critical. Barrage balloons were also a hazard. On 5 January 1941, Amy Johnson flying from Scotland and seeking RAF Kidlington in fog arrived over the Thames Estuary. Low on fuel she bailed out, her body never recovered. The ATA employed women pilots of many nationalities – Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Netherlands, Poland, Argentina, Chile and the USA. Mary Ellis, now 98 years of age, delivered single handed, 76 different types of aircraft including about 400 Spitfires. At the end of the war she delivered the first Meteor Jet. In all 168 women served in the ATA and it proved to be a dangerous Commission – fatalities were 1 in 10. But together with the men they delivered over 300,000 aircraft before the ATA disbanded in November 1945. One woman who served with the ATA, Diana Barnato Walker, in 1963 broke the sound barrier in an English Electric Lighting recording 1262mph. Our speaker delivered a very interesting account.

BOB STEVENS

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



The entertainment for the meeting of 21 October was given by the Purton Bell Ringers. Residents who have already heard this group will know what an enjoyable evening we had. The Ringers were also generous in giving us instruction on how to play the bells and there was no shortage of laughter at that stage! The actual cost of the bells is remarkably high, and you have to wear special gloves, so you had better actually try to play the bells before thinking about investing in them. But I must say, they certainly gave us all our money's worth.

It had been a notable month, with our Institute helping to raise a goodly sum at "the Soup and Sweet" lunch. Many thanks to the members who helped in the production of this delicious meal, in laying up tables and chairs, and in serving and washing up. Quite an exhausting session!

Also, hearty congratulations to Janet Saunders who won the Wiltshire Federation Poetry Competition. She is also our Minutes Secretary – how does she find the time? And it doesn't stop there, as Janet is to be thanked for representing our WI and laying the wreath this year at the Purton War Memorial. She is a member of whom Purton can be justly proud.

Coming soon is the Birthday Meeting on 16 December **at 7 pm** at the Silver Threads Hall. Entertainment will be provided by Jean Whitfield and the Songsters. As you will realise, parking will be at a premium and so it would be most helpful if as many members as possible could come on the minibus, or share cars, to ease the situation. And two ways to make the evening extra attractive: please wear something gold, and bring a plate of food. We could form a high tea buffet if you had an attractive cup and saucer; perhaps a cake stand, or a nice table cover – and please don't forget to bring your own drink to go with the food! The Prospect Charity will not be overlooked and will benefit from the Raffle prizes, too.

There may be some old friends to be spotted at this meeting so watch out – and you can't miss me, the Wine-Taster General! See you there!

CONSTANCE REED, tel 771571

Purton Stoke Charity Ball

Lindsey, Sarah and Jackie would like to thank everyone who made the 2nd Purton Stoke Charity Ball "Greenacres Grand Gala" such a success. Thanks to all our sponsors, and a massive thank-you to John at Hospitality Services for all his support. We have sent a cheque to Wiltshire Air Ambulance for £4,500 as a result.

See you in two years' time for the next one!!



After 8: October Meeting; Looking Back

Our group began life in 1981 as a branch of the National Housewives' Register. The NHR was started in the early 1960s to provide an opportunity for mothers who were at home with young children to meet together and participate in lively, stimulating discussions and self-led activities. In 1987 the name was changed to the National Women's Register, and nowadays the members are more likely to be older women. Several years ago the Purton group decided to become independent, so we renamed ourselves "After 8".



Our October meeting was a lively affair, briefly scanning the amazing variety of topics and activities in which we have participated since 1981, and recalling the many members we have known, including our founders Diana Haines and Liz Voss. Our MC for the evening, Eve Booy, had been trawling the archives in preparation for the meeting. We discovered that we spent evenings on medical and health matters, such as pacemakers, aromatherapy, e-numbers, osteoporosis and yoga. Art topics featured regularly, some presented by our member Barbara Gosden, others by Paul Booy and Brian Coe, and local artist Catherine Pier, who demonstrated her techniques. We've had book discussions, poetry evenings, desert island discs and attempted to play Diana Mears' gamelan. Meetings to which several, or most, members research and contribute are popular, and have included the wives of Henry VIII, women explorers ("the benefits of a good thick skirt"), an evening discovering a dozen different religions or sects, our "home" counties, bridges, ships, the white horses of Wiltshire, plus Uffington, and technophobia. Some visiting speakers have informed us on various topics, such as MEP Caroline Jackson, Justice of the Peace Caroline McLean, a member of the Greenham Common Women's group, Purton Youth Worker, and Margaret Belt talking about the Purton Millennium boundary stones. We explored Chiseldon and Cricklade where members of their respective historical societies gave a conducted tour, Wroughton, Malmesbury, Wootton Bassett, Purton, Purton vets, Purton Museum, and in 1995 a site visit to the proposed tip by a representative of Hill's..

Regular annual events are the New Year Quiz, the late Christmas meal, the summer walk, summer barbecue, autumn treasure trail quiz and Christmas meeting with carols round the piano, secret Santa and festive fare.

This report gives just a flavour of our group. I will curtail it here, but could have mentioned Buttons with Marion Hobbs, La Belle France with Janet McCarthy, coffee table books with Gwyneth Datson, moral dilemmas ... et al.

We find that, as a group, we are oversubscribed and are now unable to welcome new members for the time being. However, we are happy to put your name on our waiting list.

Volunteers Wanted in Purton: **ENRYCH Swindon & Wiltshire**

A charity, providing leisure and learning opportunities for adults with physical disabilities, needs volunteers who can spare a few hours a week across Swindon. Activities cover the spectrum from computer studies, through painting, swimming, fishing, gardening, football, cinema ... limitless. Contact Jo Heaven on 07771 804365 or e-mail Jo at swindon.wiltshire@enrych.org.uk

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



From the moment the lighting and staging started to be erected it was obvious our October meeting was going to be something completely different. And so it proved to be.

This was 'The Mole Show', a comical look at the humble mole and man's fight to be rid of it, presented by Jeff Nicholls, a professional molecatcher and member of the Guild of British Molecatchers, ably assisted by his wife Angela. Together with Jeff's zany humour and accompanied by props, sounds and lighting, we began to learn some of the facts about the mole whilst dispelling some of the myths.

Moles are not blind but have very small eyes to prevent them becoming clogged up and damaged during tunnelling. They can sense light but very little else. An area on the snout detects movement and the scents of prey and other moles.

A tiny mole weighs only around 4 ounces and is no more than 6" long. It feeds on earthworms and insects found in the network of tunnels it creates using its broad and powerful feet which are used like shovels and are equipped with 'digging' claws. It can consume half its own body weight daily and so has to keep busy. A single mole can dig about 18 metres of tunnel in a day throwing up molehills along the way, with a large molehill marking the position of a nest and a line of small molehills marking the direction of a dug tunnel. This activity wreaks havoc on farmland and gardens necessitating a call to the professionals.

Strychnine causes terrible convulsions and a long drawn out death, so Jeff campaigned against the use of poisons to eradicate moles on the grounds of animal welfare and in 2006 a ban on the use of poisons was finally introduced. He continues to use metal traps that are designed to kill instantly and humanely.

This was a lively non-stop show and Jeff soon had the audience involved. Will Julie ever take a front row seat again! As for Mary Read, centre stage again, and let's not forget Pat, who may never climb the stairs at home again without thinking of the mole and his 'staircase' in the ground.

A vote of thanks was offered by David Herbert who declared that, in 20 years plus as a member of the club, this was one of the best meetings he had attended and judging by the response from members this was a shared view.

Congratulations to the winners of our competition 'A decorated pumpkin': 1st Janice Simpkins and 2nd Maureen Griffin. These brilliant entries proved hard to judge.

As there is no meeting in December our first meeting of 2016 will be on 26 January at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall when we will be holding a brief AGM followed by a talk from Sue Carter on the subject of 'Gardening for Bees'.

Our 2016 programme features subjects including 'Willow Weaving', 'Water in small garden spaces', 'Dahlias' and the 'History of the Rococo garden' amongst others. With a competition and raffle, this should be an enjoyable social evening.

If you would like to join us we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. The annual subscription for 2016 will be £12. Alternatively visitors may pay £2 per meeting.

Merry Christmas to all our members.

MOIRA WHITE (Chair) & MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)

Swindon Scouts Christmas Post



As usual, 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group will be participating in Swindon Scout Christmas Post! We are selling stamps at our usual locations: In Touch Services, Cyclecare and Shear Success in Purton and at Toomers Garden Centre, in Lydiard Millicent.

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

Christmas cards must be properly addressed including postcode and only posted in the Special Scout Post Boxes. Stamps are 30p each, a real saving!

Please **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through Royal Mail post boxes. They are not valid and the receiver of the card will have to pay at least a £1 surcharge!

We can only deliver Christmas Cards. We cannot deliver letters, bills, diaries or calendars. No money or cheques should be sent through this service.

Last Posting is 4 pm on Tuesday 15 December 2015

The cards will be delivered between 18 and 23 December 2015

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

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

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

We DO NOT deliver to any other location.

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

Cricklade Country Market

Christmas goodies of all sorts on sale; pickles and preserves, mince pies and cakes, original presents and cards and everything is home-crafted or home-made by us for you.

Find us at *The Club at Cricklade*, on 18 December 9 am to 11 am. Refreshments available too, come and enjoy a free mince pie at the December market.

Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market.

We are still desperately in need of help to keep this 25-year-old community event alive. If you are able to help by being the committee secretary or would like to join the team as a helper or producer, please call on the number above or visit us at the next market. Many thanks! We look forward to meeting you.



Uplands Educational Trust - Community Governors

We currently require several community governors to join our Board of Trustees and Governing Body and I would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- business management, human resources, finance, IT, health and safety skills and any work place/industry links to get disabled young adults into work
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community and has a desire to see severely disabled young people get support and opportunity of employment
- an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- the equivalent of two evenings per month spare time.

These roles are important to the strategic management of Uplands Educational Trust and Academy as they broaden the experience and skill base of the governing body(ies) and can bring objectivity and a fresh pair of eyes to the issues we face.

Uplands Educational Trust admits pupils with severe or profound disabilities and multiple learning difficulties. Many students have additional needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), visual or hearing impairments or complex medical needs. A few pupils are looked after by the local authority and the Trust is a sizeable business in its own right and will continue to grow rapidly. The purpose of the charity is to provide high quality education and learning opportunities for young people with special needs. Uplands Educational Trust in partnership with Uplands School are committed to meeting the needs of disabled young people and their families. It is recognised by both the Trust and the School that these complex needs do not cease at 19 years of age. The Uplands Educational Trust (UET), in partnership, with Uplands School will meet the needs of complex learners 19 - 25 years in Swindon and the surrounding areas and will provide unique, exceptional and innovative Learning, Working and Living provisions.

Being a member of the governing body of the school is similar to being on the management board of such a business and we recognise that some of your members are likely to have the skills and experience we need.

Please don't be put off by thinking that you have to have specialist expertise or knowledge. Enthusiasm and interest is much more important to start with and there is tried and tested training and support available to help you throughout the four years term of office. And remember, you will be supported by fellow governors with many years of combined experience.

I would like to stress that being a governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. Schools are interesting places and education is right up there at the top of the list of topics of conversation. It can give you quite a lift when people ask and respect your opinions about matters in the news.

Serving as a governor will give you a good understanding and keep you well informed about current policy and practice regarding the further education of Students. If you are interested and would like to apply or would like to know more before committing yourself then why not first have an informal chat with our Clerk, Mrs Heather Large who can be contacted via email h.m.large@btopenworld.com.

HEATHER LARGE

WHAT'S ON?

P.A.D.S.

A big thank-you to everyone who came to see our recent play "The Frogs". Something very different but we have had some fantastic reviews so well done to all involved.



PADS are pleased to say, that following our recent productions, we have donated £200 to Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal towards the new cancer unit at GWH, and £100 to the Shoebox Theatre for "Wrong Shoes Theatre Company" a charity providing educational services through theatre.

We currently have three Murder Nights coming up and a Review for the Gardeners Guild so we may see some of you at these.

Pantomime rehearsals have got under way now but we could always do with more people in the chorus so please contact Barbara on 770160 if you are interested. We rehearse Tuesdays and Thursdays and Panto will be 4/5/6 February 2016.

KATE BATH, tel 771442

A Celebration of Christmas

will be performed by Dodecantus Chamber Choir on:

- Friday 4 December at 7.30pm in St Giles Church, Tockenham SN4 7PN, and on
- Sunday 6 December, also at 7.30 in St. Peters Church, High Street Marlborough SN8 1HQ. Tickets available on the door.

Directed by David Ripley with Harpist Katie McClaughry and pianist Michael Reynolds, the programme features **A Ceremony of Carols** by Benjamin Britten plus music by Byrd, Tavener, Leighton, Howells and Lauridsen as well as a selection of light-hearted seasonal songs.

FRANCIS SHEPPARD

A festive 'What's on' from the Cricklade Band

We have our Christmas Present at The Club at Cricklade on Sunday 20 December at 7.30pm. Once again, we're keeping the cosiness of our Christmas Present format. Everyone seems to like the Christmas party atmosphere! There will of course be all the carols and Christmas music you'd expect to do your part in, and again our Band Academy will also be taking an important part.

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

Entry this year is by ticket (although you might be able to get in on the night) at the gift of a price of £6 – tickets will be available at the Council Office in Cricklade High Street or from the band at Monday and Thursday rehearsals at the Club, just call in and watch us rehearse too!

In its 128th year the band is all ready as usual for a busy festive season. Our December diary has details of about 17 occasions between the 4th and Christmas morning when we'll be out and about playing all the familiar carols and Christmas

music. We'll be touring the streets of Cricklade, Purton, Ashton Keynes and Latton. Your kind donations during our traditional door-to-door collections will, in addition to the band itself, benefit Prospect Foundation, our local hospice whose care seems to involve most families in one way or other.

As ever, we do it in music but, from everyone in The Cricklade Band – 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'.

PAUL HEWER

Wessex Male Choir Christmas 2015

If you're looking to get into the Christmas spirit this year then the award-winning Wessex Male Choir's 10th annual Christmas concert is certain to bring some yuletide cheer with some well-loved carols and songs for this magical time of year!



The concert is taking place on Friday 18 December at 7.30 pm at Holy Rood Church, Groundwell Road in Swindon. Tickets are now on sale and cost £15. For children under 16s it's free! ... but they must have a ticket.



Tickets can be bought from The information Office, Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus Swindon tel 01793 466454, from the Choir on tel 01285 869955 or by email at tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk. And as always from In Touch Services.

Musical director Katrine Reimers said, "We will be singing some favourite Christmas classics including It's the Most Wonderful time of the Year, the Sussex Carol and Mary's Boy Child – guaranteed to get you in the mood for Christmas!"

The choir's special guests are the Aldbourne Brass Band which will add its own Christmas sparkle to the evening.

Come and join in the Yuletide fun!

This concert is the culmination of the choir's 2015 Christmas season and comes hot on the heels of high-profile charity fundraising concerts in London and Oxford the preceding week.

STUART ALLINSON

PS: Thinking of "Christmases long ago", if you need any further incentive, a limited number of Wessex's It's Christmas CD from 2011 are available for £1 in the Parkinson's UK tin at In Touch Services if you buy your tickets there!

RWB Arts Festival 2016

The 2016 Festival AGM is at 3 pm on Sunday 17 January at St Bartholomew's Church, The Croft, Royal Wootton Bassett.

The Gala concert and launch of the 2016 Syllabus will be on Friday evening, 26 February at the Memorial Hall. Every section of the Syllabus will commemorate Shakespeare's 400th in some way.

The Swindon Music Festival runs from 11 to 19 March, and the closing date is 15 January 2016.
