

Purton *Magazine*



February 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
<i>Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane (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

In the current cold spell it is a pleasure to bring readers further contributions to the magazine that highlight the warmth within our community. If anyone ever had any doubts about the friendly family feel that the majority of villagers experience living in Purton – and Purton Stoke, of course – just turn to page 12.

There you will see that even after only a matter of months, a new member of our community has written with some kind words about the magazine and his letter includes this sentence. *“In the months that I have lived here, the welcome that I have received from various organisations and the good people of Purton has been outstanding.”* On the same page we have another letter with a very big thank-you to friends and neighbours for kindness and support with a medical emergency in their family. Such comments should make us feel quite warm and proud of our community and the basic premise of simply being there for our friends and neighbours is all it takes.

An early opportunity to help friends and neighbours while helping yourselves is available with a *“Sort-Out Saturday Sale”* on Saturday 30 January at the Methodist Church in Play Close. This is a chance to *“re-gift”* your unwanted Christmas presents and de-clutter your shelves while helping others and more details are on page 20.

Even after some serious de-cluttering, many may still feel that it is just too early to think about spring in January and early February. However some daffodils have already bravely begun their flowering and the display of snowdrops on our front cover is another reminder that it can't be too far away. What is certainly on its way is the PADS pantomime over the first weekend in February. On page 26 you will see that *“The Quest for the Golden Key”* has been written and is being directed by Barbara Page. Apparently it features a group of strange characters, some good (clearly from Purton!) some bad and some decidedly ugly.

Also on page 26 are the details of the Historical Society's Spring Course entitled *“The 1970s: Home and Away.”* Covering the life and times of Airey Neave, the murder and mystery surrounding the disappearance of Lord Lucan and the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, we leave it up to readers to sort out the good, the bad and the ugly from that period in history.

19th

March is date for the grand re-opening of Purton Museum
- see page 29

≈200

bottles of nail varnish donated so far for the Harbour Project
- see page 21

422

filled shoeboxes sent from Purton to children in Kurdistan
- see page 25

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Nail Varnish	



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Magazine Committee

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

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by 10th of each month, please

to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB
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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Footpaths – Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953

Purton is very lucky to have an amazing well maintained selection of 160 footpaths open and passable for the enjoyment of walkers and their dogs. Recent concerns have been raised over dogs being allowed to roam free through fields where footpaths border and no consideration given to the livestock within. Could we please remind you to stay on the designated footpath route at all times and if you enter a field where livestock are present, the dog **must** be on a lead? No one would wish for livestock or a dog to be injured or worse.

Please continue to enjoy the footpaths and adhere to the exact route and keep your dogs well leashed where livestock is present.

Alabama Rot and Dog Mess

With the recent reported cases of Alabama Rot we are conscious that dog owners will be walking their dogs on the pavements and roads rather than take the risk of areas where reported cases are being identified. Please be conscious of other users and ensure you pick up your dog mess. The Council Offices have a small supply of dog waste bags if needed.

Village Centre Open Day - Saturday 7 May 2016

Would like to promote your community group and welcome new members or promote your local Purton business? Then please contact our offices with a view to taking part in our Village Centre Open Day. Several local groups have already signed up.

We will have outside and indoor space available and also selected space for crafters, fun rides, stall holders, food outlet. Please contact the clerk for stall information.

If you are a local community group or business and would like to be involved please contact either Debbie Lawrence, the Clerk, on 771066; or email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk; or Peter Berry on peterberry@uwclub.net or phone 778119 for more information.

Councillor Vacancy

It is with great regret that I advise David Woolford has resigned from Council. David was a great support to the Council with knowledge and ability. He has assured us that he will continue his good work as a volunteer on the footpath team. On behalf of the Council I would like to thank David for his dedication to the Council and his continued support of the village.

We now have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If anyone is interested please contact the Clerk of the Council.

Stay Connected - 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.

Bus services review

Wiltshire Council is reviewing its Local Transport Plan (LTP) Public Transport

Strategy and service delivery (i.e. Council supported bus services). The review is being undertaken because of continuing and growing pressures on the Council's budgets that mean that funding is no longer available to continue delivering supported bus services at the level that was envisaged when the LTP was published in 2011.

The review of the Public Transport Strategy is part of a wider review of all areas of Wiltshire Council's passenger transport remit (except rail and taxis). The wider review will include re-examining policy and spending in home-to-school and college transport, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) transport and social care client transport.

As a first stage in the review, a pre-consultation exercise was undertaken during July and August 2015 to provide key stakeholders and partners (e.g. town councils and bus operators) with an opportunity to shape the scope of the review.

We are now keen to hear the views of bus users, residents, stakeholders and other interested parties to help us shape a new Public Transport Strategy. Wiltshire Council has made no decisions as yet and would like to see how far you agree or disagree with the options presented in the consultation questionnaire available from http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/ltp/wiltshire_local_transport_plan_-_public_transport_strategy_review

From the above link you can also obtain further information on the review including a PDF version of the questionnaire together with other review documents (including Frequently Asked Questions).

[Ed: yes there are "underscore" characters after the bits saying 'ltp/wiltshire' ... and there's even a hyphen enclosed between 2 underscores! You might find it easier to type just consult.wiltshire.gov.uk then look down the list and select "Local Transport Plan ... etc" from just below halfway down the list. Click on that and it will take you to the page with the questionnaire!]

Paper copies of the questionnaire are also available on request by telephoning 0300 456 0100. Copies of the questionnaire will also be available: on buses operating Wiltshire Council contracted services; in libraries; and in main Council offices.

Questionnaires and comments need to be submitted by 5 pm on 4 April 2016.

The findings of the review and public consultation will be reported to Wiltshire Council's Cabinet in the summer of 2016. It will then be necessary to develop detailed implementation proposals. The timescale for this will depend on the nature of the changes approved by Cabinet and the lead time necessary for their implementation.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

8 February	Charities finance meeting
15 February	Council meeting
22 February 2016	Rights of Way and Open Spaces/Planning Meeting
29 February 2016	Village Centre Charity

A full list of Council meeting dates for 2016 is 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.

Livestock Electrical Tape

Owners of livestock sometimes place white electrical tape along the boundary of their property to ensure animals don't get out. Please note that this electrical tape can be dangerous to people with heart pacemakers if they get too close to the tape when out walking. If such tape is found on public footpaths, or anywhere else where it could cause a danger please report the exact location to the Parish Council www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

PETER ANDREWS

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier.

Please call me, Ellen Blacker, on 07557 110414 or email me at wbcrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk



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. To get your name on the distribution list, contact Sandra Horsnall, 01793 770157, or sandra_horsnall@yahoo.co.uk. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

Postal deliveries cost £18 per year. For further information contact Avril Ainscough, 01793 771542 or email avrilainscough@yahoo.co.uk.

Obituaries

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

Purton & District Age Concern



I start my report this month on a sad note by telling you of the death of Mr John Phillips. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing John but have been told he was a very nice gentleman who was very uplifting to talk to. Our thoughts and prayers are with John's wife Sheila and all of John's family and friends at this sad time and we thank them for sharing money in lieu of flowers between ourselves and the Alzheimer's Society.

I also have to tell you of the death of Kath Rawlings. Again I didn't know Kath very well, but I had the pleasure of meeting her a couple of times at our annual coffee mornings in Bentham, with her son Colin and grandson David. I have been told Kath loved living in Braydon and was very generous to the little chapel there and that she was always thinking of others before herself. Our thoughts and prayers are with Colin and all Kath's family at this difficult time along with our grateful thanks for sharing donations in lieu of flowers between ourselves and Christian Aid.

On a happier note, I can report that at the time of writing Charlotte, our treasurer, is in the process of paying the local businesses for all the Christmas vouchers that have been spent. Hopefully by the time you read this all businesses will have been reimbursed.

FUTURE EVENTS

Jumble Sale – 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 and get yourself a bargain!

Annual Auction – Our Auction this year is on Saturday 5 March at 1 pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9 and 11.30 am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. Street Wardens will have some booking-in forms if you would rather complete one in advance or you can fill the form in when you bring your items to the Village Hall. Viewing of lots is from noon to 1 pm and the auction starts at 1 pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this year. Refreshments will be available. Come and join in the bidding; it's great fun!

PAST EVENTS

Christmas Market Stall – This was a great success. We raised £532.26 which; is a fantastic amount of money. Our thanks go to everyone who donated cakes, books bric-a-brac and other festive items to sell and to the Belcher family who provide the mistletoe. Thanks to Andrew Hiscock for providing the sausages and Robert Collis for the use of his cooking equipment. Also thank you to everyone who helped out at the event and all who came along to support us.

“Carols under the tree” on Christmas Eve was a huge success, attended by approximately 200 people. Our grateful thanks go to Mark Blackwell and his musicians for providing the music again this Christmas and to Mick Looker's friends for providing and erecting the floodlights and snow machine and to Sheila and Maureen for providing the hot punch and biscuits and to everyone who helped out on the evening.

INFORMATION

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

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

Minibuses – Please contact 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, Stair Lifts, 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. Thank you.

T'ai chi sessions are held each Thursday at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go or for more information please contact Mick Hull on 772453.

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

LOUISE TIDMAN

Purton & District Guide Dogs

Our January Jumble was a resounding success. Barbara and Kim on their Stall by the door made £80.48p for us, and sales of Jumble, Bric-a-Brac items, Raffle and Refreshments raised £181.67p, plus a lady who wasn't able to be there sent us a donation. Our total was £272.15p thanks to the wonderful crowd of people who came to buy.

All was made possible by the ladies of the committee, along with the stalwarts who come along and help run the stalls, raffle and refreshments. Many thanks for your continued Support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



Purton Victory Dance

Mel, our daughter Beatrix and I enjoy going along to some 1940s re-enactment events dressed up in period style clothing throughout the year and I enjoy music of that period and before. But apart from a couple of events we have to travel quite a way.

So I decided why not put an event on ourselves, so here we are putting on a Victory Dance in Purton Village Hall on 12 March. We have the U3A Dance Orchestra playing hits of the era with a few more modern ones thrown in. We have some swing dancers coming in from Swingout Swindon who will be more than happy to teach you a few moves. There will also be a prize draw on your entry tickets, a raffle, best dressed competition, bar and just for the ladies we will have the lovely Lady She from Cirencester here to do your period hair and lippy (£15 additional charge).

All funds raised on the evening will go to The Jubilee Gardens Project which provides education for adults with learning difficulties.

Tickets will be priced at £12 each which will include supper, entry into the prize draw and the best dressed competition.

We look forward to seeing you there!

You can contact Richard Gosden on: 07469612961 or keep up to date with us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/purtonvictorydance .

Knit-A-Square

This is just to let you all know, we will be having our 'BIG' Coffee Morning again this year at the Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 12 March from 10 am - 12 noon. Last year's event was a huge success; over 100 people attended and many asked for it to be annual event so please put the date in your diary and we will look forward to seeing you there.

Several of us are working on a 'Beautiful World' blanket, which will be on display at the Coffee Morning along with many other items made by KAS supporters. If you need transport please contact Richard Woodbridge on 770862 to book the minibus.

LOUISE TIDMAN, tel. 772558

Prayer for Purton

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

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

Coffee & Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits. Minibus available – contact Richard Woodbridge, tel. 770862.

BOB TINSON

PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Victory Dance

12 March at 7.30 pm
at Purton Village Hall
£12pp inc Supper
Featuring U3A Dance Band
Contact Richard on 07469 612961
or find us at

www.facebook.com/purtonvictorydance

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Annual Auction

Saturday 5 March
At 1 pm in the Village Hall
Come along and join in the
bidding!

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Jumble Sale

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

St Mary's School PTA Annual Quiz

Friday 26 February
7 pm (7.30 pm Start)
at St Mary's School Hall
Teams of up to 8
£5 per person
Licensed Bar & Food
Call Eleanor 07976 235132 to book

Warm up with

Soup & Sweet

Silver Threads Hall
Friday, 12 February
12 noon – 1.30pm
Raffle £5 Cake stall

Bake for Heroes Charity Sale

Saturday 5 March
11 am - 4 pm
33 Station Road, Purton,
SN5 4EN
Cakes, Savouries, Tea,
Coffee on sale & Raffle

Raising funds
for *Help for Heroes*

Knit-A-Square

'Big' Coffee Morning

Saturday 12 March
10 am - 12 noon
at the Silver Threads Hall
£1 admission includes hot
drink and biscuits

Lent Lunches

at Purton Methodist
Church
6 Wednesdays from
10 February to 16 March.
11.45 am to 1 pm
All welcome

Charity Rock Night

Saturday 5 March
7.30 pm till late
at the Village Hall
£5 admission
Bar, raffle, auction and more
*Fundraising for GWH
Radiotherapy Unit*

*Sale in aid of Syrian Refugees
Isolated in Syria and other war zones*

Sort-Out Saturday

Organised by Purton Christian Aid
Saturday 30 January
Methodist Church, Playclose
9.30 am until 2 pm
Snack Lunch Available
Contact: Libbie 771018 or Mary 770505

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.



■ AMBULANCE CALL

To all our friends and neighbours in Purton,

A very big thank-you for all your kindness and support in the new year. Our daughter Alice was taken by ambulance at 10 past midnight, as the new year started, with suspected meningitis. The diagnosis proved positive but luckily it was viral and not bacterial; still nasty, but with fewer complications.

Since then we have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have stopped to ask us how she is and to wish her well. Thanks especially to everyone at the Methodist Chapel and Mike and Shirley Lawrence for their flowers.

It was such a shame that as the ambulance was arriving, some of the new year revellers on Witts Lane decided to throw things at the ambulance.

Happily, Alice is improving steadily. It is a slow progress, but so far, all positive.

Sincere thanks and love from us all,
Andy & Sarah Entwistle

■ THANK YOU PURTON

I love the Purton Magazine and feel that the input from individuals and clubs adds up to make it a very interesting read. It does inform you what is actually going on in the village etc, which rather brings me to my point of perhaps adding my own contribution.

I came to Swindon in 1967 and worked in Plessey Co, and the Square D. My brother was also stationed here during the war and now my son and

daughter both live in Purton.

I lived locally for 48 years in the parish of Lydiard Millicent but, with life changing as times go by, I moved to Norbury Court in June of 2015. In the months that I have lived here, the welcome that I have received from various organisations and the good people of Purton has been outstanding. The friendship and goodwill of many people and organisations have meant that I have great cause to enjoy my 'Retirement'. The efforts of so many volunteers that aid and assist us in making our daily lives enjoyable, has to be a credit to the village.

I have to say that, I cannot thank you all enough for making such a difference to my life.

Kind regards,
Mr Derek Woods, Norbury Court

■ FINDING ROB, MARY & NIAMH

For the past five years we have received a Christmas card from Rob, Mary and Niamh addressed to Tom & Celia Smith. Despite all our efforts to locate Tom & Celia, again this year we have failed and the senders have given no return address.

Does anyone know who any of these people might be? If you do, please let us know on 01793 770120.

Miriam & Ron

Ten years ago readers were reminded of a saying that “you can live as long as you like in Purton” based “on account of its excellent reputation for health and freedom from infectious complaints.” That recommendation came from Ethel Richardson’s book *The Story of Purton*, published in 1919.

Mrs Richardson, who lived at Purton House, mentioned a centenarian who, “at the age of 104 [and] only a little deaf, was often to be seen sauntering along enjoying his pipe, which his friends saw to it should not want for tobacco.” The advances in medical science and the general social ostracisation of smoking are seen to extend our lives significantly in the 21st century yet, even a century ago, Purton could boast centurions in our midst so there really could be something in that claim.

As is traditional, PADS present a pantomime over the first weekend of February and in 2006 “*The Lost City*” had been written by Tony Richardson. This year (2016) the pantomime is “*The Quest for the Golden Key*” written and directed by Barbara Page with more details on [page 26](#) New readers might not know that both authors could easily be called local celebrities and long may such local talent live!

Additional local talent 10 years ago included the Bradon Forest School football team who, in 2006, reached the last 32 in the English Schools’ Football Association National Cup. Fervent football fans can check the team in our on-line archive at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/2006-02_feb.pdf to see if any players have graduated to the professional ranks – it would be exciting to think that some professional sportspeople started their careers in Purton. We know of Craig Miles playing professional cricket for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and look forward to receiving news of others.

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

We Record ...

Baptisms at St Mary’s Church:

13 December	Max Michael Christopher Vaggs
13 December	Willow-Dixie Louise Vaggs
10 January	Summer Louise Ockwell

Funeral at St Mary’s Church:

8 January	Margaret Brookes (90)
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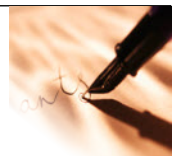
Purton Cemetery Interment:

23 December	Eva Tilley
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Funerals at Kingsdown Crematorium:

5 January	John Phillips
11 January	Della Kelly

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 ...





We Are Brontë

On Friday 15 February, Publick Transport presents ... *We Are Brontë* at Bradon Forest Theatre. The performance starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7 for adults and £6 for students. Book online at www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk or call the box office 01793 773981.



We Are Brontë is a piece of comic visual theatre inspired by the real and imaginary worlds of Yorkshire's literary siblings. Physical theatre collides with stand-up, clowning and improvisation as two performers deconstruct not only gothic themes of love, madness, repression and revenge, but also themselves. Part play, part enquiry into the act of putting on a play, this promises to be no ordinary Brontë adaptation.

Music at Christmas

Our Music Department have been *ding donging merrily on high* throughout December to ring out Christmas cheer for all to hear! Special concerts have included two in school performances involving a wide range of performers: soloists, the orchestra, choirs, ukulele band, GCSE ensembles, the jazz band and even the staff hand chimers.



At lunchtime on Tuesday 15 December, the choir headed down to the Purton Silver Threads Hall to sing a selection of tunes during the Christmas lunch.



Unexpectedly the group made a generous donation to one of the charities that we are supporting this year, The Pioneer Foundation.

Wednesday 16 December was the annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church. This is always a really special evening in our beautiful local church and our choir and congregation didn't disappoint!

Bradon Forest School Sports Hall Update

We are currently in the process of seeking planning permission for our new sports hall and an Information Evening was held at the school on Thursday 14 January to give more information to local residents.

Plans are for a 'four badminton court size' Sports Hall next to our main car park in the field that abuts Bradon Forest School and St Mary's Primary School. Please note that there will be no external floodlighting with the new facility. It will be a

stand-alone building with changing rooms and an additional classroom providing much needed opportunities for our students.

The Sports Hall offers us a much needed indoor sports facility. It appears that we are the only school in Wiltshire not to have a dedication space of this kind. There will also be the opportunity for local clubs to use the facility, as they already do with the field.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

There is little to report this month as we've been on our Christmas 'shut down'. 2nd Purton Brownies didn't completely shut down though as just before Christmas the Christmas cakes they had made and iced were delivered to Lunch Club members as Christmas gifts by Thea. 2nd Purton are also first off the blocks for 2016 as they have already met for a New Year party when Amber, Lucy, Rhiannon and Grace organised a Cluedo type game, short plays and games involving *Skittles* (the sweets!)

It's New Year and new beginnings. Amelia and Chloe had their Pot of Gold meeting at Rainbows before Christmas. This is the celebration of a girl's time in Rainbows. Both are moving on to Brownies in Minety where they live.

The girls from Purton Rangers met early in the year to plan their programme for the term. They have some exciting plans which you will hear more of as the year progresses. 2016 marks the centenary of The Senior Section and this special year is known as The Senior Section Spectacular with celebration events being staged at County, Region and national level. Any member of Girlguiding aged 14-25 is automatically a member of The Senior Section so that includes our Rangers, Young Leaders and also our younger adult Leaders. If you're in the 14-25 age bracket, not currently a member but are interested in finding out more, whether you've been a member previously or not, do contact us.

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

www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

As there was no meeting in December my report this month will be short and sweet. I would just like to remind members that Don Everitt will be joining us on Tuesday 23 February to present a talk entitled 'Why not grow something different'. The competition will be 'A vase of Snowdrops'.

Our meeting will be held as usual in Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm.

If you are interested in gardening we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month with a speaker, competition and raffle and welcome new members and visitors. So why not come and join us.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary & MOIRA WHITE, Chair

Purton Diary - February 2016

3	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	PADS Panto "The Golden Key" at Village Hall
5	F	7.30pm	PADS Panto "The Golden Key" at Village Hall
		8.00pm	After 8: Late Christmas Meal at The Bell, Purton Stoke
6	Sa	2.00pm	PADS Panto Matinee "The Golden Key" at Village Hall
		7.30pm	PADS Panto "The Golden Key" at Village Hall
<hr/>			
7	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
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
9	Tu		Pancake Day!
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
10	W		Ash Wednesday
		11.45am	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church - also on 17&23 Feb
		2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Methodist Church: Rev Canon Angela Overton-Benge: <i>Lent</i>
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		7.30pm	Start of Historical Society Spring Course, Silver Threads Hall
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		12 noon	to 1.30pm: Soup & Sweet at Silver Threads Hall
13	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at the Village Hall
<hr/>			
14	Su		Valentine's Day
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		3.00pm	to 6pm: Valentine's Day Tea Dance at Village Hall
15	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
		7.30pm	"We Are Brontë" performance at Bradon Forest School
		7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: John Fell - <i>History of Post Boxes</i>
16	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
17	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: <i>How is it Done</i> (Watch and ask questions) (Open Meeting)

21	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
23	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Don Everitt - <i>Why not grow something different?</i>
24	W	7.30pm	Historical Society Spring Course, Silver Threads Hall
25	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Paul Booy - <i>WW1: The War at Sea</i>
26	F	7.00pm	<i>for 7.30pm:</i> Quiz Night at St Mary's School Hall (PTA)
28	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 at St Mary's Church
29	M		Leap Year's Day

March

5	Sa	11.00am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Bake for Heroes Charity Sale, 33 Station Road
		1.00pm	Age Concern Annual Auction at the Village Hall
		7.30pm	Charity Rock Night 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

● 1 February

● 8 February

◐ 15 February

○ 21 February

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

Great War Project

Part 31: February 1916

In February 1916, **Harold William Matthews** (aged 18), Wiltshire Yeomanry, was transferred for munitions work.

Leonard Waite Mussell (aged 17) was assigned to No. 7 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne with the Royal Army Medical Corps. In his career before the army, he had been a pharmacy dispensing assistant. He was the son of Alfred Charles and Annie Mussell, of Hill View, Purton.

Western Front

On 21 February, the German armies commenced a major offensive at Verdun in the French Sector of the Western Front. This turned out to be the longest battle in the war, lasting until December 1916. On the first day, Germany bombarded French positions for 9 hours and then occupied the first line of French trenches. The Germans captured Fort Douaumont on the 25th and that same day Marshall Pétain was put in charge of the defence of Verdun. The German 1st offensive ended on the 26th.

At Sea

A joint German-Austrian communiqué advised the United States on 10 February that all defensively armed merchant ships would be considered as belligerents from 1 March onwards. A clarification on 21 February said they would be classed as cruisers.

The US rejected the right of Germany and Austria-Hungary to sink armed merchant ships in a reply of 16 February. Perhaps in a placatory move, the German ambassador in Washington responded that Germany would pay an indemnity for American lives lost on the *Lusitania* in 1915.

However on the 29th, a German note informed the United States that Germany would not postpone the extended submarine campaign.

In the Air

On 28 February, a new British air squadron was formed to bomb German industrial centres. Much of this was in response to continuing German Zeppelin raids on Britain, though British fighter planes were getting better at shooting the airships down by this time.

Africa

On 17 February, the last German garrison in the German colony of Cameroons surrendered to British forces. The German troops were moved across the border for internment in Spanish Rio Muni (now Equatorial Guinea). The last German post, Mora, surrendered the following day.

On the other side of the continent, Lieutenant-General Smuts succeeded Tighe in command of British forces in East Africa.

America

The United States wanted the war over sooner rather than later. In the House-Grey

Memorandum, drafted on 22 February by the US and Britain, was the statement: 'Should the Allies accept [the American idea of a conference to end the war] and should Germany refuse it, the United States would "probably" enter the war against Germany'. But we need to wait another year to see American intervention ... and it perhaps came from an unexpected direction.

Italy

Italian forces had not made much progress against Austria-Hungary along the Isonzo river valley, now partly in Italy – upstream as far as Gorizia – but flowing out of modern Slovenia, where the river is called the Soča. On 15 February the 5th Battle of the Isonzo began, and there were to be 11 of them altogether between 1915 and 1917, or 12 if the battle of Caporetto is counted in. This was a stalemate war with neither side achieving much but at high cost:

The total casualties of these battles were enormous. Half of the entire Italian war casualty total – some 300,000 out of 600,000 – was suffered along the Soča (Isonzo). Austro-Hungarian losses, weren't as high at around 200,000 but still a large proportion of their war total of around 1.2 million casualties.

More than 30,000 casualties were ethnic Slovenes, majority of them being drafted into the Austro-Hungarian Army. Slovene civil inhabitants from the Gorizia and Gradisca region also suffered in many thousands when resettled in refugee camps but treated as state enemies by Italians. Several thousands died of malnutrition in Italian refugee camps.

Elsewhere round the word

On 3 February the Parliament buildings at the Canadian capital, Ottawa, burnt down. Reconstruction was quick, opened for parliament on 26 February 1920, although the Centre Block wasn't completed until 1922. The Peace Tower was finished by 1927.

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 Carnival 2016

The Date for the Purton Carnival Procession & Fete is 2 July
This Year's Theme is "Superheroes"



Events:

Valentine's Day Tea Dance, Saturday 14 February, at Purton Village Hall 3 to 6 pm.

The Next Carnival Bingo is Wednesday 30 March, 7.30pm at Silver Threads Hall

By the time you read this the New Carnival Funded Defibrillator should have been installed up at the Royal George to cover the top of the village. We will have a write-up and pictures in the March edition of Purton Magazine.

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Sort-Out Saturday Sale

Are you having a January Sort-Out? This is a chance to 're-gift' your unwanted Christmas presents and de-clutter your shelves! We are very happy to accept your old or new items and sell them for Christian Aid funds.

We are hoping to raise funds for the Syrians, especially the children, left behind in the war zones or isolated in the refugee camps, surviving on the most basic rations.

This will be on **Saturday 30 January** at the Methodist Church in Play Close. You can even have a lunch as well!

All offers of help gratefully accepted: helpers needed from 8.30 am: contact Libbie or Mary. Items to sell for Christian Aid funds can be brought along at 9 am.

We have already been gifted 2 indoor aquariums with all the fittings, features etc! **Time 9.30 am:** doors open to shoppers. Come and look for bargains and help Christian Aid at the same time. If we raise plenty of money the government's Overseas Development Fund will match £1 for £1.

Thank you.

LIBBIE, tel. 771018 and MARY, tel. 770505

Charity Rock Night

Great Western Hospital (GWH) has a very good chemotherapy unit, I can testify to that. However, it does 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, and has launched an appeal through Brighter Futures. 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 will have Wootton Bassett Rock Choir opening the event, with Frank Abrams and Nick Viola on Saxophones to follow. S.Hit5 will be headlining to finish the night with a bang.

There will be a licensed bar, raffle, auction, cake stall, Neal's Yard stall, Pre-Loved 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

Just a Thought

How is it possible to find meaning in a finite world, given my waist and shirt size?
Woody Allen (1935 -)

Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch

The Luncheon Club Christmas lunch on 15 December was a great success. It was attended by about fifty people including guests of honour representing Silver Threads, Age Concern and the Minibus Drivers. Thanks to the careful planning and shopping of Margaret Goodall and Sandy Lumsden, plus their hard work on the day, when helped by Caroline McLean, Joyce Waylen, Pat Suddaby, Glenys Hobson, Sally Duguid and Lyn Watkins, fifty people sat down to a resplendent meal of turkey, generously donated by Age Concern, with all the trimmings of five different vegetables, and stuffing with pigs in blankets. As if this wasn't enough, it was followed by Christmas pudding or fruit salad, cheese and biscuits, then mince pies with the coffee.

While eating mince pies and drinking coffee, members and guests were wonderfully entertained by the junior choir from Bradon Forest School. In their new uniforms with blazers they were very impressive representatives of their school. Everyone enjoyed listening to the carols, a mixture of the old familiar favourites, brought up to date with some very testing descants, and two new songs. They were accompanied on piano by Mrs Claire Hutchings, the head of music. We were very pleased to reward their performance with a subscription to the current Bradon Forest charity, and thrilled to learn that it would go towards the rebuilding of a school in Nepal which had been destroyed by this year's disastrous earthquake.

Many thanks to all those whose hard work made this such an enjoyable occasion, with particular mention of Steve Goodall and Fred Lumsden, who supported their wives by preparing all the vegetables for fifty people.

DIANA THOMBS Chairman

Nail Varnish from all over Purton and beyond!

In the last Purton magazine I asked if anyone could spare some unwanted bottles of nail varnish, to offer to the women at the Harbour Project in Swindon.

As usual Purton, Purton Stoke and beyond have come up trumps and I am delighted to say that I have almost 200 bottles to take along to the Project.

The women, all refugees, have so little. They have no money for little extras for themselves. So to be able to raise a smile by offering them nail varnish will be a wonderful treat.

Thank you so much, to all who donated their little bottles of nail varnish, and for all the other items that have been left on my doorstep, at 20 Hoggs Lane, including varnish remover, make-up cotton wool balls, bits of jewellery, scarves, fabric. All of these items are so very much welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you.

LIBBIE, tel. 771018

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

OFFERED: I've been for an eye test at Specsavers and given a £50 voucher for any "advanced" digital hearing aid. I have no use for it but it seems a waste to throw the offer away. Contact Mrs Carole Jones Tel: 771174.

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.



- 28 January St Mary's was floodlit in remembrance of **Sue Morley** whose birthday it would have been that day. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.
- 9 February St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Lilian Slade** on her birthday. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love Ron, Geoff, Linda, Lyn, Ted, and family.
- 15 February St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Ron Gunter**, a dear Husband and Uncle, on the 15th anniversary of his death. Loved and remembered by Betty and family.
- 17 February The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Sheila Osborne**. Sadly missed by Pete, Simon, Tip, Myles, Em, Olivia and baby Ella.
- 18 February St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Mary Mills** on her birthday on 17 February. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love Karen, Garry, Amy, Jay, Martin, Harry and Lydia.
- 20 February The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Monica Sue Kinnett** whose 69th birthday it would have been. With love from Pete, Mandy, Paul, Jenny, Jerilynn and families

If you would like the church floodlit, for a special date, occasion, memorial, please contact [Libbie](mailto:Libbie@771018): 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

Your local Country market can provide: pickles and preserves, pies, cookies and cakes, original presents and cards, seasonal plants, fruit and vegetables.

Everything is hand crafted, home- made or home grown by us for you.

Find us at "The Club at Cricklade", on Friday 26 February, 9 am to 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.



Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



I had a fine Christmas and I hope that all our readers did, too! I do believe I have more bottles now than on 24 December, so I would call that a successful holiday – you too?

The party on 16 December to celebrate our WI's 50th Birthday was first class – the Committee and members appreciated the Christmas decorations that already adorned the Silver Threads Hall, so many thanks to all those unbeknowns, quietly involved! Soon every table carried individual golden (50th) decorations – it really was a picture, especially when our classily-dressed members arrived to complete the scene. The food was excellent as ever, bringing our own and sharing it this year – how does it always happen that there seems to be more at the end than at the beginning? It must be that our members are not only skilled, but generous. Musical entertainment was provided by Jean Whitfield and her group, and our members enthusiastically joined in with carols. I hope we didn't exhaust our neighbours but we did have a jolly good time, so thank you to absolutely everyone!

Our next meeting, of 17 February, is an Open Meeting. If this is to be your first visit to Purton Evening WI, you will like to know that we are expecting the programme to include such varied items as Felted Flowers with Toni Dickinson; Roses and Castles (Canal Art) with Jane Clements, and Textile Craft by Marie Dempsey. Coming from an artistic family, as I do, it is inevitable that at none of these things have I the slightest ability. ("Oh, do give it to me, I'll finish it!") is the usual pained cry in our home; so do come along and enjoy seeing at least one member making a complete idiot of herself ...)

Anyway, I've had a peep at the programme for 2016-17 and it is wonderfully varied. You could learn about chicken care; homemade sweets; old cars (undoubtedly mine, but kindly cared for by the inevitable you-know-who); a dozen different subjects (on different evenings, of course!), but useful as well as amusing. We also try to help others and aren't nearly as selfish as you would expect from my ramblings, honestly. You won't want to miss anything, I am sure, so I look forward with pleasure to seeing you all there. The Treasurer will inevitably be standing by, hand outstretched politely, ready for your annual subscription, we hope! And I shall be the one standing behind and dropping everything, as usual. That'll be worth a couple of bob, to start with.

And may you all enjoy the best of health and happiness with the WI in the next twelve months!

CONSTANCE REED, tel. 771571

Village Diary

Once again the *Best One* shop has very kindly agreed to place the Village Diary at the Post Office counter where it can be easily accessed for entries.

As everyone is aware, Purton is an extremely busy village and the Diary is a way to register events.

Hopefully this will inform the public of events and avoid clashes with events by other organisations.

Purton & District Probus 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 & miss' nature of the doctrine could be dangerous as explained by Friar Laurence in Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet"- Poison hath residence and medicine power, the dual nature of the baleful weed. *Murder, Magic & 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 and Roman. Pedanius Dioscorides, (40-90AD) wrote a 5 volume encyclopaedia of 600 herbal cures which was used for 1500 yrs. 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 50's with an apprenticeship to Boots the Chemist with a starting salary of £3-16d/wk rising to £5 at 19/20 yrs. "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 & 20th centuries saw great strides made in all major sciences, not least in Chemistry. The Pharmacognony of Drugs, i.e. the ability to analyse the content of drugs & 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 & 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 sugarbeet. 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 Airforce 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. Audry 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 yrs. 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.

BOB STEVENS

Shoebox News

Our 422 filled boxes from Purton have been sent to children in Kurdistan. The total sent from the warehouse in Westbury to 5 different countries was 31,843. Let us hope and pray, that the donations, work, time and effort that so many put in to producing the boxes we sent, gave the children a happier time than they might have had. The country has so many problems, that we cannot imagine what life must be like for them.

We continue here to support Operation Christmas Child and our work for 2016 is already well under way. Empty shoe boxes or suitable items can be left at 35 High Street or with anyone you know who is connected with the project. If you read this and would like to know more about the scheme, I will be happy to discuss it with you.

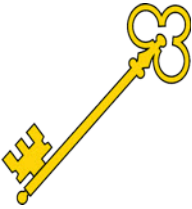
My telephone number is 01793 770686.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator



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

Historical Society Spring Course

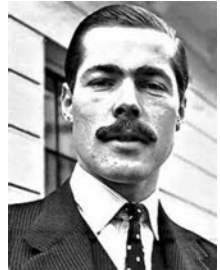
"The 1970s: Home and Away":

Organized by the Purton Historical Society.

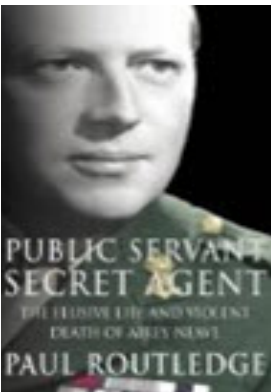
All meetings take place on Wednesday Evenings at 7.30 pm.

10 and 24 February and 2, 9, 16, 23 March
at the Silver Threads Hall

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*

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



From the Archives

The Swindon Advertiser for 4th July 1863 carried the scores from a game billed as Lyneham Cricket Club v Purton Yeomanry Cricket Club. This distinguishes Purton's cricketing farmers from the more illustrious members of the Purton Club.

The scores were Lyneham 37 and 23, Purton 65. The victory was recorded as Purton being victorious in one innings with 4 runs to spare. Slade took 11 wickets and Hill 9 wickets. Hobbs (26) and Snookes (10) scored most runs for Purton.

Purton's team on the day was:- T.Hill, H.Hobbs, M.Prower, S.Culley, E. Willis, N.Slade, J.Snookes, C.Kinett, W.Packer, C.Large. J.Culley.

Any information about any of the above will be most gratefully received. I suggest that 'M.Prower' was a guest player.

JOE GARDNER

Warm & Safe Wiltshire

We're Recruiting Volunteers
Across Wiltshire Now!
No Experience Necessary



Want to try your hand at being a local energy advice volunteer with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, a leading energy and climate change charity?

We're looking for volunteers to help us to deliver a project across Wiltshire that gives advice to people on saving energy in the home and managing energy costs. Volunteers can help us by:

- Accompanying advisors on visits to people's homes to provide advice and support
- Helping to organise and attend local events to raise awareness of energy issues
- Helping people to take advantage of any grants or support available to them
- Giving talks to local groups

Want to find out more?

Come along to one of our information, training and induction sessions:

Tuesday 26 January: 10 am to 2 pm at Corsham

web: cse-volunteer-induction-corsham.eventbrite.co.uk

Tuesday 2 February: 10 am to 2 pm at Salisbury

web: cse-volunteer-induction-salisbury.eventbrite.co.uk

A buffet lunch will be included as well as tea, coffee and biscuits. Travel costs to the venue (excluding taxis) and car parking expenses will be reimbursed.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Email volunteers@cse.org.uk

Centre for Sustainable Energy, 3 St Peter's Court, Bedminster Parade, Bristol BS3 4AQ. Tel. 0117 934 1400

Registered Charity 298740

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

Purton's 1st HD Partnership Linda Buckland and Fidgey Changing lives

Almost 11 million people in the UK are deaf or have a hearing loss. That's 1 in 6 of the population and the problem is growing. By 2035 there will be more than 15.6 million people with hearing loss in the UK, including 45,000 deaf children. Deafness is not only a congenital condition or a result of ageing. Hearing Loss can be sudden, and frightening – a result of an accident, illness and even pregnancy. Deafness can happen to any of us, at any time.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People trains hearing dogs to alert deaf adults and children to important sounds and danger signals, providing independence, confidence and companionship. However deafness is more than just hearing loss. Hearing dogs also help to relieve the stress, isolation and loneliness that deafness can often bring.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is the only UK charity offering this life-changing support to deaf people. We receive no government funding and rely entirely on public donations.

Our Challenge - With our number of applicants increasing year on year we are continually working to train more hearing dogs to meet the demand. This enables us to transform the lives of more severely deaf people forever. Each £5,000 we raise allows us to start a puppy on an 18-month journey to becoming a hearing dog of the future. In addition to providing practical assistance, hearing dogs encourage social inclusion and provide long-term psychological benefits.

As well as training hearing dogs to provide a practical solution to independent living, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People also works hard to raise awareness of the issues surrounding this hidden disability. A hearing dog is only as effective as the society in which it operates. We seek to educate service providers and the general public about the importance of access and inclusion to our recipients and their assistance dogs. We are the largest hearing dog training centre in the world, and have been developing our expertise for over 30 years.

Why we need your help - In total it costs £40,000 for the breeding, training and lifelong care of each hearing dog for the expected 10 years of its working life. We support our recipients with training, welfare and healthcare advice, also assistance on issues regarding access and inclusion. Throughout, they have a dedicated team to rely on, whatever their concern or query.

Our Partnership - Let me tell you how the Hearing Dogs charity has turned my life round. I have been deaf since childhood and always struggle to hear properly. Even with my hearing aid, a lot of times it was not enough, so I've always been rather shy and quiet and not so confident. All that changed the moment Fidgey arrived on our doorstep; she has made a huge difference to my life. She is my ears, my shadow, my guide, my companion, and my support when I am on my own with her. An added bonus is she has fitted in wonderfully into our little family and is best friends with our 11 year old chocolate Labrador Molly; I am really happy with Fidgey and feel so, so lucky.



Fidgey has been with us for 7 months now and she is such a sweet soul, so willing to please and is absolutely brilliant at alerting me to sounds I cannot hear, e.g. alarm clock, doorbell, cooker timer, mobile text tones, smoke alarm, etc. Her favourite alert is the alarm clock in the mornings. As soon as it buzzes, she comes over to me and gently puts her paws up on the bed and she knows there will always be a nice reward for getting me out of bed. So there's no more excuse for being late for work, as there is no 'snooze' button on Fidgey. She's also given me more confidence to go out on my own and she is a very good ice breaker – wherever we go, people are always coming up to us and are so amazed to see how well behaved Fidgey is and asking about the HD charity. She does love being made a fuss of, but the only thing is that it takes us much longer to get round the shops, etc.

We always try and support the fund-raising events that are going on in our area and hope to raise more awareness of the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity and of course, more funds, so that many more life-changing partnerships between hearing dogs and deaf recipients can and will happen.

I have recently joined the network of registered speakers on behalf of the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity and will be happy to come and talk to your school, group or association about this wonderful charity. Further information can be found on-line: www.hearingdogs.org.uk

Look out for a fund-raising event in the coming months - "Paws for Coffee".

LINDA & FIDGEY, email: linda.buckland@wrcplc.co.uk

Purton Historical Society

Christmas Social 2015

Over 50 members and guests enjoyed the annual Christmas Social in December. Purton Amateur Dramatic Society presented a murder mystery and everyone enjoyed deducing the culprit. The evening's festivities went very well and provided a fitting end to the activities of the PHS during 2015.



Future Events

Thursday, 25 February - 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

WW1: The War at Sea - Paul Booy

This talk will deal with the concentration of the Royal Navy's main fleet in Scotland. We shall also see how the German navy was denied access to the Channel. Less well known are the small fleet actions that denied the Germans trade routes and influence throughout the World's oceans.

Saturday 19 March - Grand re-opening of Purton Museum.

Thursday, 31 March - 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

AGM, followed by - The Flawed Genius of Jan Christiaan Smuts - Jacky Parker.

Thursday, 28 April - 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall - History of Cricklade - John Sameways.

New members and visitors always welcome.

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

tel: 01793 770117
