

Purton Magazine

September 2016



A young girl in South Africa wearing a hat made by Jo Woolford, a jumper by Sylvia Glass and hand warmers by Yvonne Hillier - see page 34

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>bethaney23@icloud.com</i>	
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Minibus	Hazel 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
Health and Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020

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>Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157 Jane Smith, tel 772422</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

Are you “Olympicked out” yet? We certainly seem to have punched above our weight as a “small” country in the medal tally.

Purton continues to punch above its weight and medals should be awarded to many village organisations, including Age Concern for the 30th Anniversary of the mini-bus service reported on page 10.

The organisers of the Shoebox charity in the village provided an enormous amount of love to deprived children last year and are looking to equal or better the tally this year. The first step is the fundraising day on 1 October when they are looking to raise the £1,200 needed to send 400 boxes from Purton. See page 20 for how you can help.

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is in a bit of a pickle and are looking for help sooner rather than later as their free spoil disposal offer stops very soon. If you can help as your Magazine arrives they can save an enormous amount of funds while still re-creating this wonderful local amenity as shown on page 26

The Scarecrow Trail over the weekend of 17-18 September (page 17) offers a fun day out while helping to raise funds for deserving causes here at home. One of the most recent successes of the Scarecrows was the provision of defibrillators at both ends of the village. How many lives might be saved over the years by these machines?

PADS and the Purton Historical Society are coming together for a series of playlets around the village under the banner of “Purton Remembers WW1” on Sunday 11 September. On page 22 is the programme of events which we expect will be equally as good as the 2014 production and just as thought-provoking.

We hope you like the picture on the front cover showing a child in South Africa keeping warm wearing clothes created by the Knit-a-Square group (page 34). Our summer is their winter and can be pretty cold especially if you don't have much to fall back on. Googling the temperature today (14 August) the overnight low is expected to be only 1°C in Bloemfontein.

The organisers and volunteers of Purton Luncheon Club have been awarded compliments equivalent to a medal by the Royal Voluntary Service who visited them in July. If you would like to join the club to have a lunchtime meal for £4 and served twice a week, or if you would like to volunteer to help in the kitchens and in serving, then the contact details are on page 430

Seems Purton should take a bow, if not a medal!

8th September is the date T'ai Chi classes resume at the Millennium Hall - see page 9	400 shoeboxes transported by Operation Christmas Child cost £1,200 - see page 20	£1,296.67 raised at Purton Methodist Church's Gift Service - see page 29
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Purton Magazine

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Parish Council News



PARISH ANNUAL WALK

To be held on Sunday 4 September, meeting at the layby by the Vets, aiming to leave at 2 o'clock. We are proposing to walk number 4 from Book 1 of Walks in Purton: Ringsbury Camp and Greenhill. It will not be exactly as the book as we want to include the new footpath 161. The distance is about 4 miles and will include some stiles.

PURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Why a Neighbourhood Plan?

A neighbourhood plan is our chance to have a say in the future of our parish. It is a powerful tool for shaping the development and growth of a local area.

Until the Localism Act in 2011, it was almost impossible for local communities such as ours to have a say in the planning matters that shape the place where we live. The Localism Act gives local communities the opportunity to develop a shared vision for their Neighbourhood Area and to shape the development and growth of their local area.

In 2013, the Parish Council decided that we should have a neighbourhood plan and under the auspices of Wiltshire Council, we came together with six other parishes in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area to develop a joint Neighbourhood Plan under the Governments "Front Runner Scheme".

However, with the increasing pressure for development in the parish, the Parish Council decided at the beginning of this year to take our plan forward independently with the aim to complete it by the end of 2016.

In February the Parish Council applied to Wiltshire Council for the neighbourhood area to be pre-designated to allow Purton to have its own separate plan. The designation for Purton went out to consultation on 27 June 2016 and we expect confirmation towards the end of September.

In the meantime, the Parish Council and its Steering Group of volunteers have been working on the Neighbourhood Plan for Purton and the supporting documents, these comprise of the following which can be viewed and downloaded via our website:

- Draft Purton Neighbourhood Plan August 2016
- Purton - Planning for the Future August 2016
- Statement of Consultation June 2016
- Area Notice for Area Designation Consultation Purton
- NEW-V Steering Group Neighbourhood Development Plan minutes 12 May 2016

If you wish to make your views known about the Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Parish Council Offices on 01793 771066 or by email to clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

When we receive the formal approval from Wiltshire Council for Purton Parish to be a designated Neighbourhood Area, we will then put our Draft Neighbourhood Plan out for consultation (it will be called an informal poll) so every resident in the parish has the opportunity to comment on what they do or don't like in our Draft Plan.

Once we have incorporated your comments, a final draft Neighbourhood Plan

will be produced which will then go to Wiltshire Council. They will appoint a Planning Inspector to review the Plan. When completed, a final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be produced which will then be subject to a Referendum in which all residents in the parish will be able to vote on the Plan.

RAY THOMAS, Chairman of Council

OVERHANGING HEDGEROWS AND FOLIAGE

The Parish Council is constantly requested to write to residents regarding overgrown hedgerows/foliage causing pedestrians and/or motorized vehicles access/passing issues. As a responsible home owner/tenant, please ensure that you keep your foliage cut back to the boundary line of your property. Purton Parish Council will write to the responsible person twice before passing the issue to Wiltshire Council who will take further enforcement action.

DOG FOULING

It is an offence to allow a dog to foul and not clear it up immediately. BAG IT, BIN IT, any litter bin will do. Dog Wardens have the power to issue fixed penalty notices of £75 to anyone seen not clearing up after their dog. Failure to do this could lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1000. To report an owner who does not clean up, call Wiltshire Council on 01225 770570.

ILLEGAL PARKING

Within growing villages there is never enough parking as properties and estates were not designed for the life style of today. Purton is suffering from inconsiderate parking by those who feel blocking a pavement or sight line of a junction is acceptable. The local police have been informed of “hot spots” and information on those who do not appreciate the danger they are causing by their parking. Please think twice before you park your car.

PURTON PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

The Parish Council has the option to co-opt a Councillor to fill the current vacancy. If you are interested in your community and how the Parish Council forms its decisions and provides the services, please contact the Clerk on (01793) 771066 or email for more information (clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk).

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES (All are Mondays)

5 th	Burial Committee	19 th	Rights of Way and Open Spaces
12 th	Council meeting		Followed by Planning
		26 th	Village Centre and Play Close

UPDATED “WALKS OF PURTON” BOOKLET

The Volunteer Footpath Team have begun work on this project and would welcome help from anyone interested in walks/maps etc with a bit of time to spare. Help is needed in many areas - e.g. selecting and checking out walks; designing and illustrating route maps; composing directions and descriptions of interesting features/historical notes. If you would like to contribute to this village project in any way, please contact Paul Dempsey on 07796 378136 (paul.dempsey@live.co.uk) or the Clerk on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS

Permission Granted - the plans below are all approved with conditions

- N16/03367/FUL 26 Pear Tree Close, Purton. Proposed front extension with partial garage conversion.
- N16/03826/FUL Amberley, 8 Manor Farm Court, Purton Stoke. Proposed riding arena.
- N16/03842/FUL The Royal George, Pavenhill. Proposed single storey rear extension and rear porch.
- N16/01100/FUL 6 Widham. Change of use (sui generis) and construction of small wooden garden summer house/garden office to be used to run a dog grooming business.
- N16/04331/FUL 83 Pavenhill. Proposed rear single storey extension.
- N16/04757/TCA Purton Cemetery, Church Path. Fell 1 sycamore and 6 Lawson cypress trees.
- N12/01442/FUL St. Mary's old school site, College Road. Part demolition and change of use from education to residential.

Appeals

- APP/Y3940/D/16/3147405 Longcroft, 6 Station Road. Extension and alterations to existing dwelling. Decision - Dismissed.
- APP/Y3940/W/16/3144842 Land adjacent to Hyde View House. Erection of four-bed detached dwelling with double garage (Resubmission of 15/08165/FUL). Decision - Granted. Noted.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Tel: 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.

Connect with 'In-Tent' (Mingle in a Marquee)

Fairford and Lechlade Business Club invite businesses in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire to a networking event on Thursday 13 October from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Willow Farm, Inglesham, SN6 7QP. Free event with drinks reception and guest speaker.

Register at flintmarquees.co.uk/connect or to find out more visit www.flbc.org.uk.

Purton & District Age Concern



On the second Friday of each month one of our minibuses has gone into Swindon so people can do their shopping. The number using this service has dwindled to just a couple of people per month so the minibus personnel have decided to change the destination in the hope of attracting more people. On Friday 9 September at 9.30 am a minibus will go to Cirencester instead of Swindon. The return trip will cost £3. It is market day on Fridays in Cirencester, so even more reason to give it a try. Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place.

This month our minibus service is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. To find out more please read Hazel Woodbridge's article on page 17 in this magazine. The general committee would like to thank all minibus personnel past and present for their hard work and dedication in running the minibus service. It's a real asset to our community. Thank you.

Our October mystery tour is slightly different this year. It's called the Autumn Surprise Outing. Please read about it in my "future events" section.

This year we will be having an extra outing. Due to several requests, we are going to Whitehall Garden Centre on Wednesday 23 November to see the Christmas displays and to do some Christmas shopping. More details will follow nearer the time. Put the date in your diary so you don't forget!

Sadly, Ruth Miles of Reids Piece has passed away. Our thoughts are with Ruth's family and friends at this difficult time and would like to thank them for money in lieu of flowers which is being shared between Purton Age Concern and Prospect Hospice. Ruth's Thanksgiving Service took place on Wednesday 3 August.

Finally a message from one of our committee members, Laura Phillips:

Purton & District Age Concern are calling all amateur photographers!

We are putting together a wall calendar for 2017 which will have a photo per month of the people/places of Purton!

So where do you come in? We would like you to email or post us a photo of Purton which you think best represents the village, maybe one of its many clubs, or the beautiful church, or the views from Pavenhill - whatever you think! The best 12 photos will be picked to go in the calendar which will be for sale from November to raise funds for Purton & District Age Concern. Anyone wishing to submit a photo should send it via email to micklooker@btinternet.com or post to Mick Looker, Chairman, Purton & District Age Concern, 53 Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4BZ, before 30 September 2016 (all photos will be returned if an address is provided). The Purton & District Age Concern committee will be the judges and their decision is final.



FUTURE EVENTS

Jumble Sale - We will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 3 September at 2 pm. Jumble can be left at the Village Hall between 12 noon and 1 pm and the sale starts at 2 pm. So come along, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee/biscuit and bag yourself a bargain or two!

September Mystery Tour - Our next mystery tour is Wednesday 7 September with

a 2 pm start. Cost including tea is £13.50 for village pensioners and £15 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 22 August.

Autumn Surprise Outing - This will be a slightly different mystery tour. We will be having a two-course pub lunch. A roast beef dinner followed by apple pie and custard. (There will be an alternative meal for vegetarians - please make sure you tell your street warden when you book your place, otherwise you will receive the roast beef dinner!) The date for this trip is Wednesday 5 October with an 11 am start. Cost including lunch is £13.50 for village pensioners and £15 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Wednesday 21 September.

3B's x2 - Our second 3B's evening this year is on Friday 7 October at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £6 and includes a two-course supper; soft drinks will be available but bring your own alcoholic drinks. Admission tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. Bingo tickets will be on sale on the night. There will be no admittance on the night without pre-booking. This is a fun evening and tickets sell out fast so don't leave it to the last minute to get yours, you may be disappointed!

Antiques & Collectables Fayre - This will be held on Sunday 16 October from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm at the Village Hall. There will be lots of stalls selling a variety of items. Admission is £1 and refreshments will be available. For further information and to book a table please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339.

PAST EVENTS

Golf Day - Sadly only two people attended the golf day, which was a little disappointing but Charlotte has received positive feedback from one of the attendees who really enjoyed the day.

Outing to Bournemouth - Forty-five people went on this outing - the weather was lovely, quite warm and sunny. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we had lots of positive feedback as people got off the coach. One couple walked to Sandbanks, others went to the gardens and fountain. We believe most people preferred leaving Bournemouth at the earlier time of 4 pm.

INFORMATION

Fire Service & Bobby Van - If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 0800 038 2323. If you need the Bobby Van please call them on 01225 794652.

Minibuses - Please contact Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator 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.)

T'ai Chi - The classes will resume on Thursday 8 September at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. Places are available so if you would like to give it a go please contact Louise Tidman on 772558. New members get their first week free of charge.

Friendship Club - The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and usually meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The September meeting will not be held in the Hall as the club is going out for lunch. So the next meeting in Silver Threads Hall will be on **Friday 7 October** from 2 to 4 pm and costs 50p which includes tea/coffee/biscuits. The minibus is available for anyone who needs transport, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Purton Age Concern Mini Buses Anniversary

Our Mini Buses are about to reach their 30th Anniversary of providing a service, entirely run by volunteers, to the over sixties and less able in our village. Many new comers to the village may not be aware of how it all started; well it all came about because of the determination of initially a handful of people led by Tony Price. In 1985, when the new Cedars Care Home was being built by Wiltshire County Council, it was felt that this should include a Day Centre. But then how do people get there? So once it was agreed, every effort was made to raise funds for the first bus.



The Fund Raising was launched on 27 January 1986 by the main Committee of Purton Age Concern (chaired by Tony) which had been founded some twenty years before with a separate account established to receive the money raised. Every household in Purton received an envelope and Tony sat in the little parking area at



the bottom of The Angel's front steps and collected these and any other donations that people gave. Theo and Basil Marchant started the Arts and Craft Fair to help raise funds, which of course continued for many years after; grants were obtained from various sources including The Lions and Allied Dunbar's Staff Charity, plus many larger personal donations. Purton

Football Club organised a half Marathon, and our local Public Houses and Clubs had bottles on the bars then ran a raffle to guess how much was in the bottle. There was even a 'Flag Day' when special permission had to be sought to sell the flags in the street.

The entire fund raising was faithfully recorded on a 'thermometer' outside The Angel. In true Purton style it didn't take very long to raise the necessary amount and, with the help of Graham Lale from Help the Aged in London, a suitable vehicle was ordered and was ready for delivery after the new August registration.

In the meantime decisions had to be taken as to who was going to be the Co-ordinator for the service and take bookings for its use. Tony tells me that his brother Godfrey volunteered, but between you and me I think there was a little brotherly persuasion! A party had to be organised (another Purton tradition) and so Bradon Forest School hosted the handover with all the elderly in the village invited plus the many helpers and representatives from the organisations, and of

course Cricklade Band, to witness Graham Lale handing over the keys of the bus to Godfrey Price.

Over the years the buses have created some income plus there have been many kind donations, collections in lieu of flowers and bequests given to the Mini Bus fund which has enable it to renew the buses regularly and also to provide a second bus. The buses now in use are our 5th and 6th buses each of which has a wheelchair lift fitted.



The buses provide transport for Lunch Club, Day Care - now provided at Lorna Doone in Royal Wootton Bassett, Coffee & Chat and various evening Clubs such as the WI and Gardening and local surgery appointments. All these journeys are still manned entirely by Volunteer Drivers and 'Shotguns' - a few have almost, but not quite, been there since the beginning. I am now the Co-ordinator, but have been involved with driving the buses for over 20 years - if you would like to join us as a volunteer or need our help to get somewhere then please contact me on 770862.

HAZEL WOODBRIDGE

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.



■ A BIG THANK-YOU

A big thank-you to all our family and friends who came to our garden party to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary and for all the donations. A total of £200 was raised for the Age Concern mini bus fund.

Liz and Clive Rushen

■ MINIBUS

As President of Purton and District Age Concern, could I offer my congratulations to all the minibus personnel for running such an excellent voluntary service over the last thirty years? It is as good today as when we started, better in fact because we now have two buses plus a minibus committee. All the people

involved today and during the past thirty years should feel really proud of the lifeline given to the many elderly over those years.

Let's not forget our general committee who were right behind the idea when it was first mentioned and also you members of the public who were so kind and generous with our fundraising for the first bus and have been ever since. Still that is Purton - kind, generous and supportive. Thank you one and all - what an honour and pleasure it is to be president of such a well-run voluntary organisation as Purton & District Age Concern.

Tony Price BEM

Alec Dodson

Alec was born on 22 May 1925 to John and Ethel Dodson; he had a sister, Sylvia and a brother, Leslie. The family lived in the High Street, Purton, until Alec was ten years old, when they moved to Station Road.

Alec joined the Air Raid Patrol as a runner in 1939 at the age of 14. He enlisted on 2 December 1943. His Wiltshire Regiment served in France, and later he transferred to reinforce the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He was assigned to the Catering Corps and did all his fighting with them in France, Belgium and Germany. He took part in the battles of The Bulge and the Ardennes, and he actually did hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line. Alec could not come back with the Regiment when they returned to Wales, and were given the freedom of the town of Carmarthen. He was released in July 1947 and returned home to Station Road, Purton, where he worked with this father and brother in the family business, as the village coal merchant.

Alec married his school girlfriend Margaret Ireland on 25 June 1949 at Purton Methodist Church, Play Close, and their home was in the High Street, where they had three children.

Alec and Margaret were strong Methodists and worshipped both at Upper Square and Play Close chapels. Alec was a senior steward for many years and was also a steward to the Brinkworth and Chippenham circuits. If the preacher did not arrive for Sunday service, the congregation knew that Alec would stand in.

In 1965 the family moved to Station Road as Alec took over the family business when his father retired and moved to Ringsbury Close.

Alec was a very keen gardener and grew a lot of vegetables for the family and neighbours. He kept two large tanks of tropical fish in his office, and had four aviaries of all types of birds at the bottom of his garden. He presented birds at several shows and one time he travelled all the way to Torquay for the day to show some of his birds.

Around 1969, Alec bought out another local coal merchant and expanded his business to include weekly deliveries to Swindon, Highworth, South Marston and Blunsdon. Sadly, in 1983, Margaret passed away after a fight against cancer.

In 1988 Alec sold his business to Wilmer's coal merchants and moved to a large bungalow, with an equally large garden in Ringsbury Close, and later that year he married Sheila Garner. Alec worked part time for Wilmer's until his retirement in 1990.

In retirement, Alec became a member of U3A and joined their walking group. Both Alec and Sheila walked local footpaths for exercise and to keep an eye on the condition of the paths. Along with others, Alec repaired and renewed footpaths and stiles around the village. He and Sheila enjoyed lots of holidays, both in the UK and abroad, until Sheila passed away in 2005. Alec was a fit and active man, continuing to live alone and work in his garden and on his allotment. He would often disappear for a walk.

In 2013 Alec gave up his allotment and his bungalow was starting to get too much for him. He started to worry about coping on his own, so in 2014 made the decision to move to a retirement flat in The Mulberrys in Royal Wootton Bassett. This gave him everything he wished for, living in a community with shops right on his doorstep, a café if he wished to eat out and the Methodist Church was also

nearly. He joined a local Bible study group and looked after himself well; doing all his own shopping, washing, cooking and cleaning.

In 2016 Alec had several visits to hospital and on 17 May he passed away. On 7 June, at Purton Methodist Church, Play Close, around 90 people attended his funeral, and £425 was collected in donations for Prospect Hospice.

Alec was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

Thank you from all the family for the support we've had at this difficult time. We're happy that our father is no longer suffering and is reunited with our mother, Margaret, in the arms of their Lord.

TREVOR, HILARY & ALAN

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always willing 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.

Ridgeway Breast Cancer Care

Therapy Afternoon Saturday 3 September at The Ridgeway Hospital: 1 - 4 pm

This event is open to Breast Cancer patients from Great Western, Oxford or RUH hospitals - everyone is welcome.

Feeling battered and bruised after all your treatment? Well, we offer a pamper afternoon for anyone who has received a diagnosis of breast cancer or is recovering from treatment. Come along and be spoilt: there will be Aromatherapy, Reiki, Facials, Manicures and many more. Take a look at what's on offer and choose a treatment which is suitable for you. Upon booking your place you will be sent an email confirming your free treatment on the day. Should you want to take advantage of any further treatments, the cost will be just £5 a treatment.

To book a place email us on info@ridgewaybreastcaresupport.org.uk

Aromatherapy Massage involves the ultimate experience of being in a peaceful space in which you can 'just be', where you can receive the support of nature's fragrances together with caring and healing touch. The aim is to balance your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being.

Reiki is an ancient energy therapy, whereby the therapist channels energy through the recipient by placing their hands gently on or above them, removing any energy blockages in the process. It is a wonderful, relaxing treatment which can be of benefit both physically and emotionally, raise energy levels and help to bring about a sense of well-being and positivity.

Reflexology is a form of natural healing that brings balance to the whole body by stimulating reflexes on the feet that correspond to every part of the body. It stimulates self-healing and leaves you feeling relaxed. It can be used as a preventative measure to maintain good health, as well as a restorative treatment.

Hot Stone Massage uses heated Hawaiian basalt stones to help release tension in tired muscles. The heat from the stones melts away all those horrible knots and leaves you feeling relaxed and calm, without the use of vigorous massage movements.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



When a girl joins Rainbows in Purton she's lucky that she can follow the Guiding journey right through to adulthood as we have Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section units. The transition from one age section to the next is always exciting - the prospect of new adventures to come. The eldest Rainbows had a taste of Brownies when they joined 1st Purton Brownies for a beach-themed evening. They made beach mocktails, decorated biscuits to look like beach balls and played games involving shells and fishing nets amongst other things.

Lauren and Summer from 2nd Purton Brownies organised an evening entitled "Sleeping Spies" as their farewell before moving on to Guides. Pyjamas had to be worn, games included acting out a short spy play, dressing someone in as many items of clothing as possible in a time limit and of course some food! The pair also visited Guides which that week was a quiz night.

Everyone was out and about for their final unit meetings of the term: 2nd Purton Brownies went to our County campsite and spent a perfect evening, making use of the assault course, tree house and wide games followed by hot dogs and toasted marshmallows. 1st Purton Brownies enjoyed the Farm to Fork trail at Tesco in Swindon, learning about cheese and fish, hunting down fruit and veg from various countries, getting an insider view of the walk-in fridge and freezers and eating pizza. Guides and Rangers went to Lydiard Park together for a picnic and a host of wide games.

For more information about the units in Purton, either for girls joining or for volunteering, please contact District Commissioner 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.

Find us on Facebook too:



www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



On the weekend of 15 to 17 July, 1st Purton Rangers embarked on an adventure when visiting PGL at Liddington. Over the three-day weekend we completed 8 activities including raft building, climbing and aeroball. Alice managed to break the crate challenge record getting up to 14 crates. The Rangers also took part in team building and trust exercises. We even made our Promise on the giant swing, which was very exciting.

Alice, Becky, Kate, Kirstie, Rosie and Sarah

Macmillan Cancer Support

Having coffee/tea and cake is a great way to meet friends and neighbours and maybe make new friends. You will join thousands of others all over the UK helping raise funds for Macmillan to provide services for cancer patients. Please join us for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September at Lydiard Parish Hall from 10 am.



VILMA MUNRO, 771259

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Hello! As I write this it is a beautiful day and the sun is shining, but it won't be long until the days get shorter as the nights draw in. Sorry to bring the subject up, but winter is coming! How about trying something different this year to stave off the winter blues? Couple of ideas to think about:

Men's Sheds: This project is gaining momentum and in our area! Royal Wootton Bassett are well on the way to creating their "Shed". They hope to open next month - look out for posters or contact Alexa Smith on 01249 706610 Mobile 07768 357306 or John Loran on 01793 771735. For those of you in Cricklade and Purton, do come and see what is going on as the plans are well under way to start similar sheds in both locations - if there is interest! Again, call Alexa for details of the progress in Cricklade and Purton.

Using your computer? Thinking about buying a Tablet? Then the Digi Champion group could be for you! A very friendly group meet in the Cricklade leisure centre coffee shop every Monday between 10 and 12 and are happy to help and support anyone who is struggling to get to grips with the technology. Why not pop along to see if they can help you? Of course, if you are a whizz with technology, perhaps you could support others to learn? GreenSquare Housing are supporting this and will also be present with some new gadgets etc. Drop in to find out more.

Time to spare?: Could you help someone who has been in Hospital? The Royal Voluntary Service is looking for people who could spare an hour per week to visit someone who has recently come home from a stay in hospital. The duties may be to check all is well and perhaps fetch a little shopping, run the vacuum around, pop the washing out or just be there to show that someone cares. The commitment lasts for 6 weeks to support that person get back into the normal routing of life at home. If you can help, call Emma Dowie on 07766 473267.

Meanwhile, as ever, I am around for general help and support so give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

ELLEN BLACKER, Health and Wellbeing Champion

After 8

Our Summer social was held in Helen's garden. We were hoping for a balmy summer's evening, but although it was warm, the sun failed to make an appearance. Nonetheless, the atmosphere made up for it and we were happy chatting away. Sausages, burgers and ribs were served by Helen, who seems an expert on the barbecue. Each of us supplied a dish for the table, salads and sweets, and it was quite a banquet, much enjoyed by all of us.

Timmy, Helen's dog, wandered around. He decided that he quite liked all the female attention!

Thank you Helen, for all your hard work. How lucky we are in our After 8 group to enjoy such good company.

EILEEN COE

Our 27 September meeting is "Topic in a Box" led by Lorraine at her house



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We welcomed Steve Quinton to our July meeting for a talk on 'The History of Painswick Rococo Garden'. Steve trained at Pershore College before taking over the role of head gardener at Painswick 3½ years ago and his passion for the subject was soon evident.

Steve informed us that the origins of the house and gardens began with Charles Hyett, a successful Gloucester attorney, who suffered badly from asthma. He built the house, minus the wings - a later addition - to benefit from the fine hill air.

Charles died just three years later and his son, Benjamin inherited the estate. He was responsible for the garden and chose to create it behind the newly built mansion rather than at the front.

Around 1748 a local artist, Thomas Robins recorded the garden layout in a painting highlighting long vistas and geometric patterns, with winding paths and various architectural styles, in true Rococo fashion. The archaeological evidence that was unearthed while the restoration was in progress showed this painting to be extremely accurate.

Benjamin died childless leaving the property to his younger brother Nicholas. On Nicholas's death the house passed to his son, another Benjamin, who also died childless and the property passed to his wife's relative, William Adams, who subsequently changed his name to Hyett.

He bought a huge amount of land and enlarged the house adding two wings in the 1820s. An extra driveway into Painswick village was laid and a wind belt of 250 trees erected amongst other costly outgoings, an outlay of millions of pounds in today's terms, and when he died this debt passed to his son, Francis and the main buildings began to fall into disrepair.

Lord Dickinson inherited the house and garden in 1955. He planted a wood on the site but during the next 19 years the garden was abandoned becoming overgrown and impenetrable.

An exhibition of Thomas Robins' paintings in 1976 triggered a surge of interest in gardens of the early 18th century and in particular the realisation that Painswick could be restored to its original rococo design based on his painting.

Lord Dickinson agreed to the restoration in 1984 and work began to clear the new wood, re-gravel paths, level the main valley and the site was eventually laid to lawn.

As work progressed it became clear that it would be impossible to complete the restoration privately and, in 1999, the house was sold out of the family for the first time since its construction. Lord Dickinson retained the freehold of the garden rather than include it in the sale and in 2012 he handed the freehold of the grounds to the Garden Trust ensuring the long term public access to the site.

To date many of the buildings of mention on the site have been restored to their former state. These include the Red House, with its asymmetric façade so popular in Rococo designs and finished with a traditional lime plaster and a red lime wash - hence the name. The Exedra, described as an outside seating area or discussion place has been re-constructed using traditional methods of timber and lime plaster and is now surrounded by the flower garden.

In 1998 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Robins' planting of the Painswick Rococo Garden the trustees decided to add a maze, although none was included in the original design.

During the restoration of the kitchen garden, 85% of the original paths were unearthed and over 80% of the vegetables now grown in the garden are heritage varieties. Many of these are served in the café and the surplus sold.

Steve informed us that, to date £1.5 million has been spent on the restoration. As the garden currently receives 28,500 visitors annually the current 10-year plan includes a new visitor centre, estimated to cost £2.8 million.

Bulb planting, wood clearance and further landscaping feature highly in the plan.

David Herbert offered Steve a vote of thanks for his fascinating overview of the history and restoration of the Painswick Rococo garden.

Our Mini-show takes centre stage for our September meeting, a chance for members to show off the fruits of their labours and an opportunity to sample some of them! This is always a popular evening so come and join us on 27 September at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. You won't be disappointed!

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, tel. 770906

Purton Scarecrow Trail

Sat 17 /Sun 18 September: 10 am to 5 pm each day

Bring the whole family for a fun trip around the village viewing the scarecrows. This year's theme is musicals, and prizes are available for the entries with the most correct answers guessing which musical the scarecrows represent. We will also give prizes to the scarecrow makers who get the most votes as judged by the quiz entrants. This year we have added an alternative shorter picture scarecrow trail quiz for children.



Money raised will go towards maintenance costs for the two cardiac defibrillators that have been purchased in part from funds raised from our last trail.

The quiz sheets with maps will be available as follows:

- Hiscock's Butchers Pavenhill from Wednesday 14 until 12 noon Saturday 17 September.
- The Royal George Pub Pavenhill SN5 4BZ from Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18 September from 11 am.
- 3b High Street 9 am to 4 pm on the Saturday and Sunday.
- The shop opposite Purton Village Hall (formerly Best One), 9 am to 12 noon both days (or all day if the shop has been refurbished by then).

£1 children's quiz. £2 general quiz.

Refreshments will be available on both days at various sites that will be marked on the trail map.

Car parking will be available at The Royal George (Pavenhill), Purton House Organic Farm Shop and various sites around the village.

Take a stroll around the village on one or both days and have fun solving the clues.

ALI

Purton Diary - September 2016

1	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
3	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Purton Village Hall
4	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		11.00am	<i>to 5pm:</i> Brinkworth Show at the Recreation Field
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
7	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour, with tea included
8	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
9	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester (<i>changed destination</i>)
		TBC	Purton Silver Threads Friendship Club lunch outing
		6.00pm	<i>until Sunday:</i> Minety Beer Festival, Minety Playing Fields
10	Sa	7.30pm	Purton Victory Dance at Village Hall
11	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		3.00pm	<i>onwards:</i> Purton Remembers WW1 playlets starting Willis Way
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
12	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome - for other Council meetings see page 9
13	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Alcock & Brown</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club Harvest Festival
14	W	2.30pm	Methodist Fellowship at Methodist Church: <i>Operation Shoebox</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
15	Th	6.00pm	<i>to 8pm:</i> Bradon Forest School Year 4/5 open evening
17	Sa	9.30am	<i>to 11am:</i> Bradon Forest School Year 4/5 open morning
		10.00am	<i>to 5pm:</i> Purton Scarecrow Trail
18	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	<i>to 5pm:</i> Purton Scarecrow Trail
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
19	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church: Barry Davis - <i>slides set to music</i>
20	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
21	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Graham Fuller - <i>Where there's a will there's a way</i>
22	Th		Autumn Equinox
		7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Martin Way - <i>The Golden Age of Coaching</i>

24	Sa	2.00pm	Purton Silver Threads Jumble Sale
25	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
26	M	9.15am	<i>to 10.30am: (until 30 Sept)</i> Bradon Forest School Year 4/5 open morning
27	Tu	9.00am	Historical Society coach outing to Royal Hospital Chelsea
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: The Life of Riley
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Dorcan Choir</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild Mini-Show at Silver Threads Hall
		8.00pm	After 8: "Topic in a Box" led by Lorraine at her house
28	W	7.30pm	Purton Carnival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
30	F	9.00am	Cricklade Country Market, The Club at Cricklade
		10.00am	<i>to 11am:</i> Macmillan Coffee Morning, Lyd. Millicent Parish Hall

October

1	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 2pm:</i> Shoebox Fundraising Day at 35 High Street
5	W	11.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour, with lunch included

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 (term time)
	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
	2.20pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	<i>to 11.30am:</i> Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact: Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, tel: 772954 or mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Cricklade Country Market



Locally made and grown: Pickles and preserves, Pies, cookies, scones and cakes, Handcrafted gifts and cards, Seasonal plants, fruit and vegetables. Everything is handmade, home cooked or home grown by us just for you.

Find us at "The Club at Cricklade" on Friday 30 September, 9 am - 11 am
Coffee, tea and cakes available too.

Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market. Market date for your diary: 28 October.

Shoebox News

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe boxes are being covered, knitting needles are going at high speed and the 'bargain hunters' are out and about. By the time you read this, there will be about 11 weeks to go before our filled boxes are collected and taken to Westbury ready for distribution.

After some negotiation, it has been agreed that we can, once again, check and seal our own boxes. This is good news. By being able to seal them rather than put an elastic band around the box, it becomes more secure and tight, therefore more items can be put into each box, which is what we like to do. When I see video clips etc., of the children, the way that many live and their reaction when they open those boxes, it is very emotional. So the more that can be put into the boxes, the more pleasure we can give those children.

If you would like to contribute to this project (so many of you do), but are not sure what to give, there is the information on the following website: www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions We are in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, small colouring, activity, dot-to-dot books (packs of 8 from Poundland), marbles for the older boys and colouring pencils. Own brand items are much cheaper and very acceptable. Of course any of the items listed on the website would be appreciated. We have yet to get the sweets (no chocolate), but have been restricted in buying these beforehand, as the Sell-by date must not be before March 2017.

FUND RAISING DAY

The plan is to send 400 filled boxes as last year, plus any individual filled boxes that we receive. As you probably know, we are asked to provide £3 per box for transportation costs, so we need to raise £1,200. A lot of this is raised at our Fund Raising Day, which this year is on Saturday 1 October. It will be, as usual, at 35 High Street from 10 am to 2 pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served until 11.30 am at the cost of £1 admission. Lunches will be served from 12 noon at £6. No need to book, just turn up. We will have a morning and afternoon raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, cake stall (yes, Bakewell tarts!) books and jigsaws.

Lastly, to everyone who helps and provides for this very worthwhile project, my personal thanks. We have gone from strength to strength over the past few years and with your support, may it continue.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Co-ordinator (tel: 770686)

Carnival News

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent open meeting, we had some really good ideas put forward for the 2017 Carnival and beyond.

Still to come this year:

September Bingo: Wednesday 28 September 7.30 pm at Silver Threads Hall

Quiz Night: Friday 25 November 7.30 pm at Royal George Pub

KEVIN LAW, Carnival Chairman





Past Events

Saturday 16 July 2016: Walking Tour of Cricklade

A group of 20 members and visitors assembled at the Cricklade Museum in Calcutt Street for the walk lead by John Samways. The building that houses the museum was originally erected as a Baptist Chapel in 1852 and is now full of information and artefacts - well worth a separate visit.

We walked the pathways at the back of Calcutt Street, whilst John explained the Roman history of the town pointing out the original boundaries. The later walled Saxon Town was built under Alfred the Great as a defence against the Danes and was important enough to produce its own coinage. Most of the houses on the High Street still have their original allotted burgage plot of 12 poles (198 feet) and a frontage of 2 poles (33 feet).

John took us to the beautiful church of St Mary's which stands just inside the Saxon North Rampart. It was probably the first church built in the town but was rebuilt by the Normans. Today it is the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary's.

Beyond the town bridge which crosses the infant Thames and dating from the 13th century is the Priory of St John the Baptist which provided lodgings for retired clergy and travellers. Cricklade has a remarkable range of buildings, many of which we did not have time to see. St Samson's church, the Edward Jenner School and the popular Red Lion pub dating back to the 1600s to name but a few. Cricklade is also famous for North Meadow, a traditionally managed hay meadow which is important for its rare flora including the largest British population of snakehead fritillary.

Thank you to John for the tour; his knowledge of the town is very extensive and we certainly appreciated the time and effort he extended into making our visit interesting and memorable.

The Purton Museum - World War One Exhibition

The Call to Arms is the first touring display produced by the Wiltshire at War project and is available to view in the museum until the end of the August. It presents the stories of Wiltshire people; from men and boys who answered the first call to join up to the regular soldiers who learned to fight a new kind of war involving digging trenches and firing mortar shells. It is hoped that during September a further exhibition depicting a different chapter of the story of the War will be available to view.

Future Dates

Sunday 11 September from 2.30 pm: *Purton's Commemoration of WW1*

In conjunction with Purton Amateur Dramatic Society. Contact Lindsey 01793 771890 or Sue 01793 772581. (See page 33)

Thurs 22 September, 7.30 pm, Village Hall: *Martin Way - Golden Age of Coaching* - Martin will talk about the rise of the Stage Coach, Turnpikes, Highwaymen and the Penny Post - with special reference to the Oxford - Gloster (Gloucester) Road.

Tuesday, 27 September: *Coach outing to Royal Hospital Chelsea*
Organised by Helen Dixon - telephone 01793 770648.

Thursday 27 October, 7.30 pm at Village Hall:

Tunnel Masters, Arsonist and the Great War - Martyn Gibson

Thursday 24 November, 7.30 pm at Village Hall:

Swindon Railway Works - Andy Binks

Friday 2 December: Annual Christmas Social at the Silver Threads Hall

New Members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JANET NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com, Tel: 01793 770117

Purton Remembers World War I

Back in 2014, Purton Amateur Dramatic Society in conjunction with Purton Historical Society performed a number of playlets around the village based (loosely) on a recruitment drive. This year, the two societies will be putting on another series of playlets based on life in Purton in 1916. Once again, a rather large amount of artistic licence will be involved.



P.A.D.S. Travelling Theatre presents: PURTON'S HOME FRONT

On Sunday 11 September 2016 at:

Willis Way 2.30 pm. Play Close 2.45 pm. Village Hall 3 to 5.30 pm.

With a presentation on Purton's Remount Centre by Bob Lloyd.

Entertainment by "Purton Village Voices"

Film Show Exhibition Museum Open Children's Games

BAR & REFRESHMENTS

Enquiries Tony & Sue Richardson 772581



Espionage in Modern Times

A Course organized by Purton Historical Society: Starting 5 October

Venue: The Silver Threads Hall, Purton. **Time:** 7.30 pm

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

Speaker: Mr P. Booy, B.ed. Hist. Hons.

For further details, contact Inez Gale 01793 770138, or Paul Booy 01793 770755

All dates are Wednesdays:

5 October: Spies and motivations, M.I.C.E. CIA Acronym

12 October: Lady Spies: Mata Hari, Kitty Harris

19 October: Stalin's Russia and the useful idiots

2 November: Richard Sorge; Triumph and Futility

9 November: Stealing the Atom Secrets; Never trust your brother!

16 November: Countering Soviet Intelligences



Great War Project

Part 38: September 1916

Purton men mobilised in August 1916

To France:

Frederick Leach, Royal Flying Corps. (*mobilised July 1916*)

William George Garlick, 28th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (Ypres sector)

Richard Stanley Selwood, 52nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (Ypres sector)

(William and Richard had both emigrated from Purton to Australia before the war and had enlisted from there.)

To Egypt:

William Nelson Gore, Royal Army Service Corps

Battle of the Somme

British attacks at Delville Wood and Pozières had started in August. On 3 September a further attack was made against the German second defensive system at Guillemont. By 6 September all three of these battles came to a conclusion with British and Australian victories. A further British victory at Ginchy on the 9th secured the sector.

The British advanced again on 15 September, over a front between Flers and Courcellette. This was the first time that tanks ("Little Willies") had been used in action in large numbers. Also, troops from the Canadian and New Zealand Divisions saw action at the Somme for the first time. Another innovation was the introduction of air co-operation with tanks by the Royal Flying Corps. The Battle of Flers-Courcellette ended on 22 September and was shortly followed by British attacks on Morval and Thiepval, taking both by the 28th.

In September, the German armies on the Somme suffered about 130,000 casualties, their most costly month on the Somme. Combined with the losses at Verdun and on the Eastern Front, the German Empire was brought closer to military collapse than at any time before the end of the War.

Air War - in England

There were 2 major Zeppelin air raids over the south and east of England in September 1916. On the 2nd, the greatest number of airships in a simultaneous attack, 14 in all, raided London and other parts of England. Leefe Robinson, a British pilot, became the first to shoot down a German airship over Britain - the SL11 brought down at Cuffley, near Potters Bar (between London and Hertford) and just north of today's M25.

The night of 13-14 September saw a raid on the east coast and London with 170 serious casualties, most of them civilian. Airship L32 was shot down by aeroplane at Billericay, Essex, and L33 was brought down by anti-aircraft fire at Little Wigborough, near Colchester.

Air War - in France

Frederick Leach, aged 26, husband of Mrs Caroline Elizabeth Leach (née Young)

of Pavenhill, Purton, had been sent to France with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) No. 7 Kite Balloon Section. The Section was based at Barly, some 15km north of the Somme sector and attached to the British Third Army. Kite-balloons were used for observing enemy lines and activity. The stable basket underneath made it more suitable for reconnaissance photography than any aircraft of the day. But the balloons were filled with flammable hydrogen and usually lasted about a fortnight before they were damaged or destroyed by enemy gunfire or aircraft. As a result, they were usually sited some distance from the front line.

German aircraft attacked these and other targets, while the aircraft of the RFC engaged to protect the balloons and shoot down the German planes, as well as their other observation and attack roles.

On 17 September, Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen ("The Red Baron") won his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France, about 40km east of both Barly and Thiepval. He was 24 years old at the time. He is considered the ace-of-aces of the war, being officially credited with 80 air combat victories.

At the same time, allied aircraft were carrying out raids behind the German lines. On 24 September, 2 French airmen, Captain de Beauchamp and Lt Daucourt, flew 500 miles over German territory in daylight and dropped 12 bombs on the Krupp munitions works at Essen. They returned safely despite being fired on by the 250 anti-aircraft guns that protected the works. Although the bombs caused little damage, the sortie had shown the range and capabilities of the aircraft of the day.

Romania

Seeing itself supported on its northern border by the Russian Empire, Romania had entered the war on the Allied side in August. On 1 September, its southern neighbour Bulgaria, and no friend since the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, declared war on Romania. However, things still seemed to be going well for Romania as its forces took Sibiu, in Austro-Hungarian Transylvania.

But on 2 September, German and Bulgarian forces invaded Romania's coastal province of Dobrudja, capturing Tutrakan on the 6th and Silistra on the 10th.

On its western front Romania occupied Orsova (Hungary) on 8 September. But Sibiu was retaken by Austria-Hungary after a three-day battle on the 29th.

The Greek National Schism

Greece was in a perilous position. Not formally at war, it was being used extensively, and against its will, by the Allies. With Austro-German occupation of both Serbia and Albania to its west, and with Bulgaria to the north and east, Turkey further east and the open seas to the south, Greece was of immense strategic importance to the Allies.

On 2 September, all German ships in Piraeus, the port of Athens, were seized by the Allies.

Back in May 1916, Rupel, a strategic military fort by the Bulgarian border, was surrendered by the royalist government to German and Bulgarian forces. Germany confirmed that the integrity of Greece would be respected, but they couldn't control the Bulgarian forces, which moved the Greek population out and occupied Kavala nearby on 4 September.

In August 1916, during a rally in Athens, the former prime minister Eleftherios Venizelos had publicly announced his total disagreement with the Crown's policies.

There were now effectively two political groups in Greece. On one side were the Venizelists, actively campaigning with Venizelos for Greece to join the war on the allied side. On the other side, the Royalists, including the government, followed King Constantine who favoured the Central Powers but wanted to stay neutral at all costs.

On the 11th, the Greek Prime Minister Alexandros Zaimis resigned to be replaced on 16 September by Nikolaos Kalogeropoulos.

Again against the will of the Greek government, on 20 September the Allies set up an Albanian government in exile under Essad Pasha in Salonika (Thessaloniki). Greece was not under its own control.

Venizelos left Athens on 25 September and, on the 29th, in conjunction with Admiral Condouritis, announced a Provisional Government in Crete as an alternative to the Athens government, with the aim of bringing Greece into the war on the side of the Allies.

Mesopotamia: On 22 September, the Turkish garrison at Taif in the Hejaz surrendered to Arab forces under the Sharif of Mecca.

Africa: Allied successes continued in German East Africa as Dar-es-Salaam surrendered to British forces on 4 September. But on the 7th, General Smuts' British (South African) pursuit of retreating German forces was held at Kisaki when the German garrison used salvaged naval guns from the SMS Königsberg, (damaged by the Royal Navy in June 1915 in the Rufiji Delta and scuttled by her captain), and fired them on the South African units. Smuts called off the attack on 11 September.

Meanwhile Kilwa, on the coast, was occupied by the Royal Navy on the 11th and Lindi on the 17th.

Belgian forces from the Congo captured the German colony's capital, Tabora, on 19 September.

On a Lighter Note

On 6 September, the first true supermarket, the "Piggly Wiggly" was opened by Clarence Saunders in Memphis, Tennessee.

RICK DIXON

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust proudly presents Country Comes to Town

On 24 September Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will be holding its annual *Country Comes to Town* event in Devizes market square, where you can experience Wiltshire's rich wildlife right in the heart of Devizes. This will be the event's fourth year and will be the biggest and best yet.

There will be plenty of wildlife experiences and activities on offer; you can meet some of the trusts precision grazing team of cows and sheep, or have a go at country crafts and explore your creative side with natural art. Maybe you would like to get up close and personal with birds of prey, identify wildlife and learn about forest school and bushcraft skills? Come along, try the wonderful meat products and buy homemade cake plus a whole lot more.

It's a free event and a great day out for all of the family. All donations on the day will go towards the trust to help preserve Wiltshire's environment.

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust 'Studley Grange 5000' Project



Our flagship project, Studley Grange, which is part of the canal section joining Royal Wootton Bassett with Swindon, needs your help to complete the work. We need to move the last 5,000 cubic metres of clay (equates to about 550 skips) from the old canal line at Studley Grange, and place it right next door in the landfill site operated by BIFFA.



Looking west from Bincknoll Lane bridge, the restored canal to be joined with the Studley Grange section.

We have done so much here already in the last year and moved 20,000 cubic metres. BIFFA has closed the site to general access, and we have only a few months left to complete the work before the site is finally closed later this year, otherwise we may be paying up to £50 per cubic metre in additional costs.

This final push will see this project finished, with this section in water and the towpath created for all to enjoy.

There are two different ways in which you can help:

- By donating what you can as soon as possible, the Trust needs to start the final phase of this flagship project by the end of August.

You can donate by sending a cheque, made payable to 'Wilts & Berks Canal Trust' to The Trust Office, Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham SN15 4HD. Or go to our new

crowdfunding page and donate there: donate.wbct.org.uk.

- By immediately sharing, tweeting, blogging and emailing our Studley Grange 5000 message, and appealing to all your friends, family and contacts as soon as you can. Please ask them to go to our crowdfunding web page donate.wbct.org.uk and donate as much as they can. And ask them in turn to send the message to their contacts. Crowd funding works best when our supporters help by spreading the message out to their networks, particularly via social media. The more people who hear about Studley Grange 5000, and as soon as possible, the more support we will get.

With your help we can create this section of our beautiful canal, for us and for future generations to enjoy and cherish.

Living waterways transform places and enrich lives...It's time to create an environment both we, and our children can be proud of...It's time to inspire and excite...It's time to put our canal at the heart of everyday life...



The dark line through the map shows the Studley Grange section, which is planned to join the section of canal that runs through Wichelstowe

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



Did you know that on 11 January, whilst you and I have put the last of the Christmas decorations away and are still vacuuming up those pesky needles that seem to get everywhere, the good folk of Burghhead (a fishing town on the Moray Firth) will be 'Burning the Clavie'. This is a fiery rite held on the eve of what used to be New Year's Day before the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1752 and has lit up the town for centuries.

The clavier is a half barrel filled with wood and tar and paraded around the town on top of a long pole in the evening. The portable inferno passes from hand to hand and the clavier is finally smashed with an axe at the top of Doorie Hill. Onlookers collect the burnt remains which are believed to bring good luck for the year ahead.

This is one of the many customs and traditions, that our speaker at our July meeting described, which are carried out the length and breadth of the British Isles through the year. In April you could enjoy the Bideford Sheep Grand National, a more recent innovation is the Herne Hill Wheelie Bin race held in July and September could find us visiting the Newent Onion Eating Fayre!



A most informative and interesting evening was topped off by some members who bravely attempted Maypole dancing, and despite the laughter emanating from both participants and spectators, after a couple of trial runs the ribbons were wound round the pole successfully and more importantly unwound - well done to all the ladies and thanks to those who transported the Maypole halfway across Swindon.

We welcome Graham Fuller to our 21 September meeting with a talk entitled "Where there's a will there's a way". Graham is a solicitor and he will talk to us about the importance of making a will, power of attorney and a lot more and he will answer our questions about a subject that many of us find difficult to talk about.

Visitors welcome (£3 admission). See you on 21 September at Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

HELEN DIXON, 01793 770648

The Phoenix Players present: 'The Reunion', a comedy by Peter Gordon From Wednesday 28 September to Saturday 1 October at the Arts Centre, Devizes Road, Swindon. 7.30 pm

Tickets are £10. with concessions at £9. and may be reserved by contacting Pauline on 07517 698083 or by e-mail bookings@phoenix-players.com.

To reserve seats by payment with credit/debit card please go the Wyvern Theatre website. NB. this production is not suitable for children under the age of 12 years.



Year 4/5 Open Events

Thursday 15 September, 6 pm to 8 pm

Saturday 17 September, 9.30 am to 11 am

Monday 26 to Friday 30 September, 9.15 am to 10.30 am

Please visit our website at www.bradonforest.org.uk to book your place on one of our Open Mornings. There is no booking required for our open Evening on Thursday 15 September 2016.

Primary Pupils visit for Maths

We saw over 90 Year 5 primary pupils from St Sampson's and St Mary's Primary Schools at the Maths event hosted by the department on Monday 18 July 2016. The pupils were put into teams to experience a variety of interactive Maths activities and to engage in some healthy competition. After being briefed in the hall the children followed some of our Year 7 student helpers around the school for a Maths trail. It was then on to some problem solving challenges before the finale competition. All of the children were extremely well behaved and completely engaged in the different sessions. The morning ended with prizes and a presentation to the winning Maths team from St Sampson's.

Year 7 PGL Trip

Head of Year 7, Mr Johnson reports: This year, on 8 July 2016, we took over a 100 year 7 students on our annual residential trip to the PGL centre at Boreatton Park in Shropshire. Students had the opportunity to try a range of high adrenaline fuelled activities from Jacobs Ladder and the Giant Swing to the infamous Zip Wire. The weather was mixed but students and staff ploughed on through and an amazing time was had by all.



Medal Success for Dance World Cup 2016

This year five dancers from Bradon Forest, Isobel Webb, Imogen Webb, Ella Billingham, Kyra Jones and Lucy Tucker competed in the Dance World Cup in Jersey. They all set off on Saturday 25 June in plenty of time to experience the Dance World Cup Opening Ceremony. All of the girls had worked extremely hard and were competing for Team England. It was an exhausting schedule as the girls were competing every day from Sunday 26 June through to Saturday 2 July when the Bradon Forest dancers all performed together in the Junior Tap Group.



The girls all did extremely well in their duet and group dances winning valuable points for Team England. Isobel and Ella were rewarded with a gold medal for their tap group performance, a silver for the tap quartet and also picked up a bronze medal for their fusion ballet group.

Purton Methodist Church

On the weekend of 16 July we held a Celebration Gift Weekend - firstly a concert by Thamesdown Ladies Choir was held on Saturday 16 July. The choir sang to a full house; it was such a lovely and varied concert with enjoyable choral music along with piano duet and solos from the choir and also guest soloist Thomas Keen - what a fine voice this young lad has. We finished the evening off with a tasty plated supper which was enjoyed by all.

On the following Sunday we had our Gift Service taken by Rev David Perkins.

The amount raised over that weekend was £1,296.67 - this will go to the upkeep of the church. Thank you, thank you to all of you who worked together in ensuring this was such a wonderful weekend. I won't even try to name everybody in case I miss someone but you know who you all are. It is so nice to get such support for our church.

St Mary's fellowship meet on 19 September. At this meeting we have Barry Davis with slides to music, the meeting starts at 7.30 pm all are welcome. On 14 September, Methodist Fellowship is all about shoeboxes - thanks Sylvia - we start at 2.30 pm. Again all are welcome.

Our Sunday services are every Sunday at 10.30 am, a warm welcome is always there to greet you along with a nice cup of tea and biscuits after the service.

VALERIE STUMP

Church Floodlighting

6 September The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Doris Wadsworth** whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered and so sadly missed.
Reg, Jean, Mark and all her dear family



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.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Jubilee Estate, Vasterne Close, Hogs Lane and Vasterne Hill*.

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.

RVS visit to Luncheon Club

On 26 July, Luncheon Club welcomed Lisa Knight, the RVS operations manager for N&SW Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. She came with her pinafore in her bag, in case she could help in the kitchen, but after meeting Pat Suddaby and the team on duty that day she could see that as usual everything was well under control so joined me for lunch at one of the tables. I don't know whether the kitchen team made a special effort that day but the meal was superb. In fact, diners at our table assured us that the quality and quantity of the meat, the three different vegetables and the roast potatoes were not at all unusual. The lemon dessert was wickedly delicious.

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE
Together for older people



During the meal Lisa and I talked at length about the details and occasional difficulties involved in running the club, focussing finally on the problem of finding sufficient volunteers at a time when so many people have to work so much longer to qualify for pensions. She directed me to several online publications from Harvard Medical School and other reputable organisations, all praising volunteering for the physical, mental and emotional health benefits bestowed not just on the people being helped, but also on the volunteers. Apparently this was such an unexpected finding that much more specific research was done. One study proved that just 100 hours per year of volunteering resulted in lower blood pressure, lower stress levels and less heart disease. What was even more surprising was that these benefits increased with the age of the volunteer, resulting in a definite lowering of the mortality rate in volunteers aged from 60 to 80. Alex Korb, a neuroscientist undertaking these further researches, suggested that the empathy and generosity involved in volunteering combine to increase levels of oxytocin, a neurochemical that benefits the health of both the whole body and the mind.

So, while scrupulous fairness prompts me to say that Pat Suddaby, our Luncheon Club kitchen coordinator, actually laughed in disbelief that all the stresses involved in her area of administration were prolonging rather than shortening her life, I will conclude by asking all magazine readers to consider volunteering, if they are not already involved in it, and, of course, to specifically consider volunteering for helping at Luncheon Club.

DIANA THOMBS, Chairman, Luncheon Club



**Oxytocin levels
obviously high!**

Have you got time to spare to help us at the Luncheon Club? 10 am to 1.30 pm.

Once a fortnight or monthly. It's a good way to make friends and meet new people. It's a lovely atmosphere there, and you go home feeling that you have done something worthwhile and rewarding.

For more information, please ring Pat Suddaby on 771331 or email Diana on diana.thombs@gmail.com

With the summer drawing to a close the club has had another successful season in the Swindon and District Tennis League. The Mixed A pipped Swindon A to the Division 1 title and the Men's A became Division 1 Champions by completing two wins over local rivals Wootton Bassett. Both the Ladies A and Ladies B finished as runners-up in Division 1 and 2 respectively and it looks as though the Ladies C will survive in Division 2. The Ladies D finished a very respectable mid table in Division 5.

The Men's B finished runners-up in Division 2 and so will return to Division 1 next season at the first attempt. The Men C are still striving to stay in Division 3 and the Men D have been relegated from Division 6. On the Mixed side the B finished 3rd in Division 1 and the Mixed D fourth in Division 4.

The annual Junior Singles Tournament will take place on Saturday 10 September in which 6 boys will compete for the cups.

There will not be much rest for the team players as the Winter League recommences early in October.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Bowls Club

Amazingly enough when you read this article we will be at the end of another season! We have had a mixed bag of results with a middle table finish in both Wiltshire and Swindon & District leagues. Sometimes it goes like this and in all fairness we have played good bowls but just not had that winning edge.



One group of men managed to get to the final of the Wiltshire Rinks but were unfortunately beaten, but they will still be going to Leamington Spa to represent the Club.

The ladies seem to be doing very well and are in two semi-final battles which I will tell you the result of next month, let's hope that they win.

There are still some friendly games to play and our tour starts in September for four days, so there are still some good things to look forward to, let's hope that the weather holds for a few more weeks.

Now for some sad news, Jim Cars died on Tuesday 2 August after being unwell for a few months and hospitalised for most of that. Jim, along with his wife Brenda, had been a member for many years and had contributed in so many ways to the wellbeing of the Club; he was President from 1999 to 2003 and won various Club honours during his time. I had only known him for the nine years I have been in the village but his sense of humour was infectious and his support for the game of bowls, along with his advice was unparalleled. We will miss him being around. His life revolved around the game and he was thrilled that his grandson is rated in the top five in the UK. Our sympathies go to Brenda and the rest of his family on this sad occasion.

PETER BERRY

Minety Beer Festival

5th Minety Beer Festival 9 to 11 September, taking place at The Pavilion, Minety Playing Fields (with profits going to the Minety Playing Fields Association). Over 40 beers and cider, Prosecco bar, fun fair, BBQ, live music and of course sports to watch. For more details, see: www.minetybeerfestival.com

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



With just four fixtures left the 1st XI lie fourth in the WEPL Wiltshire League. The batsmen have come to the fore recently with Deepak Ramani scoring 99 against Calne, his highest score for the club and Tom Whitaker, a product of the youth coaching system, scoring his maiden hundred for the club, 100 not out against Malmesbury. The 2nd XI continue to perform very well and 99 not out from Dave Allen and 54 from Neil Little helped them to a win against Malmesbury 2nd XI recently. They currently lie in second place in Division 7 of the Wiltshire League.

By the time you read this Phil and Alex Duffell will have completed their marathon cycle ride in memory of Phil's wife and Alex's mum, Ainslie, who died last year, aged 47, after a brave 12 year battle with cancer. Their ride started at Moffat Hospital in Scotland where Ainslie was born and finished at Lydiard Millicent, where her funeral was held. Money from this sponsored ride is going towards providing a new pavilion, Ainslie's Pavilion, at Purton Cricket Club by 2020, the club's 200th year.

If you would like to sponsor Phil and Alex retrospectively please give at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/ainslieslifecycle> Thank you.

JOE GARDNER

We Record ...

Weddings at St Mary's Church:

16 July Jack Alexander Coghlan and Laura Kathleen Susan Baker

6 August Christopher Thomas Martin and Stephanie Jane Cowley

Funerals at Kingsdown Crematorium:

26 July Janice Linda McKeown (61)

8 August Robert George Todd (90)

Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church:

3 August Ruth Margaret Mills (78)

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 ...



Brinkworth Show

Sunday 4 September

11 am to 5 pm at Brinkworth Recreation Field. Crafts, Dog show, Hog Roast, Bar, Displays, Circus skills, classic cars, vintage tractors, animals, Morris Men and more!

For more information, contact: Rosemary 07941 783816 Karen 07962 041567

Moon Phases

● 1 September ● 9 September ○ 16 September ● 23 September

Purton Probus



At the meeting on 12 July, Ian Caskie gave a talk "SS Great Britain". Born on Merseyside, Ian was a Primary Headteacher and School Advisor in Bristol for many years. He has been a Visitor Services volunteer with the SS Great Britain Trust since 2007.

In building SS Great Britain, the second of his three great ships, Brunel successfully combined and adapted the very best of cutting-edge technology to create the world's first transatlantic liner - a true wonder of the Victorian age. She was the first ocean-going steamship with an iron hull, and the first driven by a propeller. This extraordinary ship, launched in 1843 as the largest and fastest afloat, transformed shipbuilding and sea travel forever.

Powered by four 88in diameter cylinders in 'V' formation either side of the crankshaft, she crossed the Atlantic in 14 days with 45 persons on board and using 1200 tons of coal. On her 5th voyage to New York a navigational error, or an unreliable compass, caused the ship to run aground on the sands of Dundrum Bay. At much expense and with the personal supervision, initially, of Brunel himself she was re-floated but salvage had cost too much and she had to be sold on.

In 1852, Gibbs, Bright & Co repaired and adapted the ship to carry thousands of immigrants to Australia and in 1881 converted her to sail for more economic running, carrying passengers and livestock to the new world. Three years later, she was retired to the Falkland Islands where she served as a warehouse, quarantine ship and coal bunker until scuttled in 1937.

In 1970 Sir Jack Hayward paid for the vessel to be towed back and returned to the dry dock where she was built. A glass envelope now encases the iron of the lower hull and various cabins portray the progressive ages of the ship. Now listed as part of the National Historic Fleet, she is an award winning museum-ship in Bristol Harbour with upwards of 150,000 visitors annually.

On the weekend of 21 to 24 July, some of our members and wives joined the Highworth Probus Club for a coach outing to the Medway Estuary, Rochester, Chatham Historical Dockyard and the areas portrayed in many of Dickens' novels including Cooling Church.

On the outward journey we enjoyed a visit to Chartwell, beloved of Winston Churchill and on the Sunday of our return, a visit to Aylesford (Carmelite) Priory with a vintage motor show. A very enjoyable four days.

On 26 July, Geoff King, a committed worker for Twigs and other charities, recalled his ascent of Kilimanjaro under the title: "Four miles high in Africa". The mountain is in Tanzania, close to the border with Kenya, and when flying out from Nairobi it looms large at a height of 19,341 feet - almost 4 miles high.

Mount Kili Kibo (native name) is a dormant strato-volcano which last erupted 360,000 years ago. It has three volcanic cones - Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira. 4th in the world for prominence, it the highest free-standing mountain. At the summit you see more of the world's surface than from anywhere else in the world. 35,000 people of all nationalities attempt to climb it each year, but only 66% reach the summit. There are 6 or 7 climbing routes which come together near the top. The

Machame Route is a popular route as it has a climb high, sleep low opportunity for trekkers on day three. Here, they climb from Shira Camp 2 to Lava Tower at 15,000ft where they have lunch, then back down to Barranco Camp (12,800ft) to sleep, ensuring acclimatisation.

Like all Kilimanjaro routes the Machame is a challenging trek with stunning scenery through four diverse climatic zones. The final assault to the summit is a 14-hour trek, up and down, and as there are only 12 hours of daylight at the equator, it does mean starting out in the dark. The porters do a great job but it is not an undertaking for the faint-hearted and not everyone goes the whole way. The final picture of the talk was of Geoff and his group at the highest point, Uhuru Peak (2012). It was and is a great adventure.

Next Probus meetings (Red House, 10 am) 13 September - Alcock and Brown, 27 September - The Life of Riley.

BOB STEVENS

Knit-A-Square

It's been a while since I let you know what is happening within our Knit-a-Square group so I thought I'd give you an exciting update. In April I sent 8 tea chests of knitted items to South Africa, it took many weeks for them to sail across the ocean arrive at their destination but on 13 June I received notification they arrived safely. Then, on 8 August, I received several photographs showing children in an informal settlement wearing all the knitted and crocheted items we sent. Over 300 children



received our items during that one distribution! Here are just a couple of photographs.

The young girl in the Magazine cover picture is wearing a hat made by Jo Woolford, a jumper by Sylvia Glass and hand warmers by Yvonne Hillier.

The photo (*right*) shows Sandra (one of my charity contacts in South Africa) distributing our navy blue scarves. These are required by school children as they form part of their winter school uniform. These scarves were knitted by one of Brenda Lilley's sisters either Doreen or Sylvia.

It's wonderful to see that our lovingly made items DO get to their destination and are given to vulnerable, orphaned children in South Africa. Thank you to everyone involved in making items for me to send and thank you to everyone who supports me with financial donations towards the shipping costs. The next shipment will go off around September or October.

LOUISE TIDMAN, 772558

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

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

Gaffer's Tales

Hello, it's me again, old Gaffer.

My farming life started when I was 16 years old. I have never been a big muscular type, so I found it hard to start with. My father found a place for me on a farm near Reading; I was called a pupil and was paid 10 shillings (50p) a week, with my board and lodgings found. What a place it was, Sunday lunches the whole family turned up - 5 children and 2 married with their husbands, granny, me and a lodger too, plus the farmer and his wife. Do you remember the Larkins in *Darling Buds of May* on the TV? It was like that.

My first day on that farm, I was up bright and early and my first job was feeding the pigs. Blooming great things they were, slobbering and grunting at you as their feed was poured into the troughs. I reckon they would bite pretty hard if they had wanted to.

Then I was taken off to help with the harvest. My job was to fill the sacks with the wheat which came down the chutes on a combine pulled by a tractor. Gosh that was hard. The sacks held 2½ hundredweight of corn, that's about 100 kilos. I had to tie the tops tight and then move the full sacks to a chute, and release them to the ground in rows. In the evening, all the bags had to be loaded onto a trailer, a 2-man job, well me and a strapping big land girl called Joan. Hard work, but I managed and stayed on the farm for a year before going to Sparsholt Agricultural College near Winchester.

I remember one day the farmer said, "Over there is a tractor, the other side of the yard is a plough, to the left is a field. Put the plough on the tractor, and go and plough that field." I had to work out how to do all that - I did, and had a good time doing it.

I got into trouble with the Law a bit that year. Once I was caught with a tractor, towing 3 loaded trailers. "Just obeying orders, Sir." Then I had a fuel leak, and was tracked for miles. The best one was when I had to take a hay turner, called a Dickie swath turner which was an ancient thing on metal wheels, all the way from Theale to Henley-on-Thames, via Reading. This was in 1957, so Reading was not so busy then. Nevertheless, as I was going through Reading, by Suttons Seeds, a wheel fell off the swath turner. Chaos. The police arrived, huffing and puffing. "Can you turn that thing off?" a policeman said, pointing at my faithful old standard Fordson TVO tractor. "Yes," I replied, "but it's a sod to start again." All was put right when my employer turned up some time later. (No mobile phones in those days.) So I had to report to the local police station 3 times, but I was only ticked off.

The farm I was on did contract work. Muck spreading consisted of the farmer loading flatbed trailers, and me and one other chucking it off with forks. How things have changed. I had to help behind a threshing drum in the winter - that was hard dirty work too.

I was treated well in other ways, fed well and taken out to shows including the Royal Show, and various theatre trips. I remember the farmer went hunting, and he had a horse called Robin. It was my job to take Robin to the meets. I rode a bike with the horse behind linked to me by a piece of rope. Happy days.

I learnt a lot on that farm, and it stood me in good stead in the following years when I had my own business.

Ta ta, folks. Enjoy what's left of the summer.

GAFFER

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

Mystery Tours

Wednesday 7 September

Coach leaves at 2 pm

Cost - £13.50 for village pensioners (tea included)

Use your £5 voucher and join us for the afternoon!

Wednesday 5 October

11 am

Cost - £13.50 for village pensioners (lunch included)

Purton Victory Dance

10 September at 7.30 pm,

At Purton Village Hall

£12pp inc Supper

Featuring U3A Dance Band & Breeze

Contact Richard on 07486 909752 or find us at

www.facebook.com/purtonvictorydance

"REDFEST" (RED HOUSE)

On the Green

Outside The Red House

27 August

Pig Roast

3 Groups Brass Band

Real Ales Teas and Coffees available, Homemade cake stall.

Everybody welcome to enjoy a fun day in the sun?

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS PRESENT:

'The Reunion'

a comedy by Peter Gordon,

Wed 28 September to Sat 1 October

Arts Centre, Devizes Road, Swindon at 7.30 pm

Tickets £10, concessions at £9.

Contact Pauline on 07517 698083 or by

e-mail bookings@phoenix-players.com

Suitable age 12 years +

STOP PRESS

Purton Food Festival

on Saturday 5 November at Purton Village Hall 12 noon to 4 pm Stalls available @ £10 Ring Helen 01793 770648

PURTON AGE CONCERN

3B's x 2 Evening

Friday 7 October

at 7.30 pm

Silver Threads Hall

Cost £6 includes supper

Ring Jenny Barnes on

770339 for admission

tickets. Join us for a fun evening!

Shoebox Fund Raising Day



Saturday 1 October

35 High Street

10 am to 2 pm

Tea/Coffee/Biscuits £1

Lunch £6

Morning & Afternoon Raffle

Tombola

Cake Stall Bric-a-Brac

Books Jigsaws

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Jumble Sale

Saturday 3 September
at the Village Hall
Jumble can be left
at the Village Hall
between 12 noon & 1 pm
Sale starts at 2 pm
Lots of bargains!

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PURTON

Harvest Barn Dance

Saturday 8 October, 7 pm
Village Hall, Purton
All welcome
Bring and Share Supper
Please bring your own drinks and glasses
Tickets Adults £6,
children (16 and under) £3
Tel: Sandra 770157, Val 771201, Jane
772422, Sheila 770970

PURTON AGE CONCERN
**Antiques & Collectables
Fayre**

Sunday 16 October 10.30 am to
4.30 pm
at the Village Hall Admission
£1.00 Refreshments available.
Enquiries & to book a table
contact Jenny Barnes on 770339

**Purton
Scarecrow Trail**

Sat 17th /Sun 18th Sept
10 am to 5 pm
each day
For details see p 29

MACMILLAN CANCER
SUPPORT

**World's Biggest
Coffee Morning**

Friday 30 September
Lydiard Millicent
Parish Hall
10 am -12 noon

Minety Playing Fields Assoc.

Minety Beer Festival

9 - 11 September
The Pavilion, Minety Playing
Fields SN16 9QH
Friday, 6 pm till late:
Details see page 48

Group for Patients - Purton and
Green Gable Surgery
will be hosting a

Coffee Morning

Monday 17 October 2016
Silver Threads Hall
Purton 10 am to 12 noon
There will be a small charge for
coffee, tea and biscuits

Group for Patients

Purton and Green Gable Surgery
Talk on

Coping with our stressful lives

Tuesday 11 October, 7.30 to 9 pm
Purton Surgery, Purton
Speakers: Lauren Goodhead
and Fran Griffin
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health
Partnership NHS Trust. Although this is
a free event, tickets are required due to
limited seating and will be available
from early September.
Please contact Purton Surgery,
tel 770207.

Music for an Autumn Evening

An evening of light music featuring Breeze and After Eight at St Mary's Church on Saturday 15 October at 7.30 pm. Tickets £12 to include a free glass of wine or soft drink. Accompanied children under 16 free, but must have a ticket. Available from Helen on 01793 770648 or email mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

Judging by some of the articles in Purton Magazine 10 years ago, there had been quite a lot of local rain - but what's new, perhaps?

That said, managing and succeeding in the face of severe difficulties is a sure sign of a great community spirit. And so it was for the Children in Need Musicfest 2006. The planning had started 6 months previously with bands being booked, sound systems sorted and security settled - even an entertainment licence was obtained through a new system at the licensing authority which seemed to have been something of a mystery to everyone involved at the time.

So the stage was literally being set. Marquees were constructed, cabling was carefully covered, bunting was hung and gazeboes were all erected. With the field looking just about perfect and the bands more than happy with their sound checks, Master of Ceremonies Tony Richardson slipped home to change and prepare. Within perhaps less than half an hour, the whole set up had been completely trashed by a huge storm which had blown some marquees over and the rain had shorted all the electrics.

The full account in the September 2006 magazine makes for grim reading - except for the fact that everyone quickly pulled together in this emergency (as seems to be the norm in Purton) and a great time was eventually had by all in the Village Hall.

Elsewhere in the magazine 10 years ago, we read that the Cricklade branch of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust had, at last, finished work on the aqueduct. Removing the scaffolding from the road side of the wall didn't present a problem but the recent torrential rain had swollen the river substantially. However, it seems that the tallest member of the team donned some waders and entered the river to dismantle the heavy scaffold poles and walkway planks - proving that, contrary to a few local opinions, tall men do have their uses from time to time. The Canal Trust is seeking your help this month - see page 39.

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

Purton Guide Dogs

As I write, it is still not certain that the Cricklade Show will be on this Year. If it is then we will be having a stall there, and I will report on it in the next Magazine. I am having a Stall at the Autumn Fair in Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday 17 September.



The Cricklade Band and their Academy are going to give a Concert for us, in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 October - admission £6.

Many thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

STOP PRESS: Flu Vaccinations

Saturday 8 October at Purton Surgery. Call or come in to make your appointment now! Only eligible patients may receive the vaccine. Full details next month.
