

Purton Magazine



Happy New Year to all our readers!

Sorry to our web readers: due to a computer crash and the headaches of moving from Windows XP to Windows 10, I have not had time to update page numbers from the printed version and the live links while getting the February issue printed. I'll try to update in the next week or so ... but at least it's here! Regards, Rick.

January 2016

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham	
<i>Closed until March 2016</i>		
	<i>bethaney23@icloud.com</i>	
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,</i>	
	<i>tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031)</i>	
	<i>email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Curate:</i>	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Wardens:</i>	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
<i>Administrator:</i>	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Web site:</i>	<i>www.stmaryspurton.org.uk Services: See Diary Page in this magazine</i>	

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

Through the regular reliability of our terrific team of magazine volunteers – and, of course, the extra early efforts of the production team at In Touch Services – there is a good chance that you are reading this a day or two before the magical day and that we are in time to wish you a very happy Christmas. Even if you get to this a little later, we certainly hope that you will have a peaceful and positive New Year, especially in the continued company of your community magazine.

As usual, this edition contains a gloriously eclectic mix of local news and information. For example, where else might you learn about ‘Maneki-neko’ – translated as ‘beckoning cat’? These are often seen sitting quietly in a Chinese restaurant, mechanically waving a paw at everyone and no one. Originating in Japan, the different colour of the cat and which paw is raised conveys a different message but you will need to turn to page 48 to find out all the different meanings indicated by gold, green, pink, red and, of course, black cats. Readers might also find a convenient excuse for any noisy slurping and burping, perhaps when caused by excessive eating at Christmastime.

If you have some other excesses requiring recycling or waste disposal, details of what and where to recycle some Christmas items appear on page 9 along with the changed collection dates over the holiday period. All the waste and recycling collection dates are back to normal by 11 January.

However, what’s “normal” in Purton is not necessarily the same elsewhere and inside this issue you will find details of forthcoming events that include a rock night, the pantomime, six historical courses and a wide variety of other talks and society events and meetings.

The sound of the bagpipes probably divides public opinion more than most instruments and, on page 56, readers will learn when that sound will next be heard in the village. For some, the noise of bagpipes is excruciating and the best reason for not being Royalty, having to hear it every day. For others, especially with military leanings, the sound stiffens the sinews and brings smiles to the faces of many.

It has been said that perhaps the very best yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles and wouldn’t that be a wonderful New Year’s resolution – let’s see how long that can be kept in Purton!

23rd

January is the Burns
Night Celebration in the
Village Hall
- see page 56

£2.50

for a copy of the new
edition of St Mary’s
history booklet
- see page 28

£7,747

collected for this year’s
Royal British Legion
Poppy Appeal
- see page 28

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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Happy New Year

On behalf of the Councillors and staff I would like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. *Debbie, Parish Clerk.*

Village Centre Open Day – Date for your Diary

The Council will be working with local community groups and clubs to formulate a Village Centre Open Day to be held on Saturday 7 May 2016. If you are a local community group or club and would like to be involved and encourage new members please contact either Debbie Lawrence, the Clerk on 771066 email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or Peter Berry on peterberry@uwclub.net or telephone 778119 for more information. Watch this space for updates. A great family day out for all in the offing ...

Any stall holders, crafters, food vendors wishing to be involved please contact the Clerk.

Village Hall WiFi

Not only do we have an amazing facility for hire, but now free internet access whilst using the facilities. A great venue for business or party use. Call 778351 for more information.

Planning Applications

- N15/07860/FUL Bentham House, Bentham Lane. Erection of free standing ground mounted solar panels. Approved with Conditions.
- N15/08981/FUL 1 Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke. Two-bay oak garage with upper floor storage. Approved with Conditions.
- N15/09116/FUL 10 College Road. Single storey rear extension. Approved with Conditions.

Parish Council Meeting Dates: 7 pm at Village Hall

Monday 11 January	Council meeting
Wednesday 13 January	Play Area Committee
Monday 18 January	Informal Rights of Way (IROW)
Monday 18 January	Planning Committee after IROW
Monday 25 January	Village Centre Charity 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 know's", 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.

News from the Trustees

The long-standing Parish Councillors, who are trustees of the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre, The Play Close, the Village Hall and Institute welcome the new Councillors who have become Trustees. I am sure they will have fresh and new ideas which will be good for the Parish and the Charities.

We are meeting with our preferred contractor who is installing a speaker system in conjunction with the loop system. This has been made possible by a generous donation of £2,393.25 from the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board. It was very kind of them and this will make it all possible and is greatly appreciated by the village. Also let's not forget the generous donations from Purton Evening WI, and Purton & District Age Concern.

We are using the installers who did the St Mary's Church system – we feel they did an excellent job there.

I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Looking for a new rewarding career?

Become a childminder!

If you love children and want to help give them the best start in life, being a registered childminder could be the ideal job for you. Childminding is a dynamic and evolving career, with plenty of courses and training opportunities that will help you develop your knowledge and confidence.

Become your own boss, work in your own home and choose the hours you would like to work. Support and advice are available from dedicated council childcare officers who will guide you through Ofsted registration and beyond.

Childminders are needed in Ridgeway Farm and Moulden View area so if you think this could be for you come along to a local information session where you will be able to find out what it means to be a childminder, the training and support available, the registration process along with any grants that you may be eligible for.

If you live in Wiltshire Council area call Childcare Workforce Development Team on 01225 712966

If you live in Swindon Borough Council area please call the Family Information Service on 01793 44550.

Which are You?

An optimist stays up to see the New Year in. A pessimist waits to make sure the old one leaves.

Bill Vaughan

Holiday Period Waste & 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.

Purton Open Gardens 2016

Do you need an incentive to sort out your garden? Do you want to raise money for local charities? Do you want to meet famous people? Some of these objectives can be met by opening your garden to the public one weekend in June or July. It is not a competition and the garden does not have to be pristine, but a degree of enthusiasm is useful!

An initial planning meeting is set for 27 January, 8 pm at Ivy Lodge (opposite the War Memorial). Attendance is not necessary but, if you are interested in joining in, please contact Nick Yerbury on 770552 or the.yerburys@btinternet.com. About 15-20 gardens are required to make the weekend a success (as well as good weather) and new additions make for variety. Feel free to call or more information.

Purton & District Age Concern



I start this month with the following words from Tony Price: “We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mr Orr-Ewing, one of life’s perfect gentlemen. From reports he was a very shrewd businessman who came to Fox Mill on his retirement but I would imagine being the man he was he still had plenty of interest in the business world plus he was always interested in what was going on in the village. We in Purton Age Concern have a lot to thank him and Mrs Orr-Ewing for; ever since we started putting a Christmas tree on the Institute Building, they have sponsored the tree. When Robin Gough began supplying the tree they still insisted on giving us the donation.

“Our thoughts and prayers will be with Mrs Orr-Ewing and family on Christmas Eve when we sing carols under the tree and think of your kindness and generosity to Purton Age Concern.”

We have been very busy during the past few weeks and on behalf of Purton Age Concern I would like to thank the following people who have either helped out at our events or supported us in many different ways, including Robert Cook for printing our Christmas vouchers. (I hope you’ve all treated yourselves to something nice with your voucher.) Robin Gough for providing our Christmas tree, Mick Looker and his group of friends for erecting the Christmas tree and lights on the Institute building and for decorating inside the Village and Silver Threads Halls, the decorations looked lovely for our parties. Special thanks go to everyone who helped at our Christmas parties, Maria and her team of helpers for providing the delicious food, Sarah and her helpers for decorating the tables so beautifully, the teenagers who did such a great job waiting on the tables and Mick’s friend, John who provided all the mince pies. Thanks to Bradon Forest School and Tony M for providing the party entertainment, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at both parties. Special thanks go to Father Christmas who made an appearance at our less-able party and to Jane Farr and her group of friends who did all the washing up and served the mince pies and hot drinks during the interval at the main party. Also thank you to everyone who donated cakes, bric-a-brac and festive items including the mistletoe for our Christmas market and Andrew Hiscock and Robert Collis for providing the sausages and cooking equipment. Finally, thanks to all who donated prizes and sold tickets for our Christmas raffle.

Our events wouldn’t be so successful if we didn’t have all this additional help – your support is appreciated by everyone in Age Concern.

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

If you need a quote for home, car or travel insurance or other products on offer from Age UK Enterprises please read my information section for more details as we now earn a small amount of commission from your telephone call to the Freephone

number even if you don't make a purchase.

FUTURE EVENTS

Burns Night Celebration – This will take place on Saturday 23 January 2016 at the Village Hall, the doors open at 6.30 pm. The evening includes a three-course meal, a piper to pipe in the haggis, dancing with a live band and caller and drinks available at the bar. The cost is £20 per person and tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339.

Our next **Jumble Sale** will be on Saturday 13 February in the Village Hall. Jumble can be left at the hall between 12 noon and 1 pm and the sale starts at 2 pm. Refreshments will be available. Come along a buy a bargain!

INFORMATION

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.

The list of items available includes, Home Insurance, Car Insurance, Travel Insurance, Gas & Electricity, Funeral Plans, Annuity Service, Equity Release Advice Service, Hearing Aids, Personal Alarms, Stairlifts, Mobility Scooters and Bathing Aids. So, if your home, car or travel insurance is due for renewal please 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.

The following information is from Mike Strong, Wiltshire Online Project Officer.

Want to use a computer but don't know where to start? Help is at hand!

Welcome to Wiltshire Council's 'Wiltshire Online' service – a scheme designed to help people who aren't yet online to get online and enjoy the benefits of the internet that so many of us take for granted. Free, one-to-one computer support is provided by Digital Champion volunteers, who can help you learn all the basics of computers, iPads, tablets and smartphones at a time and location that suits you. Whether it's turning a computer on, getting to grips with the mouse or touchscreen, learning how to email, Skype or shop online, our volunteers will do their best to help you. As a learner with Wiltshire Online, you can enjoy relaxed, informal support with your very own Digital Champion volunteer. There's no set programme to follow and no curriculum – simply tell us what you need help with and we'll match you up with a volunteer who can support you. Between you, you can decide when and where you want to meet, although we suggest you allow up to one hour for each session.

For the Purton community areas, we now have six Digital Champions at your service. Support is available in either a public venue (such as your local library,

WiFi enabled pub or café) or in the comfort of your own home (using your own equipment). We also run a group at Cricklade Leisure Centre on Monday mornings. The service is entirely free regardless of where you receive help, so just let us know what would suit you best. If this sounds like the answer to your needs, then please get in touch. Simply contact the Wiltshire Council customer services team to register, telephone 0300 456 0100 quoting 'Wiltshire Online computer support.

Happy New Year from Purton Age Concern.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Purton & District Luncheon Club

The committee of Purton and District Luncheon Club wishes to thank Age Concern officially for the very valuable help and support we receive throughout every year.

If it were not for the Age Concern minibuses the Luncheon Club operation could hardly function. The caring and generous hearted drivers and shotgunners of the minibuses go out in all weathers to collect our members, helping everyone with kindness and concern leavened by a blessed sense of humour when the inevitable delays and confusions occur.

Age Concern also provides the Luncheon Club with locally grown potatoes throughout the year, and to my knowledge has been doing this since at least the 1970s.

Purton is blessed in the way so many local groups support one another, thus ensuring the continued wellbeing of all those we aim to help.

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

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

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

It's a nice way to make friends and meet new people. It's a lovely atmosphere up there, and you go home feeling that you have done something worthwhile and rewarding. For more information please contact Pat Suddaby on 01793 771331 .

DIANA THOMBS, Chairman



Purton & District Guide Dogs

Firstly the committee and I wish you all a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year'.

For my last venue in 2015, I ran a Trading and Tombola stall at the *Christmas at Steam* event in the STEAM Museum on 5 and 6 December, along with the members of Swindon Branch. I took £160.40p on the Trading side and £134.50p on the Tombola. A long weekend but well worth it.

We will be having 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. Many thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



A Letter from the Vicarage

A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to everyone from Purton Churches

As I write this, many are still in shock at the news of the Paris massacres. Some residents of Purton were in Paris that evening and remember hearing what appeared to be fireworks and what they later discovered was gunfire. Only God knows whether by the time you read this, there might have been other attacks in Europe or even in this country.

In the face of such horror and carnage what relevance has the Christmas message? Come back with me to Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born and listen afresh to the message from the angel to the shepherds: *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”* [Luke chapter 2 verses 10-12 - The Bible] The angel was saying that somehow within this “tardis” of a child is: a Saviour – the one who will die on the Cross to save all those willing to admit their need and their wrong doing; the Christ – the promised and anointed one of God; the Lord – the King of kings and Lord of lords. But also there is a weak and defenceless baby, the child of a poor mother, unable with her husband to find anywhere to stay except an animal shed with a feeding trough as a cot.

Somehow within this baby is contained all the glory of heaven and all the poverty of earth. Just because this is a mystery does not stop it being a reality, the truth which resulted in the heavenly choir of angels proclaiming, *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”* [verse 14]

The peace God offers is not imposed by the gun of a terrorist but rather is offered as a gift to those who receive Jesus as Saviour and as Lord, those who give glory to God and so are open to receive His peace and favour. I pray for all of us who read this message that we might be enabled by God to become beacons of peace in the midst of a world torn apart by horror and carnage. Whatever you face this Christmas, and whatever lies ahead for you in the New Year, I pray that you may receive and share God's gift of peace.

Rev'd IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH, Vicar of St Mary's

Sort-Out Saturday

It is hoped to hold an event 'Sort-Out Saturday' in January. All the funds will be for Christian Aid projects to help the refugees from Syria, in their camps throughout the Middle East.

So please save any unwanted gifts and other items that you might want to 'de-clutter'. We shall be very grateful to accept them all and sell them on for the funds.

Posters about the event will be up around the village as soon as possible.

More details from Libbie on 771018 and Mary on 770505. Thank you.

The Harbour Project

Have you ever heard about the Harbour Project?

It is based in Swindon and supports refugee men and women who have arrived from over 40 different countries in recent years. Some have no English, some are alone or with their children, many have no financial support.

The Harbour Project offers advice, information and friendship. It is a 'haven' where men and women can go to meet others and to find help.

The volunteer staff offer guidance in filling in forms, applying for housing, offering a warm drink and safe place to spend their daytime.

Various educational and vocational classes are also offered to the visitors (e.g. computer skills, English lessons, art and craft session). In the weekly sewing group volunteers suggest ways in which the women can make clothing, cushions, bedding etc out of donated fabric. So far in Purton we have offered them three old sewing machines which are being a great help

So they now are asking for **fabric** ... especially bright and colourful lengths that can be made into skirts and scarves. Any **chiffony or silk scarves** that are in need of a new home will also be **much** welcomed.

Another plea is for **nail varnish!** ... I know it doesn't seem like much, but when you have almost nothing it provides a bit of fun and dignity to these women.

Nail varnish of all colours is welcomed, not too well used and with tops that can be opened!

If you would like to know more then please contact Libbie on 771018 or leave any contributions of fabric etc at 20 Hoggs Lane.

Also please contact the website: <http://harbourproject.org.uk/contact> ... or contact Revd Anne Faulkner on 01793 702715.

Group for Patients - Purton & Green Gable Surgery

Shake off winter and join us for our second

Vintage Tea Party: Saturday 16 January 2016

Purton Village Hall, 3 - 5 pm

Entertainment by PADs

Tickets £8 to include a Welcome glass

This event is to raise money to help support the funding of the recently installed patient self check-in system in Purton surgery which enables patients to check themselves in for appointments. The new system has reduced queues at the desk thereby enabling receptionists to spend more time on incoming calls and helping patients with longer, more complicated queries.

Tickets from Purton Surgery, tel 01793 770207.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P



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.

Footpath 161?

Regular readers may remember that there will be an Inquiry to be held in the Purton Village Hall at 10.00 am on Wednesday 9th March about whether or not a well used 'path' from Hoggs Lane to the High Hills should become the 161st official footpath in our Parish. Further details can be found in the November issue and on-line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/2015-11_nov.pdf.

Anyone who would like to make an objection or positive representation in favour – but who has not yet contacted the authorities – must do so by 12 January 2016. What with Christmas and the New Year beforehand, it could be too easy to miss that date. Wiltshire Council have recommended to the Secretary of State that Path No. 161 should be added to the Definitive Map and their Statement of Case can be found at <http://carbonbrake.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Wilts-Council-Statement-of-Case.pdf> where readers will find all the representations of evidence to date as well as the Council's comments on the objections received.

Anyone else who wants to make their own representation for the first time must submit their own written statement with all the information that they wish to have put in front of the planning inspector. That information could simply be the number of years that you and/or your ancestors have used the path together with any appropriate evidence. You should include copies of any supporting documents that are to be referred to in their evidence. New representations must be submitted to Mr. Clive Richards, The Planning Inspectorate, Rights of Way Section 3/25 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN quoting reference FPS/Y3940/7/18 or by email to clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk.

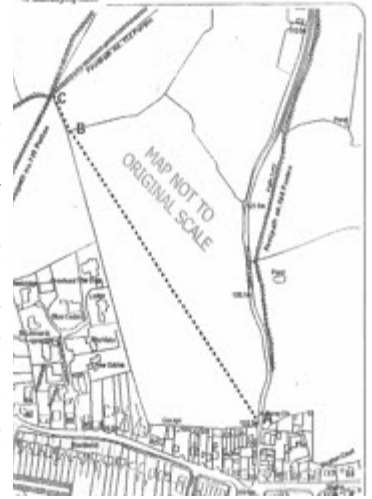
The Parish of Purton is widely known for its many footpaths that are well monitored and maintained by the Parish Council's Footpath Committee and adding this new path to our list would join up with other existing footpaths and make several more attractive walks in and around the village. Everyone with an interest in this potential new footpath is strongly encouraged to make their own, personal representation as above.

FRANCIS SHEPPARD

Prayer for Purton

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

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Rev. David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.



Gaffer's Tales

One of the more enjoyable things in farming life was market day. It used to be that you took your missus to town to go shopping, and you went off to the market where you met other farmers for a chinwag, to catch up with the goings on of all things from the price of milk (relevant at the present time) and the TB status locally.

Over a cup of tea in the café we would have a laugh at the state of the country, and proclaim all the politicians were crooks, and we could do a lot better. We'd moan about the weather (that always came up) and generally put the world to rights.

Markets are there for the buying and selling of livestock; calves to cows, lambs to ewes, weaner pigs, porkers bacon and sows, chickens and other produce. When it came to purchasing a freshly calved heifer, there were no holds barred. If you saw your neighbour bidding, and you wanted the animal, you would bid for it whatever.

An auction at the market is a bit tense. The animal comes into the ring and is gently walked around. The buyers are all around the tiers of seats, then the auctioneer starts "What am I bid for this fine animal? A real rent payer, start me at ..." then he calls out a price, and then somebody would bid a sum of half what he asked for, and off it goes at a rapid pace until the animal is sold.

It was always best to keep still at an auction, there was a risk a movement would be taken as a bid. And so it would go on until all the stock was sold, and then people would return to the café for another cup of tea and a roll, or go over the road to the pub. On finding the missus loaded with the weekly shop, we'd go home for another week of toil.

The market was a tonic to many, as a lot of time on the farm meant working on your own and not seeing another soul. It gets a bit boring doing some jobs like cultivating fields with discs or rollers, turning hay etc, up and down the fields for hours. (Nowadays tractors have cabs with air conditioning and a radio.)

One bonus of being in a tractor out in fields, you do see a lot of wildlife. Pheasants and buzzards are quite common around here, and the lovely red kites are moving in. They are quite big when up close. Hares are less common now. The odd fox can be seen, badgers – now there's a contentious subject – come out at night, as do barn owls. So you can see why a market day out is a tonic.

I was in a market café not long ago and heard two old timers recalling something that happened a while ago. "George, your horse had the colic didn't 'ee?" "Yes Tom". "You gave your horse turpentine?" "That I did Tom". "Well George, I 'ad a horse with colic, so I gave 'im turpentine too. An' my horse died". "Did you Tom?, so did mine," replied George.

Ta ta for now.

GAFFER



Left: a busy market day in Wootton Bassett High Street, c1905

The good New Year news 10 years ago included confirmation that Harry Titcombe and Paul Young had acquired

some premises in New Road to be able to continue servicing vehicles following the closure of Thompson's Garage at the top of the High Street. New Road Garage was soon established and they have been regular advertisers in Purton Magazine ever since; their latest advertisement can be found on page 54.

Also 10 years ago, there was a report about the BBC Gardeners' Question Time team arriving in the village to be greeted by a 300-strong full house at Bradon Forest school. Much work had gone on behind the scenes, not least with catering and numerous raffle prizes but also distributing the tickets that had become very 'hot' in the closing days.

The programme's Chairman, Eric Robson had also clearly been doing his homework as he described a fearsome Iron Age tribe that lived at Ringsbury Camp and mentioned that the red spots found in the ramparts were thought to have been the blood of battling Saxons and Danes, indicating that Purton has been a rather violent place in the past. Everyone enjoyed the evening and two programmes were recorded for later broadcasting on BBC Radio 4.

The international reach of Purton Magazine was again highlighted with a letter in the January 2006 issue all the way from British Columbia in Canada, letting us know that two old school friends have got in contact again after many years because of this magazine. Contributions to Purton Magazine for, from and about our community remain as welcome as ever.

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

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Our ever popular American Supper was the focus of the November meeting and, as usual, members came up trumps arriving with a mouth-watering array of goodies for the table.



Before partaking of the delicious offerings on display, we were delighted to greet members of PADS who had joined us to perform a selection of humorous sketches for our entertainment. Moira, our chairperson, proposed a vote of thanks for their enthusiastic and lively performances to which members responded with warm applause.

It was then time to tuck into the delicious mix of Yuletide favourites and member's creations with plenty to satisfy return visits to the table! Judging by the animated conversation and laughter in the hall a good time was had by all.

Our speakers for the new year will cover a wide range of subjects from 'Willow Weaving' to 'An alternative look at Weeds'.

Our first meeting of 2016 will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 26 January in Silver Threads Hall when a brief AGM will be followed by a talk by Sue Carter on the subject of 'Gardening for Bees'.

Our annual subscription for 2016 will be £12.

MOIRA WHITE, Chair & MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Christmas is the theme running throughout the last month of activities. Rainbows have made presents and cards and at the time of writing are looking forward to their special Christmas meeting with lots of yummy food.

1st Purton Brownies decorated glass jars with Christmas images and then made chocolate truffles and fudge to put in them. 2nd Purton Brownies have made Christmas cakes and also sung carols and Christmas songs at Ashgrove House. Guides and Rangers have tried their hand at Christmas crafts.

Back by popular demand with the Guides were the volunteer knitting experts who helped the girls make 51 little hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles in order to raise money for Age UK. Variety is the spice of life though and it's not just been craft for the Guides. Their last pre-Christmas meeting was a visit to the ATB Skatepark to enjoy the ramps and scootering. That was close on the heels of Streetwise, a challenge requiring Guides and Scouts to hop on and off buses around Swindon, using their knowledge, navigation, planning and observation skills to answer questions and solve challenges. The Purton Guide and Ranger teams taking part stayed positive despite the howling winds and rain!

A large contingent of Purton Brownies, Guides and Rangers took over a section of the Wyvern Theatre at the end of November to watch the Swindon Gang Show and cheer on two of their members taking part. Rosie and Becky were part of the cast who put on a great show.

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

An apology to anyone who looked out for 1st Purton Brownies carol singing outside the shops at The Parade on 22 December. It was the incorrect date in last month's article and should have read 15 December.

www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



Do you have any bottles of unwanted nail varnish?

If so we can find a new home for them at the Harbour Project, in Swindon. This is a project providing a safe and warm place for women to spend the day. These women are refugees, from over 40 different countries, awaiting their formal paperwork, to enable them to stay in the UK.

They are offered support, a cup of tea, an opportunity to learn English and they LOVE using nail varnish, and other small treats, to help them feel better about themselves.

If you want to know more please contact Libbie: 771018 or leave any full or nearly full bottles of brightly coloured nail varnish at 20 Hogs Lane. Thank you so much.





Year 9 STEM Visit to Swindon's University Technical College (UTC)

Eighteen year nine's entered a national Science Technology and Maths (STEM) competition.

On Wednesday 18 November they attended a half day session at Swindon UTC along with students from across the South West where they chose their project, took part in a team building exercise and met some engineering students from Bath University.

Students are using their creativity and imagination to complete a ten-week project. Each group of six students has been paired with an engineer from a company that works in a STEM sector. Teams will produce a report, a model of their project and prepare a five minute presentation of their idea.

Students were very enthusiastic, and staff can't wait to see what they come up with over the next few months!



If Only All Estate Agents Sang – Napoleon Underground!

On Tuesday 1 December we welcomed sixty Year 5 pupils from St Mary's Primary School to see the show premiere. They were a fabulous audience and remained entranced throughout.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Bradon Forest Theatre for an outstanding production of some original drama. A

member of the audience from the evening performance commented, "Really enjoyed the show. It was incredibly well produced and the acting was superb. Very professional."

In "The Village of the Mad" all is not well. Funding cuts mean that the stonemasons work to repair local buildings is curtailed with dire consequences. Polly Blair, now Mrs Jones, is the owner of "The House of the Cross" and Bernard the baker has vanished from his bakery leaving the 400-year-old oven cold and neglected.

When Polly and her family decide to clean up the old bakery they soon discover that "Mary Theresa's Cupboard" (2009) and "The Miracle Well" (2010) were not the only ways through to "The Other Side". This time instead of "The Bank Manager" and "The Gangster Goblins" Polly and her family soon discover something far more dangerous is living in this alternative world.

In "Napoleon Underground", the final part of the trilogy of "The Village of the Mad", we meet up once again with the "Singing Estate Agents" and "The Grumpy Gargoyles" as they come together with a cast of the oddest of characters, to create an adventure to be enjoyed by all the family.

Age Concern Christmas Party

Bradon Forest staff and students supported the local Age Concern Christmas Party in Purton Village Hall on Saturday 5 December. Whilst Mrs Wheeler helped prepare a delicious tea for over 100 guests, Isobel and Imogen Webb were waitresses. Music students Rosie Fielden, Janie Winter, Tom Keen and Eddie Bartlett, accompanied by Mrs Hutchings and Mrs Fleet, sang an array of Christmas songs for the afternoon's entertainment. I think it's safe to say the audience enjoyed themselves!



RBL Poppy Appeal 2015

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal in Purton and Braydon. The grand total of **£7747.49** has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal, which is a wonderful result for our district. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work collecting house-to-house and during our four collection days at West Swindon Centre.

SHIRLEY & MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Joint Poppy Appeal Organisers

Knit-A-Square

Thanks go to Jude and John for hosting the recent coffee morning in their new home. A grand total of £440.70 was raised and was shared between KAS and the Purton Shoebox project. Sylvia and I are very grateful to Jude and John, and would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and everyone who came along to support us, we all had a lovely morning.

On Friday 4 December Jude and I transported eight tea chests full of blankets, jumpers, hats, gloves, toys and stationery items to the shipping warehouse. By the time you read this they will be crossing the ocean on their way to KAS in South Africa. Hopefully the shipment will arrive safely, I will update you as soon as I have the details. Thanks to everyone (you know who you are) who helped with sewing the blankets together, it was a mammoth task but didn't take too long once we got going! Thanks to all who continue to knit and crochet squares, jumpers, hats, mittens, hand warmers and toys and sew dresses and baby's sleeping bags. Every item is donated to orphans or vulnerable children, so ladies, Happy New Year to you all, keep calm and carry on crafting!

LOUISE TIDMAN, tel. 772558

History & Guide to St Mary's Church

A new edition of the booklet has been prepared. It was originally written by Canon Roy Blake and the bulk of the content is still his, though supplemented by material produced after his time. The booklet is not just about St Mary's, but includes information about distinguished Purton families and buildings. Copies cost £2.50 and are available in church or from Hector McLean, College Farm House, tel.770525.

PURTON PLACARD

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN **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

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

G4P **Vintage Tea Party**

Saturday 16 January, 3 - 5 pm
at the Village Hall
With entertainment from PADs
Tickets £8
to include a Welcome glass
Tickets from Purton Surgery,
tel 01793 770207.

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Carols under the Tree**

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Jumble Sale**

Saturday 13 February 2016
At 2 pm in the Village Hall
Bargains galore!

We Record ...

Baptisms at St Mary's Church:

22 November Sienna Jayne Stroud
Frederick Christopher John Rainbow

Funeral at St Mary's Church:

9 December Joan Woodward (91)

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 ...



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 - January 2016

1	F		New Year's Day
3	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Covenant Service at the Methodist Church,
		10.30am	Family service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: talk by David Perkins
6	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
7	Th	10.30am	Communion Live & Let Live
8	F		Closing date: School Governor at St Mary's, page 52
		9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
9	Sa		<i>until 31 Jan</i> : Real Christmas trees accepted by WC with your regular green waste bin
		2.00pm	<i>to 4pm</i> : Guide Dogs Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
10	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
11	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
12	Tu		Last date for comments on Footpath 161 - see page 19
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Underwater Treasure Hunting</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
13	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
16	Sa	3.00pm	<i>to 5pm</i> : Vintage Tea Party at Village Hall (by G4P)
17	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United LEP Service at St Mary's Church,
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
18	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church
		8.00pm	WW1 Commemoration Group meeting at Red House
19	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Bingo with John & Brenda Lilley
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
20	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Helen Ganberg - <i>Contemporary Dancing</i>
23	Sa	6.30pm	Age Concern Burns Night Celebration at the Village Hall.
24	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church

	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church,
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church St Mary's School hall
26	Tu	10.00am Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>St Petersburg</i>
	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Annual General Meeting followed by: Sue Carter - <i>Gardening for Bees</i>
27	W	Holocaust Memorial Day
	7.30pm	<i>to 30 Jan:</i> Phoenix Players: Par for the Course at Swindon Arts Centre
	8.00pm	Open Gardens starter meeting at Ivy Lodge, High Street
28	Th	7.30pm Historical Society at Village Hall: John Farrow - <i>The Canal at Swindon</i>
29	F	9.00am <i>to 11am:</i> Cricklade Country Market at The Club at Cricklade
31	Su	8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church

February

4	Th	7.30pm	<i>to 6 Feb:</i> PADS Panto at Village Hall - plus Sat matinee
13	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Village Hall

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

 2 Janaury
  10 Janaury
  16 Janaury
  24 Janaury

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.

Great War Project

Part 30: January 1916

On 31 January 1916, Albert Henry Ricks was mobilised to France with the 14th Battalion (West of England) Gloucester Regiment. Mercifully no Purton men were hurt that month. Compulsory conscription had been introduced in a Parliamentary Bill at the end of December 1915, passed as the Military Service Act on 24 January. However this would take some time to have an effect on mobilisation as there was a notice period after letters were issued and then basic training had to be completed before raw recruits could be sent abroad.

The winter weather was too bad for either side to consider offensives on the Western Front, although there were sporadic incidents including German troops taking Fort Vaux at Verdun on 7 January. Paris was bombed by Zeppelins on 29 January for what turned out to be the last time.

Gallipoli had now been abandoned with the final units of the rearguard of the Newfoundland Regiment evacuated on 9 January 1916. 508 mules which could not be embarked were killed so as not to fall into Turkish hands, and 1,590 vehicles were left behind with destroyed wheels.

South-Eastern Europe

On 5 January, following the fall of Serbia, Austria-Hungary commenced its offensive against Montenegro, capturing the strategic Mount Lovchen on the 10th. By 12 January an armistice was arranged between Montenegro and Austria, but Austrian advances continued, taking Cetinje on the 13th. On 20 January, talks broke down and the armistice ceased. Antivari was occupied by Austria on 22 January, and Podgoritza the following day. Montenegro surrendered on 25 January.

In next-door Albania, Austria occupied Scutari on 23 January and San Giovanni di Medua (modern day Shëngjin) 2 days later.

Earlier in the month, on 10 January, the British and French governments informed Greece that they would be occupying Corfu in order to move the Serbian army there; France occupied Corfu the following day and, despite Greek protests, the Serbs began to land on 15 January.

Mesopotamia

The 6th (Poona) Division at had been besieged at Kut-al-Amara (modern day Iraq) since December and British forces began attempts to relieve the division. A force set out on 4 January and confronted the Ottoman armies at Sheikh Sa'ad on the 6th. The Ottomans defeated the British force between 13 and 14 January at the Battle of Wadi, then again on 21 January at Hanna. The first attempt to relieve Kut had failed.

On 13 January, Ottoman Turkish forces occupied Kermanshah in western Persia.

On the Allied side the only success was from the Russians who captured Keupri-Keui (Armenia) for the second time on 17 January.

At Sea

HMS King Edward VII, the flagship of the 3rd Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet steamed out of Scapa Flow and struck a mine that had been laid by the German auxiliary cruiser SMS Möwe off Cape Wrath, north of Scotland, and the engine rooms quickly flooded. In the evacuation procedure on to other ships, miraculously only one life was lost, as a man fell between the battleship and one of the rescue vessels.

Around the World

On New Year's Day, British forces captured Yaunde in the Cameroons and the German colony surrendered to Britain and France on 28 January.

On 12 January, Britain proclaimed the Gilbert & Ellice Islands in the Pacific as a colony; they had formerly been a protectorate. Today they are 2 independent countries: Kiribati and Tuvalu.



Medical advances

On New Year's Day, The British Royal Army Medical Corps carried out the first successful blood transfusion using blood that had been stored and cooled.

Other News

The Girl Guides formed their Dutch branch in neutral Netherlands on 31 January.

RICK DIXON

OUR FAMILY'S WAR: We have already received a number of contributions for this feature, for which we are most grateful. If you want to share a memory of your family's life in the Great War, in the forces or the home front, please send it to us at one of the addresses on page 4. The memory doesn't need to be Purton related.

Purton Historical Society

Thursday, 26 November 2015 – Sugar and Spice

Lynda Warren's presentation was informative and entertaining and covered the variety of spices available, some of their uses and the history of the spice trade.



The first part of the presentation covered mainly culinary use and was supported by a large variety of samples. We also learnt that in addition to culinary use many spices were used for medicinal purposes – e.g. chilli is reported as good for the heart and coriander is said to reduce blood sugar level.

Spices which today are inexpensive and widely available were once very tightly guarded and generated immense wealth for those who controlled them. The spice trade began in the Middle East over 4,000 years ago. The trade was associated with overland routes early on but maritime routes proved to be the factor which helped the trade grow. The routes connected Asia with the Mediterranean world, including North Africa and Europe. Venice emerged as a primary trading port for spices bound for western and northern Europe and became very prosperous by charging high tariffs for the supply of spices. In the 15th century, the spice trade was transformed as navigational equipment was improved and long-haul sailing became possible. The

route from Europe to the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope was pioneered by the Portuguese explorer navigator Vasco da Gama in 1498, resulting in new maritime routes for trade. In the 15th century Columbus sailed to the Americas, the 'New World' and introduced the first chillies to Western Europe.

Sugar was only introduced to western Europeans as a result of the Crusades in the 11th century. Crusaders talked of this 'new spice' and how pleasant it was. Prior to this honey provided the source of 'sweetness'. When Columbus sailed to the Americas, sugar cane plants were introduced to the Caribbean where they thrived. Vast quantities were imported to Great Britain and by 1750 there were 120 sugar refineries operating in Britain. The British Government taxed sugar heavily and it wasn't until 1874 that the Government abolished the tax bringing sugar prices within the means of the ordinary citizen. Sugar beet was also identified as a source of sugar in 1747 and is now produced extensively in Europe.

Future Meetings:

Thursday 28 January 2016 at 7.30 pm, Purton Village Hall

The Canal at Swindon – John Farrow

John Farrow will be our presenter and not Jan Flanagan as originally published in the membership programme.

The Wilts & Berks Canal was built around 1800 primarily to take coal eastwards from the coalfields south of Bath. It ran from the Kennet and Avon Canal south of Melksham to Abingdon and there was a major branch northwards from Swindon to Cricklade where it joined the Thames and Severn Canal at Latton. John Farrow, who is the Secretary of the Swindon Branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, will give an illustrated talk describing the current state of the Canal and plans for its restoration. He will concentrate on the Swindon area and include some pictures of the Canal 100 years ago.

Thursday 25 February at 7.30 pm, Purton Village Hall

WW1 – The War at Sea – Paul Booy

Thursday 31st March at 7.30 pm, Purton Village Hall

A.G.M. – followed by The Flawed Genius of Jan Christian Smuts – Dr Sandra Herrington

Further details to follow in future magazines.

New members and visitors always welcome

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

tel: 01793 770117

First World War Commemoration

Two years ago Purton Historical Society agreed to coordinate events in the village that were being planned to commemorate the start of WW1. 2014 was a busy year when several organizations and St Mary's School became involved and parishioners were invited to take part in services, arrange displays or perform specially written scenes depicting what could have happened here at the beginning of WW1, a time of enthusiastic support for a war that would be over by Christmas. Fourteen local



recruits departed from Purton in September. The mood was cheerful and everyone appeared optimistic but we know that four of those men did not return.

Apart from Rick Dixon's admirable accounts every month in this magazine, Bob Lloyd's talks and churchyard tours and the making of ceramic poppies at Bradon Forest School, last year was a time to reflect and become better informed about the complexities of WW1.

PADS intend to continue the story in 2016. They are planning another performance this time concerned with the impact the war was having on family life after two years of fighting. The idea is to ensure people are aware of the deep significance the war was having on the community at home as eventually everyone knew someone who had lost a husband, father or son in the bitter conflict.

On Monday, 18 January there will be a meeting at the Red House, beginning at 8.00 pm, for all those interested in future commemorative events. Come to represent a group or by yourself – you will be very welcome.

TONY & SUE RICHARDSON, PADS
JEAN BELT, - PHS

New Museum Curator

Collecting area: Purton and the Lydiards

I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as your new Purton Museum Curator. A resident of Lydiard Millicent for twenty years, I currently work part-time at The Sun Inn.

I have always been passionate about arts, museum studies and heritage, and I am hoping that I can bring this enthusiasm to my new role.

Previously, I undertook a degree course at Plymouth University studying Fine Art, which I thoroughly enjoyed, achieving a 2:1. Currently, I am volunteering at the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery where I have acquired key skills in documentation, object handling, conservation and cataloguing. Working at the Swindon Museum for six months has allowed me to gain an insight into this sector and I look forward to moving on in my career by helping to run this wonderful museum at The Institute.

I am tremendously excited about this chance to make a positive mark on a very cherished and extremely interesting museum. I am passionate about working with the members of the museum committee and yourselves as part of the village community, which I strongly feel make this museum what it is. I hope that during my time here, I can encourage and inspire even more people to visit and enjoy this historic treasure.

BETH FARNHAM, bethaney23@icloud.com

Purton Museum has closed for the winter and will re-open on Wednesday, 2 March 2016 – not the date erroneously reported in the December magazine! 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 Beth Farnham.

Listed Buildings

I like Gaffer's Tales in the Magazine. They are informative as well as amusing. The article on pigs set me wondering whether there are any recognisable cottager's pigsties left in the village? If any survive shouldn't they be given listed building status? A century ago they were an important economic facility for many humble folk.

Vegetarianism seems to be on the increase, some considering it healthy, others funky – and some dislike the thought of animals being sacrificed for our sustenance and pleasure. Most of those people enjoying a full English breakfast would rather not spend too much time thinking on how a lively animal was converted into a tasty dish. Regulations and protocol today aids and abets the closing of our eyes to the unpleasant aspects of meat processing: large scale abattoirs are well shielded from public view. Time was when slaughter houses were small scale and their purpose evident to all. Animals were to be seen driven along a town or village street in to the building. Schoolboys and others would hang around to see what was going on as they did at the blacksmiths or motor garage. I had a friend who in his school days used to attend a slaughterhouse to help restrain animals to be pole axed.

In the days of the cottager's pig, people were more practical and less squeamish. The subject is considered by two Wiltshire dialect poets. Here is an extract from one. Will Meade, a harness maker at Upavon wrote with some sympathy for the pig in the 1930s.

Poor thing! Ver' like he little thought
O' what his fate ood be!
He'd bin a pet since he were bought,
Did zeem main hard that he
Ooh d zoon be zoakin' in some brine.
If he'd known that he'd fret an' pine,
Then no fat hams we'd zee!
An zoon the day 'cod come when poor
O'd "chuggy" had to die" He'd get no grub the day afore.
(I specs he oondered why.)
Zo, wi' a coord vixed round his snout,
Wi' squeal and squall we'd lug he out
The vust time from the sty.
The butcher chap zoon put an end
to this ther' zilly yell
An quicker than my tale be penned,
Each little bwoy and gal
Ood dance around while straw did flare
An zinge off all o' Chuggy's hair
An pettitoes as well.

Edward Slow, a coach builder of Wilton, had published in 1903 books of "Wiltshire Rhymes". Here are a few lines from "The Girt Fat Pig":-

Ower fiathers gwain ta kill tha pig,
When he comes worn ta-night,

An lore tha thoughts on it da vill
I up we mad delight.
Tho we shill miss poor Toby much,
A gruntin in his sty;e;
Bit mother says tha beakin's gone,
An we caant avord ta buy.
Ah 'tis a appy time at woam
When we da kill a pig,
Var zich nice veasten I da av,
Wich meaks I grow za big.
Var i ays ael his pettitoes,
An girt black puddens vine,
Mother da meak, an vagots too,
An chidlins much's i mine.

Among the many accounts of pig killing that we can read is one in "Lark Rise to Candleford." Although this was written of the nineteenth century there is some effort to shield young Laura from the realities of the pig's ending. She is told that piggy is to have an operation. When she comes into the house after the event she can see piggy has had his operation. A cold, bald carcass hangs in the kitchen.

In Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* we can read of the eponymous "hero" being berated by the hard headed Arabella for attempting to bring about the death of a pig too quickly. It was believed (and no doubt still is in some quarters) that a slow death produced better meat.

At country fetes within living memory (of some of us!) bowling for a pig was a popular attraction. Thomas Hughes (who wrote *Tom Brown's Schooldays*) recounts in "The Scouring of the White Horse" a pig race when a pig was released at Uffington Castle to be chased on foot; whoever caught the animal bore it away as a prize. The poor pig had a rough time and let out dismal cries but piggy did not suffer lasting damage for the writer of the account checked on it a few days later.

Hughes concludes the account with a poem written from the pig's point of view. This is the last verse:-

Pegs! In stubble Yeard and sty,
May you never be zard like I,
Nor druv wi' greasy ears and tail,
By men and boys drough White Horse Vale".

ERIC BALL

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

OFFERED: 14" SVGA PC Monitor (VDU). Tel. Dave on 772350.

WANTED: Wanted: bottles of nail varnish, all colours, new or nearly new. See Harbour Project article on Page 16. Contact: Libbie: 771018.

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.



- 7 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**.
Sadly missed by Mum and Dad and family.
- 8 January St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate what would have been the 104th birthday of **Bob Wightman MBE**.
Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family.
- 14 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Val Davies**,
on the 7th anniversary of her death.
For ever in our hearts. Brian, Rebecca and family.
- 20 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook**
on the 4th anniversary of his passing.
Dearly loved and sadly missed Husband, Father and Grandfather.

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 it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a couple of weeks before the chosen night.

An announcement can also be put in this magazine for no extra charge if requested.

Visit Cricklade Country Market

Start the new year at your local market; pickles and preserves, pies, cookies and cakes, original presents and cards. Everything is hand crafted or home made by us for you.



Find us at The Club at Cricklade on 29 January, 9 am - 11 am
Refreshments available too. Why not make it a regular date on the final Friday of the month this year?

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

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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

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

For further information contact Sandra Horsnall, 01793 770157, or sandra_horsnall@yahoo.co.uk

Purton Purton & District Probosc Club

On 10 November, Dr. David Badcott, our Vice President, recounted his career in “Discovering Medicine”. David began with a reference to early medicines discovered in plants – herbs, nuts, berries and oils. The ‘Doctrine of Signatures’, used for centuries but now eclipsed by science, was thought to suggest cures by their similarity in shape to a human-body organ or the circumstance of the plant’s growth. Garlic, the shape of the heart, confers numerous cardiovascular benefits.

Extracts from willow bark was efficacious in treating diseases such as malaria and swamp fever which prevail in damp and watery locations. The Mandrake, by its’ similarity to the male human, was thought to be an aphrodisiac, particularly for females. The ‘hit and miss’ nature of the doctrine could be dangerous as explained by Friar Laurence in Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” – Poison hath residence and medicine power, the dual nature of the baleful weed. *Murder, Magic and Medicine* by John Mann (1993) explores the links between the folk-use of plant products and their modern application in medicine. Mann also discusses toxic, hallucinatory or therapeutic properties of drugs.

In addition to plants, there are curative compounds from the animal world, often discovered by accident, from the venoms of snakes, scorpions, spiders, centipedes, lizards, core snails and other sea creatures. Written evidence of medicine exists from as far back as 2700BC when the legendary Shen Nongs of China identified hundreds of medicines and herbs. Subsequent contributions come from many civilisations: - Egyptian, Persian, Arabian, Greek, Latin and Roman. Pedanius Discorides, (40-90AD) wrote a 5 volume encyclopaedia of 600 herbal cures which was used for 1500 years. As time progressed, society accepted that some regulation of drug development would be desirable and in 1617 the “Worshipful Company of Apothecaries” was established. It still operates today with some influence, but David qualified with the “Royal Pharmaceutical Society” (Established 1842, Chartered 1958). In 2010 Regulation of Drugs in the UK passed to the “General Pharmaceutical Council”, which seems appropriate, particularly after the incidence of Thalidomide when 10,000 babies were born with some deformity. David, our speaker, began his career in the late 50s with an apprenticeship at Boots the Chemist, with a starting salary of £3-16s per week rising to £5 at 19/20 years. “Articles of Pupillage” were an agreement to be signed by his father. To gain his Credentials with the R.P.S., he attended the School of Pharmacy, part of London University, then in Brunswick Square.

At this time, Chemist’s shops were in private hands and many natural products were sold over the counter on the recommendation of the Chemist. Today drugs for medicinal purposes are developed in a much more scientific way by large, well organised research laboratories. In 1961 David joined the “Nicholas Research Institution” in Slough. The 19th and 20th centuries saw great strides made in all major sciences, not least in Chemistry. The Pharmacognity of Drugs, i.e. the ability to analyse the content of drugs and source materials, is a modern skill promoted by these advances. Paracetamol, a relatively new drug, is derived from Coal tar. Alkaloids from plants include morphine, quinine, atropine and codeine. It is now

possible to design medicines consisting of molecule-combinations which do not exist in nature, i.e. Synthetic Drugs. The development and marketing of a new drug is organised in several phases made up of about 10 disciplines. These include Ethnobotany (research of plants and venoms used by primitive societies worldwide), Toxicology (percentages for safe use), Elimination of side effects, Statistical trials with volunteers and Approval by Scientific Bodies. It can take up to 12 years and costs \$2.5 million/drug (US figures). The subject of David's talk was unusual and much appreciated.

On 24 November, Paul Booy, a Probus member and local historian, recalled for us a tragic event, hardly remembered by most members, which occurred toward the end of WWII. Paul's subject was the **"Hongerwinter" of 1944/45 in the Netherlands**, a famine deliberately contrived by Nazi Germany in retaliation for a national railway strike (Sept.1944), called for by the Dutch Government in Exile, in the hope that it would aid the Allied Advance. After the failure of Operation Market Garden at Arnhem, the densely provinces, North of the Rhine suffered a complete blockade of food and fuel supplies. Road and rail bridges were blown up and an embargo placed on all transport vehicles. The early onset of winter froze the canals and the Germans had already flooded most of the farmland to stall the advance of the Allies. Soup kitchens were set up, but as the winter continued the ration for each of 4.5 million people was reduced to 400grams of bread and 1 kilogram of potatoes per week. The people took to eating tulip bulbs and sugar beet. When meat coupons became worthless, some ate cats and dogs. Wood from war damaged buildings, was the only the only fuel for months. It's estimated that 18,000-20,000 of the population died from malnutrition, jaundice, anaemia, respiratory problems and chronic blood disorders. One survivor recalls that when frozen, mines in the German minefields became inoperative, but when the thaw came, more deaths occurred. Air - drops of food, from 29 April to 8 May 1945 by the RAF, the Canadian Air Force and the Americans (Operations Manna and Chowhound), allowed in exchange for no bombing on the German Lines, ended the famine, but life was not easy until the battle of the Scheldt estuary gave sea-access to Antwerp. Audrey Hepburn was a survivor of the famine, but Anne Frank, her family betrayed to the Germans, was taken to the Belsen concentration camp where she died at the age of 16 years. In 1940 there were 86,000 Jews in Amsterdam. By 1945 there were only 10,000 Jews living there. Paul's talk reminded the Probus members of the futility of war.

Next Meetings: 12 January: Underwater Treasure Hunting.
26 January: St Petersburg.

BOB STEVENS

Church Flowers for Christmas

Thank you to all in the village who helped with decorating St Mary's Church for Christmas. It was a joyous village activity and it all looked wonderfully bright and festive.

This is your village church, so please always feel welcome to come and join in any of the services and other activities.



We are planning (and booking) for 2016, and a merry time we shall have! At least, we should have, if everyone joins in and takes an interest in the many and varied activities of the Women's Institute.

But, an unexpected comment from a prospective new member – “The WI was unfriendly.” Speaking personally, I have made many new friends, and enjoyed the tales they tell, but it has to work both ways. So do come along, all you possible new members, and judge for yourselves. In no time at all you should be familiar with many jolly people and also finding yourself taking an interest in the more serious matters of life. Perhaps you suffer, as I do, with finding it impossible to remember names, so follow my example in getting you out of this dilemma – just call everyone “dear”. (Admittedly, it works better with women ...) Incidentally, if it helps, we understand that a Loop System will be put in the Village Hall in 2016.

At our meeting of 18 November we were entertained by four of our own members (Anthea, Carole, Helen and Susan), each giving a short talk on, well, anything that interested them, such as their own backgrounds! Four of them, and each different as chalk from cheese, and they all had something interesting to say. This turned out to be a brilliant idea, and all from amongst our own members. Let's do it again ...

The December meeting at the Silver Threads Hall was a celebration of our 50th birthday, and will be reported next month, remembering the original members who would have been - and are - friendly! But don't join us just for the fun - we have serious intent, too! - so come and have your say.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on 20 January: subject Contemporary Dancing by Helen Ganberg – show off an evening bag for the competition, and bring and tell about your dancing shoes. (Those of us unable physically to join in will still get much fun, just watching – we always do!)

The main concern of the New Year will be the promotion of some kindly but enthusiastic member who would be happy to take a turn at being President (perhaps for the second or third time!) This has the advantage for those who have never tackled taking office before, to learn this skill amongst friends. Your men folk will be justifiably proud of you (at first, of course; after that they will want to know where is their supper – no, those days have gone, haven't they?) Seriously, though, many members have done a stint on the Committee and would be delighted to welcome and encourage you. Our AGM is not till 16 March but time does fly. Perhaps you have ideas that you would like to suggest to other members, or you have always wanted the power/courage to put forward a new idea? Whatever, it can be fun to be at the head of some sixty members and putting forward ideas that they might never have thought of themselves. Go on – have a go!

So, plans for the coming weeks: having enjoyed your 50th birthday meeting in December, you can dance in January, enjoy the Open Meeting with its variety in February, and be well able to offer your bright ideas which you have always had in mind, at the AGM mid-March. There, that's the winter over and we shall be planning some outings with the rest of the gang.

I shall see you, my Golden Girl Friends, on 20 January in your best bib and tucker as usual. A Happy Christmas to you all, and a positively brilliant New Year!

CONSTANCE REED, tel. 771571

After 8

November meeting - A Japanese Evening.

You have probably seen a waving cat ornament in Chinese restaurants. In fact, these cats-called 'Maneki-neko' which means 'beckoning cat'-originated in Japan, and according to the colour of the cat, and which paw is raised have a different meaning. Gold gives luck in wealth and prosperity, green in education and studies, and pink in love, relationships and romance. The black cat stands for safety, and wards off evil and stalkers, while the red cat gives protection from evil and illness.. If the left paw is raised, it invites customers or people, while the right invites money and good fortune (usually to businesses).



This explanation is how our evening began – Yvonne has a very good Japanese friend, who has given Yvonne a great interest and respect for the country and its culture.

Ingrained in Japanese culture, there are many 'don'ts': for example, don't drop litter, don't wear shoes inside a house, don't display any affection in public, don't tip, don't pour your own drink when with others. However, noisy slurping and burping when eating is seen as a compliment to the host!

The kimono, which means 'thing to wear' is nowadays worn on special days. It is cut from a length of material divided in to rectangular pieces which make the body, sleeves, front panels and collar. When the garment is washed, it is unstitched, washed, and then remade(!). Sleeve lengths vary – a man's kimono has the shortest sleeves, while those of a married woman are longer, and for a young, unmarried lady very long. Designs and colours for the garments vary according to the seasons.

After hearing about these fascinating aspects of Japanese life, we were invited to try some sushi – which had to be eaten with delicately pointed Japanese chopsticks (tricky!) – and find out how it is made. A chance to try origami was offered – also tricky!

Everyone found the evening fascinating, with much to admire within Japanese culture, and we all felt very grateful to Yvonne for giving us such an insight.

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.

BARBARA GOSDEN

Father Christmas paid a visit to Purton on **Tuesday 8 December**, leaving a sack of recycled gifts - more about that later - for the After 8 Group.

Sixteen of us gathered at Mary Smith's home for a Christmas Sing Along, all suitably attired for the festive season; hats, jumpers, headbands or jewellery. As we arrived Mary invited us to place a decoration or two on her tree, so by the time the evening got under way we really in the Christmas spirit. Eve had even brought along a sprout to join in the fun!

The evening commenced with Marion and Barbara playing a piano duet of Christmas melodies. We were then invited to 'warm up' our voices by singing a round. After our first attempt, I think even Gareth Malone would have balked at the task of leading us. Undeterred however, Marion persevered and we got there

in the end. With voices warmed we continued to sing our favourite carols until a much needed break for liquid refreshment and the magnificent bring and share supper.

Suitably refreshed, we got back in to a musical mood with another duet from Marion and Barbara; well done and thank you ladies for accompanying our singing throughout the evening. Diana then shared with us a lovely Christmas poem that had been sent to her, after which we had our version of Secret Santa. Everyone brought along an unwanted/unloved gift and placed it in Santa's sack. We then all took a 'recycled' gift; living proof that one man's rubbish is another man's treasure - or in this case woman's! From recipe books, toiletries, illuminated reading glasses, jigsaw and a glass painting set - Sandra we look forward to seeing the finished result - we all ended up with a lovely surprise. We finished the evening singing some more modern festive songs, although I am not sure Elvis would have recognized our version of *Blue Christmas*!

Thank you to all who made our Christmas meeting such an enjoyable occasion.

At the end of the evening Avril informed us that our 20p per meeting contribution has built up and as we don't have any reason to hold funds at the moment it was decided that a donation would be made to charity. It was agreed that a cheque would be sent to Christmas Care Swindon.

JANET McCARTHY

Historical Society Spring Course

“The 1970s: Home and Away”:

Organized by the Purton Historical Society.

All meetings take place on Wednesday Evenings at 7.30 pm.

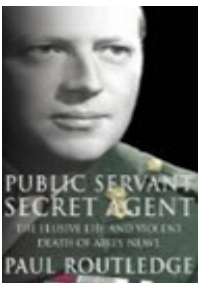
10 and 24 February and
2, 9, 16, 23 March.

During this course we shall see how events in the 1970s led to massive changes in British society in the 1980s. We shall see how Britain was forced onto a “Three Day Week” because of industrial unrest and why the economy was nearly destroyed by inflation.

Events in the 1970s led to stirrings of unrest in the “Middle East” caused by the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran.

We shall follow the story of murder and mystery that surrounds the disappearance of Lord Lucan (*top*). Murder and the aristocracy always have an interest for the British people.

We shall consider the life, times and influence of Airey Neave (*left*).



Prime Minister James Callaghan (1976 to 1979) lower right

School Governor – Vacancy

The Governing Board of St Mary's CE Primary School, Purton, are seeking to recruit a new Governor. We are looking for a motivated individual who will share our aim of ensuring that all children are given the opportunities to achieve their potential, academically and in their personal development. In volunteering for this role you will also be supporting the School Leadership Team in shaping the lives of young people in our community.

Commitment: Twelve meetings per academic year plus additional time for dedicated committees, training, and school visits. Governors meetings are usually held in the evenings however training, school visits and some meetings will take place during the school day.

Salary: This role is voluntary.

Closing date: Friday, 8 January 2016

Interviews: Week commencing 18 January 2016

For more information about this role, please email Liz Stephenson, Clerk to the Governors at stmarysgovs@gmail.com or call 01793 770239 during school hours.

St Mary's CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.

Purton Bowls Club

Another year has gone by and once again we gathered for the Presentation Evening. This year we returned to the Club at Cricklade for our venue, and as usual enjoyed good food and lively entertainment. We had a good number of members present, and it was nice to catch up with everyone that we hadn't seen since the end of the season in September.

I have included a picture of the prize winners (*below*). What a good-looking bunch, some of them can even smile!! I would like to wish all of the members a Happy New Year, and anybody else that reads this column.

I need to mention our Open Day in May next year at the Red House. This will



coincide with many of the active clubs in Purton discussing their activities and recruiting new members. There will be more information to follow in the next issue.

PETER BERRY



From the Archives

Committee meeting held at the Angel Hotel, 27 February 1952

The following entry in the club minutes book for 1952 states that it had been decided to introduce a few matches on Sunday afternoons with a view to a full fixture list in 1953,

Letter from the Playclose Methodist Chapel: - A letter had been received from Mr Holden and Mr Jones, Stewards of the P M Chapel protesting against the playing of Sunday cricket and asking us to cancel arrangements made. The letter was considered by the committee and it was decided to reply to the effect that the Committee could not agree that Sunday cricket was detrimental to the youth as had been suggested in the letter and that no change was felt necessary to the existing arrangements.

Committee Meeting held at No 6 High Street on Tuesday 8 April 1952

Correspondence: - Letter had been received from Purton School requesting the use of the cricket outfield for matches again as in previous years. The request was granted on the conditions:-

That all such use be supervised and every effort made to keep order and prevent damage.

That play must not encroach upon the playing square.

JOE GARDNER



With the winter league season reaching its scheduled halfway point (the weather has caused some postponements) three of our teams are riding high. The A team currently leads Division One with the B team in 3rd place and the C team top Division 3. The D team is not faring so well but are enjoying the tennis!

The club continues to be active throughout the winter months with several social and tennis events planned. The Delta tennis centre has been booked on the evening of Saturday 16 January for a social tournament to be followed by a buffet. This event is open to members as well as anyone interested in joining the club this year. A skittles and fish and chip supper is scheduled in the Red House on 17 February and the annual Bingo will return in March.

It's the time of year for the renewal of subscriptions and during the next month members will be asked to pay before indicating whether they would like to be included in league teams for the coming summer season. If anyone is interested in joining the club you can either visit our website, www.purtontennis.net, or call our Membership Secretary Mary Turner on 07779 580893 for details.

The coaching programme restarted on 11 January after the Christmas break. If you would like your child to enrol please contact Phil Kerley on 07711 852222.

NICOLA GARDNER

Just a Thought

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

Oprah Winfrey

WHAT'S ON?

P.A.D.S

Pantomime will soon be with us. (Oh yes it will!)



This year's pantomime is "The Quest for the Golden Key" written and directed by Barbara Page.



The Golden Key which turns day into night and night into day has been stolen. A group of strange characters, some good, some bad and some decidedly ugly set out on a quest to find and return The Golden Key to its rightful owners and on the way they all meet some even stranger characters. Is The Golden Key found and returned? You will have to watch the Pantomime to find out.

Performances are 4, 5, 6 February at 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall with a Saturday Matinee at 2 pm. Prices are £7.50 Adults, £4.00 Children and £6.00 Concessions. Tickets will be available mid-January from Best One and In Touch Services or by calling 771890 or 770160.

Licensed Bar applied for during evening performances; teas and coffees at the Matinee.

We look forward to seeing you there.

KATE BATH, tel. 771442

Age Concern Burns Night Celebration

If you fancy a great night out on Saturday 23 January, why not come to Purton & District Age Concern's Burns Night Celebration?



It's a fantastic evening full of fun, laughter and merriment. The Village Hall is beautifully decorated in traditional Scottish blue and white, with lights, bunting and balloons. A local piper plays to welcome you into the hall, (possibly the only night bagpipes are heard in Purton!) A procession to address the haggis, followed by the 'Address to a Haggis' by Robbie Burns and a small 'nip' is raised in celebration. Waitresses then serve you a piping

hot meal of cock a leekie soup, followed by Haggis, neeps and tatties, with lashing of tasty gravy. To follow fresh fruit salad, meringues and fresh cream is served. Vegetarians are also catered for.

A live band then plays traditional folk music with a caller to guide you through every dance. Don't worry if you're not a dancer, he's a very patient man. The licensed bar is open all evening to quench your thirst.

The event is run by Purton & District Age Concern Committee and is open to adults of any age, so leave the children at home with a sitter, gather your friends, dress in Tartan (only if you have some) and come out for a fun filled evening.

The tickets are £20 per person, only available in advance from Jenny Barnes on 01793 770339.

Rock Night Fund Raiser

This may seem a little early to be publicising an event which won't be happening till March, after all, by the time you read this, we'll still be tangled up with Christmas, but there is a reason for it.

GWH has a very good chemotherapy unit, I can testify to that. However, they do not have a radiotherapy unit. This means that anyone requiring radiotherapy, as part of their treatment, has to go all the way over to Oxford, sometimes, every day for a good number of weeks. It's not a pleasant journey at the best of times and if you're feeling pretty rough, it's got to be a whole lot worse.

GWH is currently trying to raise £2.9 million to build a radiotherapy unit. They've launched an appeal through Brighter Futures to which PADS have already made a generous donation in lieu of licence fees. Sue and I have decided to run one of our Rock Nights, to raise as much as we can for this appeal.

It will be on Saturday 5 March, at the Village Hall – 7.30 till late. Entry will be £5 on the door, no concessions but all welcome. We are hoping for three bands with S-Hit 5 headlining. There will be a licensed bar, raffle, auction, cake stall, Neal's Yard stall, burgers and any other way we can raise money.

If you've got anything we can put in the raffle, if you get any unwanted Christmas presents, spare bottles of booze or if you'd like to make and donate a cake, all will gratefully received. If you can come up with an unusual item or experience, I'll auction it.

As well as your money and donations, we want you singing along and dancing, so make sure you put your rocking boots on.

For any further information contact Tony/Sue on 772581.

TONY RICHARDSON

The Phoenix Players present

PAR FOR THE COURSE a comedy by Peter Gordon

Wed 27 - Sat 30 January 2016 - 7.30 pm at Swindon Arts Centre

Captain's Day at the Seven Lakes Golf Club get off to a bad start when the men's Captain is indisposed. Club Secretary, Simon, relishes the chance to take over but is soon thwarted by the arrival of Vice Captain, Nick, and his girlfriend, Tiffany. The Lady Captain, Fran, and enthusiastic but hopeless Barry add to the confusion as a series of disasters mount. With the unexpected arrival of Simon's wife, Laura, tensions build and things go from bad to worse. and the characters soon discover that personal relationships OFF the course are more dangerous than the hazards ON it – love or loath golf, it will never seem quite the same again!!

To book tel: 07517 698083 or email: bookings@phoenix-players.com

Tickets £10.00; Concessions £9.00

