

# Purton *Magazine*



*Purton Marrows ... and a cucumber?  
photo by Libbie Sheppard*

*See Purton Food Festival on page 51*

# October 2016

# 50p

## PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham	
	<i>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
<b>Schools and Play Groups:</b>		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Sarah Grigg	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

1946 was a special year. Research uncovers several interesting things happened that year with Europe was recovering from the ravages of the Second World War. For example, the Vespa scooter was invented in Italy and the bikini was created – in Paris, naturally. In 1946, Clement Atlee was our Prime Minister and Harry S Truman was the 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States. Also, on 14 June 1946, a certain Donald J Trump was born – yes the very same person currently campaigning to become the next and 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

Here in Purton on 31 August 1946, David and Muriel Haines were married at St Mary's church. 70 years later, their platinum anniversary has been cheerfully celebrated and in this issue of your magazine, we are delighted to publish reports and recollections of the happy celebrations which can be found on pages 8, 9 and 11. Life expectancy in 1946 was nearly 64 years for men and nearly 69 for women – yet David and Muriel have been married even longer than that, making their achievement an even more memorable milestone.

Although we have yet to find a definitive date for when the Red House was finally purchased and became a village facility, it was certainly after the Second World War and could easily have even been after the Haines were married. However, we are able to include on page 23 the first part of an article published by John Scott about the history of the Red House and further parts of the article will be included in future editions of your magazine.

In last month's Purton Magazine, there was a detailed description of how the Purton Parish Plan has been coming into existence. In essence it is a powerful document that will help to shape the future growth and development in our community. We learn on page 7 that the plan will soon be going out for consultation meaning that each of us will have the opportunity to have our say about the future of our parish and we understand that full details will be provided for inclusion in the November issue of Purton Magazine.

Some immediately more palatable things will be found in the Village Hall on Saturday 5 November where Purton's 4<sup>th</sup> Food Festival will be staged. Initial details are on page 32 where we also learn that a few tables are still available.

Saturday 15 October sees a concert at St Mary's Church run by the "Friends" in support of the maintenance and upkeep of the building. The concert with Breeze and After Eight male singers will be well-worth attending. Details are on page 30.

**1025**

Blanket squares sent with many other knitted items to South Africa  
- see page 10

**70th**

Wedding anniversary of David and Muriel Haines was suitably celebrated  
- see page 8

**70%**

A\* to C grades achieved by Bradon Forest students; up 7% on last year  
- see page 18

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**Purton**  
Magazine

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

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# Purton Parish Council News



## **Remembrance Sunday**

Road Closure - Sunday 13 November 2016 – as usual the section of The High Street, Purton between Purton Vets at number 77 and The Peak will be closed to traffic for approximately an hour from 2.15 to 3.15 pm to allow the people of Purton to pay their respects and remember those who lost their lives in conflict. Road access will be closed to that part of the High Street, and to College Road and Hooks Hill.

## **Footpaths within the Parish**

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the bridleway/footpath number 103 through Brockhurst Wood has been cleared, signed and is available for use. This had previously been difficult to use because of fallen branches and overgrowth and the actual route was unclear. The surface is still uneven at the lower end and can be wet and muddy. Maps indicate that the route is around the edge of the wood but with GPS tracking it has been found to be actually a little way in from the edge indicating that the wood has spread outwards over the years. Thanks go to our Footpath Teams for their time dealing with this path which needed the involvement of Natural England. They are responsible for this area which is SSSI rated and meant that their approval was needed before any work could be done. Thanks also to Stephen Leonard and his team from Wiltshire Council who cleared the fallen branches and to the Footpath Team who cleared the overgrowth.

The Footpath Team are also pleased to announce that major clearing work has been carried out on Footpath/Bridleway 43. This is at the top end of the narrow field that goes off to the left at the bottom of Hoggs Lane. This area was very overgrown with brambles, continually wet and muddy and has at times been called the worst footpath in the Parish. This work had to wait until the bird nesting season was over but hopefully now users will find the wait worthwhile.

## **Overhanging Hedgerows and Foliage**

The Parish Council is constantly requested to write to residents regarding overgrown hedgerows/foilage 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.

## **Grounds Maintenance**

The Council wishes to advise that during the last week of September and the first two weeks of October it will be operating with minimal contract based grounds maintenance works. Please bear with us during this period and contact the office with any queries.

## **Dog Fouling**

It is an offence to allow a dog to foul and not to 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

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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 lifestyle of today. Purton is suffering with 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 of 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 one 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](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk).

### **October Meeting Dates**

Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council meeting	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Finance Meeting
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Play Area meeting	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Village Hall Charity

### **Updated “Walks of Purton” Booklet**

The Volunteer Footpath Team has 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](mailto:paul.dempsey@live.co.uk)) or the Clerk on [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

### **Wiltshire Council App**

Mobile Reporting - Download our My Wiltshire App

To make life even easier, Wiltshire Council have an app so you can report things like potholes, dog mess, graffiti, litter and street lighting on the go using your smartphone. The MyWiltshire app is available to download at both the App Store (for iPhones and iPads) and from Google Play™ (for Android phones) or from Windows store (for Windows phones). You can attach information such as photos or videos and pinpoint the location of your report using the mapping software on your phone.

### **How to contact the Parish Council:**

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

### **Facebook, Twitter and Website**

Just one click away will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures, meet the staff, “did you know’s”, photographs and much more. If you have an event in the Parish that you would like us to promote on any of the above media

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sites please contact the Clerk on [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and sign up today.

## 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.*



### ■ DAVE SEVIOUR

May I, through the medium of Purton Magazine, pay tribute to the literary talent of local man, Dave Seviour who passed away fairly recently. I didn't know him, but I have had the extreme pleasure recently of reading books that he had written. 'When The Cobra Strikes!' 'The Archdown Chronicles', 'Second Time Around' and 'The Dapleton Stone'!

What a wonderful talent Dave had, I do regret not knowing and meeting Dave because that would have given me the opportunity to say how much pleasure it gave me to read such entertaining and well written books. The thought process involved in these writings offered me much reward in knowing that a local man had chosen to write them.

Dave, wherever you are, thank you for allowing me to be able to read your books and recognise your talent. Many people 'Wish they had' but 'Never did'. Dave Seviour did!

*Chris Gleed*

### ■ PROSPECT COLLECTION

Since we retired we have been collecting for the Prospect Hospice by putting a trolley of plants and produce outside our garage, just inside Witts Lane. We have now reached a total of £10,000 and would like to thank everyone who had donated plants and produce and everyone who has bought them and put money in the collection box. Thank you,

*Bill and Mary Griffin*

## Neighbourhood Plan

Regular readers will be aware that a neighbourhood plan is being produced for Purton. It will be a powerful document to shape the growth of all local housing developments. The draft plan will include a method for judging potential housing needs and locations within our parish, especially considering the results from parish plan surveys.

This draft plan will be going out for consultation throughout Purton in the next few weeks and will include details of some gatherings where various development options can be discussed. More details will be in the November issue of Purton Magazine.

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## Platinum celebration for Purton couple

Purton couple David and Muriel Haines are celebrating 70 years of wedded bliss at the pair's care home and day care centre, Ashgrove House.

Joined by their family, including their daughter Denise, three grandchildren and cousins from across the UK and even from Belgium, Muriel and David were treated to an afternoon of music and singing – one of their shared loves – by the Purton WI Singers.

The two met in the early 1940s, when they both worked at the Railway Works. Muriel was in the electrical shop and David started out as an apprentice, progressing into being a fitter on the locomotives, then a chargeman and finally an estimator. They married at St Mary's Church in Purton on 31 August 1946, with their wedding reception at The Angel Hotel in Purton High Street and a short honeymoon on the south coast.



Muriel, 94, was born in Purton and has lived in the village all her life. David, now 92, moved to Swindon when he was a young child. The couple set up home together in Purton, having their own bungalow built for them in the 1960s, where they lived together until Muriel moved to Ashgrove House last year.

They now see each other at least twice a week when David comes to Ashgrove House's Day Centre, plus other visits.

David says their secret to a successful marriage was due to being a good pair and making joint decisions. He said: "Marriage is not just for now, it's for a long time and I don't regret one moment of it. We saved up a lot of coupons to get married and I try to be a good husband.

"I think we have been married for so long because we have never done anything without asking one another - we're a good pair."



The celebration was organised by Ashgrove House's activity co-ordinators, Hilary Grout, Debbie Bird and Tracey Cowley, who has known the couple all of her life.

Ashgrove House has been part of the family for a number of years, with David's mother, Ivy, also having been a resident.

Keith Trowbridge, owner of Ashgrove House, said: "It's an honour to be able to help David and Muriel celebrate this milestone. We aim to make Ashgrove House an extension of the family for our residents as many have relatives, neighbours and friends who have also stayed with us."

For more information on Ashgrove House, visit [www.ashgrovehouse.net](http://www.ashgrovehouse.net) or call 01793 771449.

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## David & Muriel Haines: 31 August 1946 - 31 August 2016

Could I congratulate everyone concerned with Dave and Muriel Haines' 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebrations at Ashgrove House in Station Road. It is easy to see why Ashgrove got such excellent results on their inspection. Muriel and Dave's daughter, Denise, must have been over the moon with the way it all went. The input by Hilary, Debbie and Tracey of Ashgrove, the Purton Entertainers and the Wootton Bassett Town Crier, who gave them gifts only he is allowed to give, could not be faulted.

Muriel is Purton born and bred, living on the Common in one of those houses that are close to the road. From there they moved to 9 Witts Lane where she remained until she married Dave.

Dave was born at Hanging Langford on Salisbury Plain I believe. Sadly, his father died when he was two and he used to spend a lot of time with his grandfather who was a game keeper and had a cottage in the middle of Grovely Woods. You can now see the connection with the name of their bungalow at the Hyde.

Sometime later Dave, along with his mother, moved to Birch Street. I bet they found a difference there after living in the country. Dave worked at the Great Western Railway and it was there that Muriel and Dave met – Muriel was directed into the GWR by the government to replace the men who had been called up to the forces during the 1939-45 war and Dave was serving his apprenticeship. Her mates used to try and cover for her because, at every opportunity, she would go over into the AE shop and see Dave – she had a few rockets I can tell you.

Dave and Muriel were married at St Mary's on 31 August 1946. I've seen pictures of the wedding and Muriel looked so glamorous, well she always did! It was rationing time in 1946 so she had to save all their coupons to get the wedding clothes, Dave's as well, but they certainly did look a picture. The reception was held in the dance hall at The Angel, which was difficult as well with rationing, still where there's a will there's a way. Wilf Parker was landlord then. After a short honeymoon, they returned to live with Muriel's mum and dad at 9 Witts Lane, moving on to 53 Station Road and had rooms with Mrs Oliver Smith, who was part of a little musical group playing a violin.

Like most couples in those days you went into rented accommodation and saved to buy your own house, which is what Muriel and Dave did, having a bungalow built at The Hyde where they lived their married life until Muriel required care, which could not be carried out at home. It was then that she moved to Ashgrove House where you could not wish for better care. Denise, their daughter, is very good to them, looking after them, especially as Dave is at home on his own, although he does go down to Ashgrove quite often.

Dave is one of those people that I admire – when he got married and moved into the village he became part of the village. He was on the football committee for a good number of years, in fact he gave up a week of his holidays to do some painting at the Football Club. They both supported the Carnival and I know how kind and generous they have been to Purton Age Concern, for which I thank them.

Muriel and Dave were great friends with Olive and Len Simpkins. They all liked a good sing song, in fact they would go out to places as far away as Tetbury and both

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Len and Dave would give solos. That was what was so nice about their party – Carole Gleed had found some of the numbers that were popular songs at that time and her group, the Purton Entertainers, sang them. Two of Dave’s solos were the anniversary waltz, which the group sang, and ‘I’m in love with two sweethearts’ - his two sweethearts were Muriel and his mother. Carole, after a lot of searching, found a tape with this song on and played it. We did not need the choir as Dave sang, knowing all the words, and Muriel tapped her hands in tune.

It was said in the Railway Works after Dave moved to Purton that one could not buy any Brylcream, as Dave’s hair was always perfect. In fact, if anyone asked me ‘What do you remember most about Muriel and Dave?’ I would say that they were always so nicely turned out – the right word would be immaculate.

From a personal point of view, I felt very honoured and privileged to be invited to Dave and Muriel’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary party and to propose the toast to the celebrating couple is something I shall never forget. It was very touching. Best wishes to you both.

TONY PRICE

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

House to house collections will be made from 29 October until 12 November 2016 and Remembrance Sunday is 13 November this year.

*SHIRLEY LAWRENCE, Poppy Appeal Organiser*



## Knit-A-Square (KAS) & Mama Ntombi’s Community Projects (MNCP)

At the beginning of September another fourteen boxes of knitted items were shipped to South Africa. Nine boxes have gone to Knit-a-Square in Johannesburg and five boxes to Mama Ntombi’s Community Projects in Pietermaritzburg. Contained within the boxes were 93 blankets, 1,025 squares to be made into blankets, 123 hats, 134 pairs gloves/hand warmers, 71 jumpers/cardigans, 355 cuddly toys, 37 dresses made out of pillowcases, 17 scarves, 17 babies fleece sleeping bags each with a matching goodie bag containing baby clothes and toys and finally 250 plastic drinking tumblers.

KAS recently ran out of cuddly toys hence the huge number of toys included in this shipment and MNCP requested the plastic tumblers. They will now be able to give all the children a drink during the Wayside religious service and lunch they provide each Sunday on an informal settlement. Both charities were set up to support 100s of orphaned, deprived and vulnerable children living in dire poverty. More information about KAS and MNCP can be found on their websites or Facebook pages.

Thank you to all who make items for the children and all who help cover the shipping costs. None of it would be possible without your help.

On Saturday 12 November from 10 am to 2 pm, I will be fundraising towards future shipping costs at the Silver Threads Hall Table Top sale/coffee morning/lunch. Please pop along to see the latest batch of photos from South Africa following the recent distribution of our goods to the children. I’m sure many of you will recognise the items you have made.

LOUISE TIDMAN - 772558

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## Purton & District Age Concern



The Tai Chi classes have started again after the summer break. The classes are held at the Millennium Hall on Thursday afternoons at 2 pm and cost £3 per session. Spaces are available, please contact Louise Tidman on 772558 for more information.

Due to the popularity of the first minibus trip to Cirencester on Friday 9 September it has been agreed this will be the destination in the future on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month. The cost is £3 return trip, and please contact Hazel Woodbridge the minibus co-ordinator on 770862 to book your place.

Sally Duguid recently stepped down as the street warden for Witfield Close, Locks Lane and the bottom end of Witts Lane. The committee would like to thank Sally for her dedication to Purton Age Concern and all the work she has done for people on her patch over the years. I'm sure she will be missed and we wish her and George well in the future. By the time you read this Sally's replacement, Tracy Cowley should be up and running. Tracy lives in Witts Lane and works in Ashgrove House and will be known to many on her patch. Tracy, welcome to Purton Age Concern.

Tony Price has already congratulated Muriel and David Haines on their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary which is echoed by all the committee. What an amazing achievement! I'm sure they thoroughly enjoyed their special day.

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Autumn Surprise Mystery Tour** – Our final mystery tour of 2016 is on Wednesday 5 October with an 11 am start. Cost including pub lunch is £13.50 for village pensioners and £15 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please contact your street warden to book your place before Friday 23 September. Can I ask that you book as early as possible for this outing?

**3B's x 2 Evening** – 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 very quickly, so please don't leave it to the last minute to get your tickets, or you may be disappointed!

**Antiques & Collectables Fayre** – This is 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. *Donations of cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully received.*

**Trip to Whitehall Garden Centre** – This year we are having an extra trip. On Wednesday 23 November we will be going to Whitehall Garden Centre near Lacock for Christmas shopping and a chance to see their beautiful Christmas displays. The coach will leave Purton at 10 am. The cost is £5 for village pensioners and £6.50 for non-pensioners and those outside the village. There is a restaurant and coffee shop so you will be able to purchase your own food and drink during the visit.

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Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 14 November.

**Christmas Party at the Silver Threads Hall** – The Christmas Party for less able pensioners is on Saturday 26 November from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £2. Wheelchair users and their carers will be made very welcome. Please book your place with your street warden and book transport if required with Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator on 770862.

**Christmas Party at the Village Hall** – The main Christmas Party is on Saturday 3 December from 5 pm to 8.30 pm at the Village Hall. The cost is £5. Please reserve your place with your street warden and book transport if required with Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator on 770862.

Our **Christmas Market Stall** outside the Pavenhill shops will be on Saturday 10 December from 9 am to 12 noon.

Put these Christmas dates in your diary, more details will follow next month.

#### PAST EVENTS

**September Mystery Tour** – Thirty-three people set out on this mystery tour. The route took in Tetbury, Dursley, Uley, Nimpsfield, Stroud, Painswick, Brockworth and stopped for tea provided by the WI at Minsterworth Village Hall. After tea we returned home via Birdlip, Seven Springs and Cirencester. It appeared everyone enjoyed the afternoon especially the lovely views.

**Jumble sale** – Our latest fundraising event was on Saturday 3 September. We had a very successful couple of hours. Thanks to everyone who donated items for us to sell and all who came along to support us. We made £342 on the day, as the cost of hiring the hall has to be deducted from this total. Our next jumble sale will be in February 2016, more details nearer the time.

#### 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.

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

**Minibuses** – Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 if you would like to book the minibus. Or to volunteer as a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on the minibuses, please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at [andywhitpacmb@gmail.com](mailto:andywhitpacmb@gmail.com) (New volunteers are always welcome.)

The **Friendship Club** is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 7 October from 2 pm - 4 pm and costs 50p which includes tea/coffee/biscuits. If you need transport, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus.

LOUISE TIDMAN

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## Jim Cars

Members of Purton Bowls Club were saddened to hear that one of their long time colleagues, Jim Cars, had passed away on 3 August at the age of 84, following a lengthy spell in hospital.

He came, with this wife, to Swindon from Manchester in 1964 as a Patternmaker to work in GWR. They bought a house in Royal Wootton Bassett, where they lived for twenty years.

Jim's first hobby was his fishing, and along with a workforce worked on the building of bridges and pathways of the Jubilee Lake there. His second hobby was his love of bowling, and although living in Bassett, he joined Purton Bowls club along with his wife Brenda in the early 1980s where most of his workmates bowled, and spent many happy days there, bowling for Swindon & District, also bowling on tours in Spain and Portugal with County friends, and they quickly became popular and active members.

Jim enjoyed his bowls, particularly the social side and when ill health forced him to give up playing, he continued to visit the green to watch matches and pass on some "pithy" comments to those playing.

In 1987 as the railways were closing down their workshops, Jim was the Patternmaker on John Clinch's statue of the Great Blondinis which was commissioned by Swindon and stood in Wharf Green and now in a Swindon park.

His favourite football team was Manchester City, and he stayed a supporter all his life, receiving a get well message from one of the players recently when he was very poorly.

Several years ago, Jim decided to show a few male members how the game of bowls was played "up North" and took a group back to his native Manchester where they played a match of crown green against a local team in the afternoon, followed by a visit to Bernard Mannings' nightclub. This proved quite an eye opener to our members who were more used to a quiet pint in The Red House after a game of bowls!

Behind the scenes, Jim's carpentry skills were put to good use when he helped to build the canopy on the front of the Purton pavilion and new lockers for storing members' equipment.

Jim served as Club President from 1999 to 2003 and in 2006 he was made a life member in recognition of his service to the Club.

He was very proud of his three daughters, and his grandchildren, and has a grandson, Mike, who has become a high ranked bowler, in the top five of the country.

We would like to pass on our condolences to Brenda and the rest of the family.

*PETER BERRY, GRAHAM PRICE & BRENDA CARS*

## 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.

<p>To advertise in Purton Magazine telephone 01793 770648 or email <a href="mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk">mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk</a></p>
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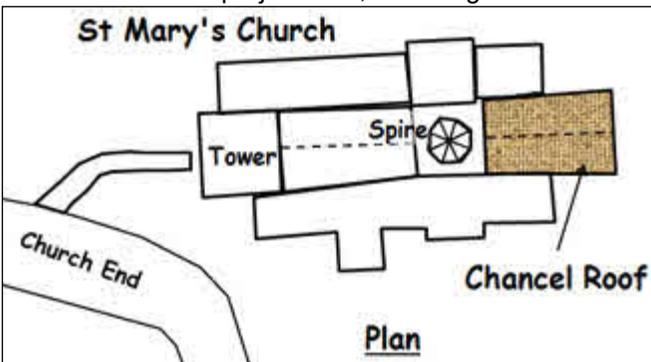
## Re-roofing at St Mary's Church

Like all old buildings our much-loved St Mary's Church needs a lot of care and maintenance. Over the decades and centuries, the fabric gradually deteriorates and repairs are needed to preserve the structure for present and future generations. In recent inspections we have found deterioration of the stone tile roof in many places and some urgent repairs were carried out last year to stop water entering the church. However, more significant tile damage was found on the Chancel roof and it was clear that a major re-roofing project was needed.



This project, the Chancel Re-roofing Project (CRP), will involve stripping off all the tiles over the Chancel, repairing any underlying timber damage and re-fixing new (or undamaged) tiles. St Mary's Parish Church Council (PCC) has recently appointed an architect to draw up a detailed specification and tender documents for the work. So, all being well, expect to see scaffolding going up in Spring 2017 and a newly restored roof by this time next year!

Of course, work of this scale on an old building does not come cheaply and we estimate the total project cost, including architect and consultant fees, to be over



£100,000. Fortunately, we have secured generous support from the Church Commissioners and the Listed Places of Worship (Roof Repair Fund) to cover about 90% of the costs. The balance of about £10,000 will need to come from the PCC reserves, which, in turn will need replenishing to help

cover future costs of this sort. The people of Purton have always been generous in supporting the care and maintenance of St Mary's and we hope you will again! One immediate and enjoyable way to help is by buying tickets for the concert (an evening of light music featuring Breeze and After Eight) in St Mary's Church. This is being organised by the Friends of St Mary's on Sat 15 Oct at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available from Helen on 01793 770648 or email [mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk) and cost £12 to include a free glass of wine or soft drink.

For anyone who would like to make a direct bank transfer to St Mary's Roof Fund, please contact our treasurer, Berta Legg on 01793 772587 or email [robertalegg2@gmail.com](mailto:robertalegg2@gmail.com). Alternatively, simply drop a donation in a sealed envelope marked "Roof fund" at The Vicarage, 2 Hyde Lane, Purton SN5 4DU. If you are a tax-payer, please include your name, address, postcode and confirmation that the donation may be gift-aided. Thank you for your continued support.

*St Mary's Churchwardens*

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## Purton & Green Gable Surgery: Group for Patients - G4P

**Update on Doctors:** We welcome two new trainee Doctors to the Practice. Dr Shirley Lau is here for 12 months and Dr Sophie Woods for 6 months. You'll be sorry to hear that Dr Richardson will be leaving for a sabbatical at the end of September, we wish her well on her travels. Dr Nicola Stephen will be staying on for two days per week and Dr Ceri Davies will be working for three days per week.



### **Coffee Morning - change of date**

Our next Coffee morning will be on Monday 17 October from 10 am to 12 noon in Silver Threads Hall, Purton and is for all patients. We have invited a number of health professionals to join us at this event so do drop in for a coffee and have an informal chat with them. There will be a small charge for coffee, tea and biscuits. There will also be a raffle.

### **Patient Information Evening**

*Dealing with our Stressful Lives – Tuesday 11 October 7.30 to 9 pm*

Our next Information Evening will be on the subject of the stresses we face in our daily lives and the effect this can have on our health. Our speakers are Lauren Goodhead and Fran Griffin from Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust. This promises to be a very interesting evening. As usual, there is no charge, tickets are needed to manage numbers and are available now from Purton Surgery

**'Flu Vaccinations, Saturday 8 October: 8 am to 4 pm, Purton Surgery**

The Department of Health has recommended that all patients over 65 and also those who suffer from a 'high risk' condition [including diabetes, chronic heart disease, chronic renal failure, COPD, those who have undergone a splenectomy, severe asthma (taking inhaled steroid – not seasonal), carers and pregnant ladies] regardless of their age are offered a vaccination against Influenza. Vaccinations will take place on Saturday 8 October in Purton Surgery between 8 am and 4 pm so if you are eligible then phone or call in to make your appointment

**New high-backed chairs with arms:** If you have visited the surgery recently you will have seen the new high-backed chairs with arms. At the moment there is one in Purton Surgery and one in Green Gable Surgery, Cricklade. G4P are pleased to be able to tell you that we have helped with the funding of these. We have a third chair reserved to go in Purton Surgery which will be bought when funding permits.

**What has G4P achieved?:** At our recent G4P meeting we considered our achievements to date and decided to share them with you. Among other things we have: supported the Practice during two CQC inspections; raised awareness of a number of conditions through our Information Evenings (ten to date); assisted during 'flu vaccinations; raised money to help purchase the new check-in system; raised money for the new high-backed chairs with arms; arranged coffee morning events to introduce patients to helpful volunteer organisations; represented our practice at NHS forums; talked to patients at local events; through improved communication between the practice and patients we have kept patients informed of updates regarding the practice.

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## **Parking at Purton Surgery**

Purton Surgery caters for many more patients than it did when it was first built and we are very aware that parking can be extremely tight. Please consider walking if you are able. When parking please be aware of others walking when you are manoeuvring.

## **Repeat prescriptions**

Please remember to allow three working days after ordering a repeat prescription before collecting from the pharmacy. In addition, it is important that you remember to check your stocks of repeat medication well in time to order before going on holiday.

*SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P*

## **Health & Wellbeing Champion**

Hello! As I write, 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:

Mens Sheds! Newly retired? Done all those chores you promised after retirement? What next? How about sharing your skills and tools and having a natter over a cuppa at your local shed? RWB Fire Station will be opening their doors to the first Men's Shed in RWB as soon as their refurb is completed. For more information, contact John Loran on [jsloran@aol.com](mailto:jsloran@aol.com) or Alexa Smith on [alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 01249 706610.

Area Board. Ever wondered what an "Area Board" is? Did you know that it can offer financial support to local groups and projects? Why not pop along to the next Area Board meeting on 23 November (check Wiltshire Council website near the time to confirm time and venue). The meetings are friendly and informal and there is chance to meet and talk to the Councillors as well as people from all around our Community Area. For more information, call Alexa Smith on 01249 706610 or email: [alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Benefit Cap ... is coming. Just a reminder to please, don't ignore any letters about this! We may not like or agree with the changes, but the rules are changing and you will receive a letter if it affects you or your household. There is always help available, so call me or pop into the Citizens Advice office if you need some help.

As ever, I am around for general help and support on a wide variety of issues including transport, mobility and safety around the home and reducing the feeling of loneliness. Give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

*ELLEN BLACKER, Health & Wellbeing Champion*

## **Breast Cancer Support**

This year the Support Group is having evening meetings with each consultant having an evening to talk about Breast Cancer and explain the new treatments and therapies that are available to patients.

On 25 October at 7.30 pm at the Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton SN4 9LW the consultant is going to be Anushka Chaudhry, Consultant Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon MBBS, FRCS (Gen Surg).



## St Mary's CE Primary School, Purton

We welcome everyone back to the start of a new Term at St Mary's after the summer break. It is lovely to be back in school and to see the children settling in so well.

We have a number of new members of staff to welcome this Term; Mr Cooper, Class 11 Teacher and Miss Garros and Mrs Morris both new Teaching Assistants. We also welcome two student teachers, Miss Dobson who will be working in Mrs Hill's class and Mr Biddle who will be assigned to Ms Veale's class. We hope they enjoy their time with us.



Our current school crossing patrol person Mrs Winter has stepped down from her role and we thank her for doing such a great job over the past few years! We now welcome Mrs Kelham and we hope everyone will make her feel welcome as she helps children and parents cross the busy High Street each day.



This term, our Collective Worship Value is Trust. We will be looking at the Christian Perspective on Trust being the basis of all stable relationships. Also reflecting as a whole school community on how we show children in practical ways what it means to have trust in others, how we can demonstrate sensitively the repercussions when trust is broken and how role models can show us different kinds of trust that work in our school community and the wider world.

Please note that the Primary School Admissions application process for September 2017 is now underway. Applications can be made on line via [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or by obtaining a paper copy from the School Admissions Team in County Hall Trowbridge. The deadline for all applications is 15 January 2017.

If you want to visit the school before submitting your application, you are warmly welcome. Visits can be arranged through the school office email [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

For more information about our wonderful school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website [www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk)

*Mrs NAOMI CLARKE,  
Head Teacher*





## **A Fantastic Year - Bradon Forest School breaks yet more records**

Everyone at Bradon Forest School would like to congratulate our students on their GCSE examination results. Their hard work and commitment have been rewarded with excellent individual grades. As a consequence of these individual efforts Bradon Forest School's students, staff and parents are celebrating our highest ever results for the fourth year on a row. 70% of students achieved the government's 'gold standard' of 5 A\*-C grades including English and Mathematics (up 7% on 2015).

Over 10% of our students achieved seven or more A-A\* grades. We would like to give a special mention to Ethan Brown, Michael Harris, Stephen Hoy, Ela Kanani, James Medcraft, Ashley West and Holly Young who each got 10 or more A-A\* grades.

Bradon Forest School prides itself on developing students into mature young adults as well as academically successful students. Many of our students have successfully balanced their studies with other challenges. Harry Llewellyn has achieved good grades alongside representing Great Britain at ice hockey. Rebecca Knowles achieved 10 A\*-C grades while competing in international fencing competitions. Following on from her gold medal at the Dance World Cup Imogen Webb managed to accommodate training and studying into her busy schedule gaining ten GCSEs at C or above. Having arrived in England from



Romania only last year we are delighted that Irina Manea secured five A-A\* grades.

Our excellent GCSE results are yet more positive news for the school which achieved an Ofsted good rating this April. Part of the Athelstan Trust alongside Malmesbury School and The Dean Academy the school will be opening a new Sports Hall this autumn. Assistant Headteacher, Catherine Chappell, said "These are exciting times to be working at Bradon. Together with events in school we have heard about many of our ex-students' achievements at college and on university courses. It is great to be able to celebrate success within our school community."

With many of our students succeeding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics alongside English, Maths, Humanities and MFL subjects it is great to see our students succeeding in many of key qualifications valued by employers and universities.

The Headteacher, Andrew Morrison, said "I am delighted for all our students who have turned their efforts into examination success. To achieve a fourth consecutive record year is a fabulous achievement. It says an enormous amount about the work of our staff, ably supported by our parents and carers, that year on year our students have achieved higher grades. These will ensure that our students are able to access better employment and higher education opportunities. Following our good Ofsted judgement in April it is fantastic to see Bradon Forest School going from strength to strength."

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## Purton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

At the time of writing, only two of our units have returned after the summer break so it's a very brief report this month.

The Rainbow unit has welcomed lots of new girls this term along with two new adult helpers who we'll introduce once their Rainbow names are finalised. Selecting Leader names is a very serious business and not a decision for the girls to take lightly! The unit also welcomed Puffin back after two terms off with baby Charlie. The focus this term is on getting to know each other and this has included making rainbow bunting with self-portraits of the girls.

2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies has also welcomed new members who've started learning all about what it is to be a Brownie in readiness for their promise celebration later this term. The whole unit have also been busying themselves with producing a scarecrow for the Purton Scarecrow trail. By the time you read this, it won't be giving anything away by telling you that it's The Lion King they've been recreating.

Right at the end of the summer holidays, the Guides and Rangers joined forces with their friends from Melksham and Telford for a camp with a difference at our County Guiding Centre just outside Chippenham. The Guides slept inside, but still in tents, whilst the Rangers slept outside - also in tents you'll be glad to know! Both Guides and Rangers made good use of the large outdoor space at the Centre to do most of their activities outside.

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](mailto:braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). You can also register interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested).

Find us on Facebook too:

[www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision](http://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision)



## Purton Tennis & Cricket Club archives

Is anyone able to help the Purton Tennis and Cricket Clubs?

I am writing an article on the shared use of the cricket field by the two clubs from 1912-1939 and have a photograph of the tennis club outing to Cheddar in 1937.

Help with naming the people in the photograph would be much appreciated. We think the lady kneeling at middle front might be Floss Kanter.



Associated with the club in 1937 included the following; L Rushen, A Gray, J and F Dunn, A Woolford, H Bunce, H Stump, Misses K Kibblewhite, M Hinton, D Harris, Mrs H Stump, Rev N Willis, Capt. Ward, Dr Oabley-Brown, Dr Crossley, S Speller, Miss Russell, Mrs H Sadler, Lady Gamble and Lady Beatrix Hoare.

Any information would be appreciated to Joe Gardener on 770681 or 1a New Road, Purton, please.

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## Purton Diary - October 2016

1	Sa	10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	to 2pm: Shoebox Fundraising Day at 35 High Street Tennis Club Race Night at the Red House Phoenix Players - <i>The Reunion</i> at Swindon Arts Centre (last performance)
<hr/>			
2	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Service at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	Tu	8.00pm	PADS panto reading at Red House - new actors welcome
5	W	10.00am 11.00am 7.30pm	'Storytime' at Purton Library for Pre-school children Age Concern Mystery Tour (with lunch included) Purton Historical Society Autumn course at Silver Threads Hall - Week 1. Then on 12 and 19 October
6	Th	10.30am 8.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church PADS panto reading at Red House - new actors welcome
7	F	9.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Age Concern minibus to Cirencester to 4pm: Silver Threads Club Friendship afternoon at STH Age Concern 3B's x 2 Evening at Silver Threads Hall
8	Sa	7.00pm	<i>by appointment:</i> Purton Surgery 'Flu vaccination clinic Harvest Barn Dance at the Village Hal
<hr/>			
9	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Church Anniversary Service at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Messy Church at St Mary's School
10	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome – see page 9 for other committees
11	Tu	10.00am 11.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Extinctions</i> Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Silver Threads Club: Marion Hobbs - <i>Memories of Brixham</i> Purton Surgery: <i>Coping with our stressful lives</i>
12	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
13	Th	10.30am 7.30pm	Songs of Praise at The Cedars Cricklade Band concert at Village Hall ( <i>Guide Dogs</i> )
14	F	9.30am 7.30pm	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester PADS present <i>Accidental Death of an Anachist</i> , Village Hall
15	Sa	7.00pm 7.30pm	Football Club Race Night at the Red House PADS present <i>Accidental Death of an Anachist</i> , Village Hall
<hr/>			
16	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Communion at St Mary's Church to 4.30pm: Age Concern Antiques & Collectables Fayre at Village Hall

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17	M	10.00am 7.30pm	to 12 noon: Purton Surgery coffee morning, Silver Threads Hall St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Sharon Lloyd - <i>Musical Evening</i>
18	Tu	7.45pm 8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House After 8: Planning + 'Surprise' led by Janet & Avril at Janet's
19	W	2.00pm 7.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening WI open meeting at Village Hall: Alan Nix - <i>The motor trade 1950-1980</i>
22	Sa	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee Morning at Silver Threads Hall
23	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church
25	Tu	10.00am 2.00pm 2.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>From Cadet to Commodore</i> Silver Threads Club: John & Mary Craig - <i>Old Time Music Hall</i> Communion at White Lodge Gardeners' Guild, Silver Threads Hall: Water in small gardens Breast Cancer Support treatments and therapies advice evening at Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton
27	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Paul Williams – <i>Slide Show: Seen today, gone yesterday</i>
28	F	9.00am	to 11am: Cricklade Country Market at The Club at Cricklade
30	Su		<b>End of British Summer Time - clocks go back</b>
		8.00am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church

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### Every week

Tu	9.00am 12 noon 7.30pm	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am 6.30pm	to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.00am 12 noon 2.00pm 2.20pm	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall (term time) Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	to 11.30am: Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars

### Moon Phases

- 1 October     
 9 October     
 16 October     
 22 October  
 30 October

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](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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## Purton Guide Dogs



Sadly the Cricklade Show did not happen this year, maybe next year. But here is a reminder that the Concert by The Cricklade Band and Academy is on Thursday 13 October in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Admission is £6 on the door and includes light refreshments. We will have a raffle and also our Guide Dogs stall, so come along for an evening's entertainment. In November I will be doing two stalls. The first will be at the Table Top Sale in the Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 12 November and the second will be at the Old Town Autumn Fair in Christ Church on Saturday 19 November.

One thing I forgot last month was that we had a generous donation from the Purton Cricket Club's Skittles Team - a penalty fund levied at skittle matches. Our thanks to all involved. Many thanks for your continued support.

*BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group*

## Purton Methodist Church

We are having a very busy time at our church at the moment, or at least our Stewards are! Our electric organ finally gave up the ghost so we had to look for another one and, thanks to the help of Holmes Music Centre, we were lucky to find a good electric organ/piano, which has made such a difference to our Sunday Service, we can now have a good sing which is such an important part of our worship.

Our Harvest Festival was celebrated on 11 September and again our gifts were donated to Swindon Food Bank to help someone whose needs are greater than our own. This is part of our Christian Giving.

Our Sunday service remains at 10.30 am each Sunday. A warm welcome awaits, plus a cup of tea and plenty of chat afterwards. All are welcome.

*ROSE STUMP*

## Shoebox News

### **Operation Christmas Child: Fundraising Day**

To send 400 filled boxes as last year, plus any individual filled boxes that we receive, 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)*



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

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## Red House History

*This is the first part of an article published in 'Reflections' by John Scott., written between 1972 and 1974 and published by his daughters in 1996 . There are 4 parts relating to the Red House, its purchase and operation up to 1974 which will be serialised over the next few months.*

### **Part 1. Introduction:**

There was already a cenotaph in the village which bore the names of the fallen from the 1914-18 war. It was quickly agreed to add the names of the brave people we had lost from our village during the 1939-45 war.

Many of us wanted a permanent memorial in the form of playing fields or a Village Hall. The Red House, owned by Miss Russell, and the land around it, which I had rented for many years, offered the ideal opportunity to form a Village Centre with space for playing fields and a Village Hall. Miss Russell now lived in Bournemouth. The house had been occupied by soldiers returning after Dunkirk but had since been empty. A small exploratory Committee was set up to see if we could raise sufficient money to purchase the property, which was on offer by Fox and Sons for the sum of £8,500. Colonel F W Wilson-Fitzgerald became our chairman, Mr Fred Leach was appointed Hon. Treasurer and I became Hon. Secretary. (Other members of the committee were Colonel Hugh Ryder of the Manor House, Mr Bob Wightman, who was an Auctioneer and Estate Agent and who kindly did all his advising free of charge, and Mr V Jupp, a practising Solicitor whom I managed to get co-opted and who likewise gave his services free.)

I was aware that no 'Deed of Plight and Condition' of the property had been made when the Army took over, so whoever bought the property would have a fair 'claim' on the War Office, as the Army Occupation had not improved its value. If we acted quickly we stood a good chance of receiving substantial grant aid both from the King George V<sup>th</sup> Fund and from the National Playing Fields Association providing we could raise sufficient money to purchase. It was agreed that we would make as full an enquiry as possible and then call a Public Meeting and, if approved, a fully representative committee of all village groups would be formed.

We worked hard to get all the information possible. I called on our Chairman by appointment one evening to report progress. I thought highly of the peppery old Colonel but he was never very forthcoming with the bottle. He sat at his desk on his revolving stool in his study while his very likeable wife sat reading a book beside the fire. As I explained how much progress we had made he seemed to give me the impression that this or that might have been done. I became very annoyed, as we had made considerable efforts.

I suddenly said, "Colonel, you can sit on your arse on that swing stool all day, and do what you like just when you care to, but we have jobs to do, and all this other work has to be done in our spare time". His wife exploded with laughter, threw her book to the ceiling and, clapping her hands, said, "John, good for you! He has

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needed to be told that for a long time". He was quite non-plussed and suggested that we might have a sherry. He always had a drink and a welcome for me after that, and we worked together for a long time. *To be continued ...*

## Purton Historical Society



### Past Events

#### Purton Museum

On Monday 11 July, we met Mary Conn and her husband at the Purton Museum. Mary, a former Purton resident was visiting England from her home in Northern Ireland. On behalf of her mother, Mrs Cecilia Blake, Mary donated to the Museum documents, newspaper cuttings, booklets, maps etc that belonged to her grandfather, Alfred Harris, a founder member of the Society. These items will be documented and kept in the museum for display.

Mrs Blake, also a former resident of Purton, now lives in Woodford, Cheshire. On behalf of the Society we would like to thank Mrs Blake and Mary for this valued contribution which enables us to preserve the local history of the village for future generations to enjoy and understand.

### Future Events and Dates

#### Purton Museum – World War One Exhibition

A further travelling exhibition 'Wiltshire does its Bit' is available to view in the Museum. It includes working to supply munitions, the supply of horses and the Purton Remount Depot, raising funds to supply parcels for the troops, nursing the injured and working on the land etc.

#### Thursday 27 October - 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall

##### CHANGE TO PROGRAMME

Due to unforeseen circumstances our original speaker is unable to attend, so we are very pleased to have a new speaker as follows:

*Slide Show of Swindon – 'Seen Today, Gone Yesterday' with Paul Williams*

This will be of special interest to those who knew Swindon during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will be an interactive evening, when we can share our memories of the buildings gone forever and see what replaces them.

#### Thursday 24 November - 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall

*Swindon Railway Works – Andy Binks*

#### Friday 2 December 2016

*Annual Christmas Social at the Silver Threads Hall:* Further details to follow

New Members and visitors always welcome

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

## Purton Museum News

Early in the month of October the museum is mounting a display of photographs of our neighbours, the villages of Lydiard and Lydiard Tregoze. We hope that you will be able to come along and see some very interesting images of the villages and its residents in days gone by.

*JAN WALKER, Museum Assistant*

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## 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



*Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...*

10 years ago, Climate Friendly Purton got off to a flying start when almost 50 people turned up for the first meeting when

Purton became the eleventh community to join the Climate Friendly Communities project. The idea was to link each community to reduce their carbon footprint, not least by being able to visit examples of good practice and learn about what grants were available for specific activities and initiatives.

Elsewhere in the October 2006 Purton Magazine, we learnt that the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust were successful with their lottery bid to complete the North Wilts Canal as part of the Cricklade County Way from Moulton Hill to Cricklade. Together with partners, including the Swindon & Cricklade Railway and Sustrans (Sustainable Transport Network), the award of £250,000 was to carry out engineering surveys and detailed costings of the entire project in order to submit a realistic and professional application for final judging.

Then, to mark the completion of the Cricklade aqueduct, the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust held a barbeque for all those who helped in the project. The article reported that many will miss their cosy aqueduct site as it had been a second home for many over the preceding 5 years.

Finally we reported that, to mark the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Mr & Mrs Peter Berry, Purton Ringers rang a quarter peal on Sunday 10 September 2006 especially as Peter had been a bellringer at Purton for over 50 years.

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

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# Great War Project

## Part 39: October 1916

### Purton men mobilised in October 1916

*To France:* William John Read, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment at Thiepval, Somme.

*To Salonika (Greece):* Rupert Gilbert Woodward, Army Service Corps (MT).

**Battle of the Somme:** 2 new phases of the battle were started: Transloy Ridges and Ancre Heights. Both were extensions of the successes at Thiepval in September.

**Robert Stanley Grimes**, (*right*) 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment) died at 1<sup>st</sup> Northern General Hospital, Newcastle on 13 October 1916, aged 30, of wounds sustained on 26 September at the battle of Thiepval Ridge. He is buried in St Mary's Church graveyard, Purton. His parents were Richard and Annie Grimes of Packhorse, Purton.



**Stanley Frederick Haines**, (*left*) 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, Machine Gun Corps, son of Frederick & Winifred Haines, Railway Hotel, Purton, was wounded at Ancre Heights. He was transferred to hospital at Chatham where he died aged 26 on 19 October 1916. His body was returned to Purton by train and he was buried in St Mary's Church graveyard in a ceremony together with Robert Grimes.

**Thomas Henry Embury**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, was killed in action, aged 24, on 18 October 1916 at Flers 6 miles east of Thiepval. The son of Charles & Ellen Elizabeth Embury, of Church Path, Purton, he was buried at Warlencourt British Cemetery.

On 5 October, Adolf Hitler, serving with the 16<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment, was wounded in the left thigh by an exploding shell during the Battle of the Somme in the Thiepval-Flers sector.

On 29 October, Lt.-Gen. Adolf Wild von Hohenborn was dismissed from his post as German Minister for War in the light of German failures at the Somme. He was succeeded by Lt.-Gen. von Stein, formerly Deputy Chief of the German General Staff.

**Verdun:** After the bloody but successful defence of Verdun at the end of August, the French armies started their "First Offensive Battle" of Verdun. Fort Douaumont was recaptured by the French Colonial Infantry Regiment of Morocco, supported by Senegalese and Somali troops after advancing 2 km through trenches under counter-attack. The entire regiment was awarded the Légion d'honneur for this action.

**Austria:** On 21 October, the Prime Minister of Austria, Count Karl von Stürgkh who had been in office since November 1911, was assassinated by Friedrich Adler, son of the Social Democratic party chairman. Emperor Franz Joseph appointed Dr Ernest von Körber as Stürgkh's successor.

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**The War at Sea:** Submarine warfare had been a contentious issue for some years. On 7 October, a German submarine (U-53) arrived off Newport, Rhode Island (US). While staying in international waters it sank 9 British merchant ships. America protested and on the 13<sup>th</sup>, in response to continued actions in the North Sea, the Norwegian government (neutral) ordered a prohibition of the use of submarines of belligerent nations in Norwegian waters. None of this lasted long as Germany resumed U-boat attacks on 15 October.

On 20 October the Russian battleship “Imperatritsa Mariya” (Empress Maria) suffered from a fire in the forward powder magazine while at anchor in Sevastopol. A team of sailors, led by Engineer-Mechanic Midshipman Ignatyev, managed to flood the forward shell magazine shortly before the powder magazine exploded but at the cost of their own lives. However, their action reduced the death toll to around 228 saving the rest of the ship’s complement of 1,213.

Over the night of 26-27 October, 23 German torpedo boats raided the Straits of Dover to disrupt the Dover Barrage and destroy whatever Allied shipping could be found in the strait. The German torpedo boats were challenged by an ancient British destroyer HMS Flirt. The Germans sank Flirt and attacked the barrage’s drifters (fishing boats similar to trawlers and cabled in a line). A flotilla of British destroyers was sent to repel the German flotilla. The Germans made a successful withdrawal. By the end of the night, the British had lost one destroyer, a transport, and several drifters while the Germans suffered minor damage to a single torpedo boat. This success encouraged Germany to plan more attacks and their raids continued until the British reinforced their fleet in November.

On 28 October, a British hospital ship “Galeka” hit a mine off Le Havre. Though not carrying any patients at the time, 19 Royal Army Medical Corps personnel died in the sinking.

**The Air War:** Now they knew how to do it, another German airship (L31) was shot down by aeroplane at Potters Bar, near London over the night of 1-2 October.

More in response to actions in France, the German Air Force was created on 8 October, combining various units of their mainly army-based air power. Flying Ace Hauptmann (Captain) Oswald Boelcke had introduced new tactics that were beginning to give the German Air Force greater aerial dominance especially using formation fighting rather than single combat. However, Boelcke was killed in action on 28 October.

**Rumania:** Although only recently joining the war on the allied side, and having some early victories, Rumania was now doing badly. The city of Brasov in Transylvania, was retaken by Austria on 7 October and German troops crossed into Rumania on the 14<sup>th</sup>. On 22 October, German and Bulgarian forces took Constanza, in the Rumanian heartland of Dobrudja province. 3 days later, Cernavoda in Dobrudja fell to the Germans.

**Italian Front:** We’ve ignored the Italian Front for too long so it’s about time we looked at it. At the time Italy joined the allied cause, a treaty was signed (Treaty of London) in April 1915. In return for her involvement, the Allies promised Italy territories of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which were mainly inhabited by ethnic

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Slovenes. Italy wanted land including the present-day Slovenia and the Italian army leader Field Marshal Luigi Cadorna had planned a frontal assault, breaking through into the Slovenian plateau. This would occupy Ljubljana and advance towards Vienna. The battle plan involved the area between the northernmost part of the Adriatic Sea and the inland sources of the river Soča (Isonzo). The plan was also to isolate Trieste, a major Austrian port on the Adriatic, and claim it as Italian territory. Twelve successive battles resulted.

Terrain was against the attackers but it did mean that Austria was forced to move forces from the Eastern Front (Russia and Rumania).

The 8<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo began on 8 October, lasting four days. 31 October saw the start of the 9<sup>th</sup> battle, lasting 5 days.

**Greece:** We saw last month that Greece was in a major crisis. On 3 October, Kalogeropoulos's new Greek Cabinet resigned. In the interim, Bulgarian and Austrian troops just to the north in Macedonia were being held by residual Serbian forces with French and Russian help at the Crna River and Monastir. The Allies needed full cooperation from Greece to keep this front going.

Eleftherios Venizelos had already set up a provisional Greek government in opposition in Crete and, on 9 October, he arrived back in Salonika – he was ardently in favour of the allied cause. The next day, the allied governments sent an ultimatum to the Athens Greek government to surrender the Greek navy. Under this pressure, the Greek government resigned and Professor Lambros formed a new government. He accepted the allied ultimatum on 11 October.

Things were moving fast and, on 19 October France formally recognised Venizelos's Provisional Government in Crete. The next day, an Anglo-French Conference was held at Calais to discuss Greek participation in the war.

**Arabian Front:** On 23 October 1916 at Hamra in Wadi Safra, Emir Faisal Hussein, son of Hussein bin Ali the Sharif of Mecca, met Captain T. E. Lawrence, a junior British intelligence officer from Cairo. Lawrence put forward the idea of an independent post-war Arabian state and was looking for the man to lead the Arabs. From 1916 until 1918, Faisal headed the army of rebellion that confronted the Turks.

The Sharif, Faisal's father, was proclaimed King of the Arabs on 29 October.

*RICK DIXON*

#### **DISCLAIMER**

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

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

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

## We Record ...

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 ...



### *Baptisms at St Mary's Church:*

14 August Ethan Charles De La Haye-Venables  
21 August James Ian John Hodges

### *Weddings at St Mary's Church:*

13 August Benjamin David Lyon and Michelle Louise Lay  
20 August Andrew Philip Woodward and Louise Peer  
28 August Ryan Raymond Wilson and Charlotte Elaine Tierney  
3 September Thomas Gavin Ernest Southerden and Sophie Eleanor May Payn

### *Wedding Blessing at St Mary's Church:*

27 August Richard Stephens and Maria Stephens

### *Blessing of Holy Matrimony at St Mary's Church:*

10 September Jay McCulloch and Harriet Worth

### *Thanksgiving Service for Holy Matrimony at St Mary's Church:*

12 August Duncan Howard Smith and Michelle Laura Parkin

### *Funeral at St Mary's Church:*

11 August Mary Alice Jane (81)

### *In Memoriam:*

13 October 1916 Robert Stanley Grimes, 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry, died aged 30, of wounds sustained at Thiepval Ridge. Buried in St Mary's Church graveyard, Purton.

18 October 1916 Thomas Henry Embury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action, aged 24 at Flers. Buried at Warlencourt British Cemetery near Bapaume.

19 October 1916 Stanley Frederick Haines, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, died aged 26 of wounds sustained at Ancre Heights. Buried in St Mary's Church graveyard, Purton.

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common and Locks Lane*.

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

## Church Floodlighting

20 September St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of **Sharon and Nigel Sheridan**, who were married in St Mary's on 20 September 1986.



2 October The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Roger Lawrence** on what would have been his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Loved and remembered always. Vivien and Janet.

2 October In memory of **Albert Roy Bultitude**. Missed and loved by all the family.

2 October In memory of **Lilian Slade**. Remembered on the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death. Always in our hearts and thoughts. With all our love: Ron, Geoff and Lyn and families.

14 October St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Pauline Harrison**, on the anniversary of her passing. Taken too soon and sadly missed by all her loving 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.*

## Music for an Autumn Evening at St Mary's Church

Our village is blessed with a most beautiful church and we expect it to be there for us and future generations. We have a group called Friends of St Mary's (FOSM), which comprises both regular church goers and those of us who turn up for weddings and funerals or just drive by thinking 'what a lovely church with its tower and elegant spire'. As you can imagine, the cost to keep this Grade 1 listed building in good condition is very significant and this is where FOSM tries to help.

We would love you to come to our concert on Saturday 15 October at 7.30 pm where you can hear the very talented Breeze Saxophone, who are a trio of musicians with vocals, saxophones and flute. Jayne and Sarah live here in Purton and Sandy lives in Cirencester. They will entertain us with a mix of jazz, swing and pop.

Sharing the bill with Breeze will be After 8, a group of chaps who tell you they only sing so they can have a beer together afterwards! Well their singing is wonderful and many of them belong to a local award-winning male choir. They will entertain us with a mix of music including pop, musicals, folk and humorous songs.

Tickets for adults are £12 including a free glass of wine or juice. Children under 16 accompanied by an adult are free but will need a ticket so that we can keep track of numbers. Tickets available from Helen - 01793 770648 or email [mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk)

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## Carnival News



We hope you all enjoyed the Carnival's Bingo on Wednesday 28 September at the Silver Threads Club, and that you are now looking forward to the Christmas Bingo on Wednesday 7 December at the Silver Threads Club at 7.30 pm.

We have no events on in October, but we have a Quiz at the Royal George on Friday 25 November, teams of up to 4 persons £10.00 per team 7.30 pm.

### **Carnival 2017**

Would you like us to set a theme for the carnival procession 2017 (if so suggestions please) or would you rather it be completely open?

The Carnival would like to put on another Barn Dance in April 2017. Would this be of interest to anyone or is there a different event you would like us to arrange for you?

Please contact Kevin Law on 07768 456989, [kevin@purtoncarnival.co.uk](mailto:kevin@purtoncarnival.co.uk) or via our Facebook page to let us know.

The deadline for Carnival funding requests is Friday 2 October: please e-mail request or post to: Purton Carnival c/o Setter House, Church Street, Purton, SN5 4DS.

### **Pubs, Clubs & Organisations**

I have written to all of Purton's Pubs, Clubs and Organisations (of which we are blessed to have many) in the hope that our procession will be represented by the majority of Purton, from a full-on float, to a walking group or simply a few members of that organisation walking with a banner to represent that pub, club or organisation. Carnival is part of village life and the procession is a huge part of that, so please don't let it die. If you are a member of a pub, club or organisation please lobby your committee to get involved in the 2017 Purton Carnival Procession on Saturday 1 July, 12 noon to 2 pm. Thank you.

*KEVIN LAW, Carnival Chairman*

## Royal Wootton Bassett & District Art Society

This friendly group of local artists meets every Wednesday at Hook Village Hall from 1.30 pm to 4 pm. We welcome new members of all abilities so please come along and give us a try. Please see our website [www.artinbassett.weebly.com](http://www.artinbassett.weebly.com) for more information and find us on Facebook - artinbassett, or phone Sue on 01793 848233

*JEN GREENER*

## Housing development planned

An application to build a housing estate adjacent to St Mary's Church, Lydiard Park, has been submitted by Taylor Wimpey. The application is outside the Local Plans for both Swindon and Wiltshire Councils. If you would like to make a comment for or against this development you can do so up until 31 October. Visit: [planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/PLComments.aspx?pk=865926](http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/PLComments.aspx?pk=865926) or email [mathew.pearson@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:mathew.pearson@wiltshire.gov.uk) (Ensure your email includes the reference '16/06978/FUL') or by post to: Mathew Pearson, Wiltshire Council, Monkton Park, Chippenham, SN15 1ER. Ensure your letter includes the reference '16/06978/FUL' and your name and address.

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## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society (PADS)



This article was written just before our WW1 Commemorations in conjunction with Purton Historical Society, so hopefully everyone had a good day!

Our Autumn play is "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" by Dario Fo, adapted and translated by Gavin Richards & Gillian Hanna, and directed by Olly Webb.

*Was it simply an accident, or something more ... ?*

*What are the true circumstances behind the mysterious death of a suspected anarchist who falls from a police station window whilst in custody?*

*A raucous rollercoaster of a comedy inspired by true events. The fast moving action takes place in an unnamed police station where an absurd re-enactment of events takes place to determine if the anarchist's plummet to the street was accident or foul-play. This highly acclaimed classic is performed with bravado, ludicrousness and slapstick.*

*Accidental Death of an Anarchist is the most famous play by Dario Fo, recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Literature. This piece of extraordinary writing is rarely performed on stage and is a masterpiece in comic absurdity.*

**Performances** are on Friday & Saturday **14/15 October** with a 7.30 pm start. Prices are £7.50 adults, £6.00 concessions. Bar license applied for. Tickets will be available on the door but if you wish to reserve any, please call 771890 or 772581.

Pantomime will then be upon us. This time it is "Humpty Dumpty" and we will be holding Panto readings on Tuesday 4 and Thursday 6 October, 8 pm at The Red House. If you wish to be considered for a part, please come along. We particularly need ages 18 to 50!

Performance dates will be Thursday, Friday, Saturday 2, 3, 4 February 2017

*KATE BATH, tel 771442*

## Purton Food Festival

Purton Evening WI are hosting Purton's 4<sup>th</sup> Food Festival on Saturday 5 November at Purton Village Hall from 12 midday until 4 pm.

As usual we will be welcoming an array of local food suppliers and some very talented crafts people as well as produce from our WI ladies and Pips Community Café. With Christmas not so very far away, this is your chance to get some menu and present ideas. We also hope to have some activities for children.

We will be serving tea and coffee and warming homemade soups and yummy cakes and we will also have a licensed bar.

Admission is £1. Children under 16 free if accompanied by an adult.

We still have a few trade spaces so, if you are a local food supplier or crafts person, tables are available for £10. Please ring Helen on 01793 770648 or email [mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk)

## Food for Thought

If the divine creator has taken pains to give us delicious and exquisite things to eat, the least we can do is prepare them well and serve them with ceremony.

*Fernand Point*

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## Purton & District Probus



At our 9 August meeting, **Bob Blenden**, Regional Manager for the National Sheep Association, gave us an introduction to the history and activities of farming sheep.

Sheep play an important role in the life of Britain - the landscape, food, clothing, and woollen industries, periodically, contributing considerable wealth. Sheep were first domesticated 11,000 years ago, bred from the wild mountain sheep, most probably the mouflon. Selective breeding since has been dictated not only by the requirements of man for wool, meat and skins, but also by the available terrain and pasture. The Stratified Sheep System recommends three divisions; Hill, Upland and Lowland Pastures. Hardy hill-sheep occupy the UK's highest and roughest landscapes. These include the Swaledale, Scottish Blackface, Welsh Mountain sheep and others. Upland ground is used for the farming of breeding ewes, mated with long haired Upland breeds such as the Blueface and Border Leicesters.

The cross-breed lambs, known as mules, will normally be raised for meat. Lowland farms are less exposed to the weather and provide more ample amounts of pasture. A mule ewe on a lowland farm will stay in good enough condition to have twin lambs every year and sometimes more. Among the Lowland breeds are the Suffolk, the Texel and the Charolais. John Ellman, inheriting his father's tenancy in 1780, developed the South Down breed, giving a more compact animal with more meat and a good fleece. Breeds that followed were Dorset Down, Hampshire Down, Oxford Down, Norfolk Down and Norfolk Horn.

The last forty years has seen 200 selective breeds developed including one called Easy-care which has recently been in demand to graze the grass around panels on a solar farm. Of a particular rare breed, the Cotswold, developed by a Mr Hewer of Northleach, it was recorded that by 1914, the headcount in the USA and Canada of this breed had reached a total of 760,000.

Bob then moved on to tell us of some of the difficulties of rearing sheep - ticks and other pests, diseases such as scrapie and blue-tongue, and predators, which in some parts include the lynx and the larger birds of prey. Shepherding is a rewarding business but it has its challenges.

Promotion of support for sheep farming is critical. "Buy fresh, Buy Local" is the farmers' slogan. A large percentage of our sheep go to France and our UK supermarkets claim that New Zealand provides a more continuous chain of supply.

For seven years the Campaign for Wool has been promoting wool in all its forms across the world. This year Wool Week UK, 10-16 October, (talks, lectures and workshops), will be held at various venues across the country.

Sheep Farming was an unfamiliar subject for most Probus members but nevertheless held our interest.

At 23 August meeting, **Bob Price** entertained us with "In search of Paddington Bear", an illustrated tour of the many interesting features of Peru. Starting in Lima at the Plaza Major, we saw the Government Palace with a military band, the Archbishop's Palace, mansions with Moorish balconies, the catacombs and the Cathedral of San Francisco which is built of mud bricks, reportedly to resist the Earth tremors. In the district of Mira Flores we saw the magnificent City Hall with a colourful and busy indoor market.

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Leaving Lima, our speaker travelled south to the Paracas National Park and the Ballestas Islands Nature Reserve, the islands and peninsula created by the massive up-thrust of the Pacific tectonic plate. Here we saw images of mighty rock arches in the sea cliffs, flying pelicans and hundreds of other bird varieties. On an island hillside is an ancient and mysterious manmade outline, standing 300ft tall known as El Candelabra.

Travelling on by luxury coach Bob visited the Nazca lines, equally mysterious outlines of birds, fish, animals and insects, spread over a wide desert area and created about 2000 years ago. The lines are made by removing the red pebble surface to expose the whitish earth below.

The next stop was Arequipa with ladies in colourful Peruvian costume and hats with upturned brims. We visited the cathedral and the Santa Caterina Monastery, now a finishing school for ladies. One hundred miles north we saw the Colca Canyon, a much visited tourist attraction, at 1000ft deep it is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon.

We are now deep in the Andes and on the Colca River we find the self-contained city of Maca with its thousands of small terraces, llamas, vicunas, flowers and corn stacks. We see the church with its famous gold reredos screen and surrounded by a very active market. The whole scene is backed by the high snow-capped peaks of the Andes.

The next feature visited is Lake Titicaca, at 12500ft above sea level, the highest navigable lake in the world. Uros, a group of 44 artificial and inhabited floating islands is made up of bundles of totora, the reeds that grow in the shallows of the lake. We saw reed boats and again on the banks of the lake a multitude of terraces growing wheat and potatoes. There was much local produce on sale, weaving and embroidery.

The final visit of Bob's search was to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, stretching 60 kilometres from Pisac to the ancient city of Machu Picchu and enclosing the Inca capital of Cusco. It is one of the most famous World Heritage areas. At Cusco we saw the cathedral, the baroque Jesuit church and much archaeology, terraces, a large amphitheatre, temples, and an Inca fortress of unbelievably large dressed stones.

Bob finished the tour with pictures of Machu Picchu, some from the Inca Trail. Like Paddington Bear it remains a mystery how any people could have moved such massive stones.

The Probus club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10 am in the Red House lounge. Prospective members welcome – first three meetings free. Programme – 11 October: "Extinctions", 25 October: "From Cadet to Commodore".

*BOB STEVENS*

## Purton Peartree Pealers

Recently, a cheque was handed over to Prospect Hospice by the Purton Peartree Pealers. The local Purton handbell team has been pleased to support Prospect and this latest donation contributes to a fantastic £6,924.02 that has been raised by the team for Prospect since 2001.

Most of the money raised has been at fundraising concerts and playing carols around the shops at Christmas. The handbell team is delighted with the amount raised for Prospect and would like to thank all those who have supported them over the years.

*LIBBIE SHEPPARD*

## Purton Stoke Potatoes

### That's a big potato. What's the secret?

Each year here in Purton Stoke the Village Committee organises a competition to grow the biggest vegetable, flower etc. This year we chose potatoes. Previous competitions have been for the tallest sunflower or the largest onion.

Earlier in the year we sold 85 potatoes, each with a bucket, to villagers, children and grandchildren. The best thing about potatoes is, of course, you can't tell what you have grown until the bucket is upended and your crop is revealed. However I have to confess that I did notice that some buckets were bulging at the seams and that was a good indication that there were a lot of potatoes inside. 44 buckets were brought along to the weigh-in at the Bell Inn car park on Bank Holiday Monday, with all the entrants keen to see how well they had done. Very carefully Dick Scott and Howie Ockwell tipped out the buckets and scabbled around in the soil. Chris Young delivered the potatoes to the weighing station where Don Cakebread measured them and I recorded them all.



The variation in crop was truly amazing. The lowest yield was 0.38kg and the highest yield was 8.44kg. The latter by Ethan Simpkins. His gran, Denise, lives in the village and told me that she only gave him advice. He did the nurturing.

The star of the show, pictured above, was the heaviest potato at 0.93kg. It was 24cms long. Eileen Cakebread said she was as surprised as anyone at the size. It doesn't look very pretty but in this case size really does matter.

All through the afternoon Greg, the Bell Inn landlord, gave his support to the village by serving up delicious burgers from his Barbecue.

We couldn't stretch to gold, silver and bronze medals at the award winning ceremony afterwards but instead gave potato peelers and potato mashers, plus the coveted certificates of course.

The secret? That would be telling. The winners didn't say how they did it, except that they watered them very regularly and gave occasional fertiliser.

Second highest yield was by Megan Steel with 5.02kg and third was William Steel.

Second biggest potato was by Ethan Simpkins with 0.70kg, and the third was by Faith Simpkins 0.60kg. All the results are on the Purton Stoke notice board and in the Bell Inn.

Next year it could be the longest carrot, biggest cucumber or the north country favourite, the leek. Watch this space. (PS: for the Imperial Army of readers 1kg = 2.2lb).

JIM CASLAW

### Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door. For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £16 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata. For further information contact Sandra Horsnall on 01793 770157.

# PURTON PLACARD

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

## Purton Artists Society 2016 Exhibition

Purton Village Hall

### Preview evening:

Fri 11 Nov 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

### Main Exhibition:

Sat 12 November: 10 am - 4 pm

Sun 13 November: 10 am - 4 pm

For more information

[www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk](http://www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:bookings@phoenix-players.com)  
Suitable age 12 years +



## Sue's Macmillan Coffee Break

30 September 11 am to 3 pm

39a Vasterne Close, Purton SN5 4EZ

Bring and Buy Stall

## 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

### Autumn Surprise Mystery Tour

Wednesday 5 October

Coach leaves at 11 am

Cost - £13.50 for village  
pensioners

(pub lunch included)

## 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!

## 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

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.

**Purton Guide Dogs**

Concert by

The Cricklade Band and Academy

In Purton Village Hall at 7.30pm

On Thursday 13 October

Admission £6. includes light

Refreshments. There will be

A Raffle and Trading Stall.

**Race Night**

In Aid of Callum's

World Challenge

Purton Village Hall

Saturday 26 November

at 7.30 pm (First Race 8 pm)

Contact Sherry 771866 /

07909893937

For information or Tickets £6

**Coffee Morning**

on Saturday 22 October

at Silver Threads Hall

10 am to 12 noon

in aid of new chairs

for the hall

MACMILLAN CANCER  
SUPPORT  
**World's Biggest Coffee  
Morning**

Friday 30 September

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

10 am - 12 noon

Do please come and join us.

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

**Music for an Autumn  
Evening**

with Breeze and After Eight

men's barbershop singers

on Saturday 15 October

at St Mary's Church

7.30 pm

Tickets £12

from 01793 770648

mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk

**Purton Food  
Festival**

on Saturday 5 November

at Purton Village Hall

12 noon to 4 pm

Admission £1

(under 16s free)

Stalls available @ £10  
Ring Helen 01793 770648

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

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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Our August meeting took the form of a demonstration of 'Willow Weaving' by local Purton resident Linda Reece. Describing herself as a responsible forager of wild willow, Linda jokingly referred to this as her way of helping to clear the verges for the council!



She likes to sculpt in willow and believes any shape is possible to achieve, the simplest one being a 'fish on a stick', used as a starting point when teaching children. To highlight the variety of shapes possible, Linda had brought along a selection of her own willow-based structures, from dragon flies to fleece-covered sheep, from plant supports to Christmas trees and decorations. The most popular shape she has helped people to make is a pig, but pheasants, swans and chickens have all featured in her teaching.

Linda explained that before cutting willow it's always best to wait for the sap to cease rising, usually after two or three good frosts, this year's willow cuttings having been purchased in January-February so that by April-May they had naturally dried out. The thickness determines the amount of soaking required for use. For small willow this is usually 1-2 days in hot water, the test for readiness being when the willow is bent and the skin doesn't crack. The thicker the willow, the longer it lasts.

We learned that willow was one of the earliest forms of construction material and with its ability to withstand knocks, its protective qualities have proved to be beneficial in the making of pigeon carriers, baguette boxes and picnic hampers.

Linda's first demonstration was in the form of a dragonfly using 7 pieces of willow as the basis for the structure. She managed to make this seem easy but we all realised this was down to her skill and her obvious passion for her craft.

This was followed by a demonstration of a plant support in the form of a wigwam. By placing strips of willow in a pot, evenly spaced, Linda worked with two pieces of willow, forming a scissor effect either side of an upright. Again we were led to believe this was a fairly straightforward structure to make but I don't think many of us were fooled!

Moira offered a vote of thanks to Linda for her fascinating and informative talk and demonstration.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 25 October in the Silver Threads Hall, when Waterside Nursery will be entertaining us with a talk on the subject of 'Enjoying water in small garden spaces'. The competition will be 'Leaves and berries'.

Why not come and join us. We are a friendly club and are always pleased to welcome visitors and new members.

*MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, tel. 770906*

## Missing Cat

Smokey was last seen on Monday 27 June 2016 around 4 pm in Bishopsfield (backing onto the Fiddle, Cricklade). 3-year-old female cat. Tabby and white with white tip to tail. She also has a small nick on her upper left ear. She might have wandered into a shed or garage nearby, been in accident etc.

Please contact 07702 339879 with any information about this much loved and missed family pet.



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## Purton Horticultural Show



This year's show, despite the torrential rain in the afternoon, was again a success. Vegetable and Flower entries were fewer, due we feel to the difficult season, however there was stiff competition amongst the industrial classes.

We would dearly like to encourage more entries from our younger residents of Purton, and hope to increase classes for children next year.

This longstanding Show is part of Purton's village life, which also provides valuable funds for The Royal British Legion. Some of our Committee have retired now, after many years working for the Show. We all extend our thanks to Tony & Sheila Price and Maureen & Arthur Griffin for their sterling efforts.

Looking forward to 2017 – Show date: Saturday 19 August ... put it in your diaries now.

Purton Horticultural Show needs the talented people of Purton, young, older and much older, or any age! Gardening experience not necessary, but an added bonus. To join our Committee, and inject some fresh ideas, whilst still keeping up with its tradition. If you, are that person, and can offer your services, then please contact me for further information. Our next meeting is in November, and we would love to welcome a few new faces to it.

*LORNA ROBINSON-WARDLE*

*Secretary, Purton Horticultural Show. Tel: 778013*

## Cricklade Country Market



Locally made and grown: Pickles and preserves, pies, cookies, scones and cakes, original ideas for 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 28 October, 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. Orders for Christmas can be made at this market.

Market date for your diary: 25 November.

## Cricklade Revealed (part 10) – out now!

Remember the sixties? The Big Freeze, Latton Creamery, St Sampson's new school, the High Street before the by-pass? Memories and pictures of all these and much more can be found in Cricklade Revealed Part Ten.

As usual, copies of this new book can be bought at Cricklade Town Council Office, Déjà Vu hairdressers or Cricklade Museum at £3.60 each. A set of the ten main books are available from Marion Parsons ONLY at the reduced price of £30, and a smaller set consisting of Parts 1, 2 and 3, plus the two extra books (additional stories of people and places, with indexes) for £15. For further information, ring Marion on 750542, or e-mail [mfparsons071@btinternet.com](mailto:mfparsons071@btinternet.com)

Profits from the sale of all of the books will be donated to Cricklade Open Door.

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



At the end of the season the abandoned matches of the last two weeks spoiled the chances of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI coming second and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI coming first in their respective divisions. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished fourth, just 1 point behind third placed Trowbridge and 4 behind second placed Marshfield. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finished second, just 12 points behind Burbage 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, and are now promoted two divisions to Division 5 of the Wiltshire League. The juniors also did well this season with the U15 team coming third in the league and winning the T20 Cup, the U13s coming fourth and the U11s sixth in their respective leagues.

The club would like to extend huge congratulations to Phil and Alex Duffell who completed their 370-mile cycle ride and have so far raised £8,500 towards the Ainslie Pavilion Fund from this event alone.

JOE GARDNER

## Purton & District Darts League



By the time you read this the Purton & District Darts league will have started its 70<sup>th</sup> Season - established in 1946. With only twelve teams the league finished early last season and it's seems to have taken an age to come around again. I know some of you are chomping at the bit to get back on the oche - I know I am! (I am now slightly annoyed because my version of Microsoft Word does not think oche is a word? But I digress!)

At our recent Annual General Meeting at the Angel Inn, Ben Parsons was elected as our new Chairman. He replaces Alun (Bim) Herbert who resigned from the position after 40 years.

Also at the AGM we unanimously voted to donate £100 to Swindon dart player Michael Doyle's crowd funding appeal. The money is intended to help bring him back from Bulgaria where he sadly became ill and died. Our thoughts go out to his family.

We welcome the Royal George and the Sun Inn (Lydiard Millicent) back into the fold and wish them and everyone else the best of luck.

Question: A dart player wins a leg of darts after throwing 13 darts. What is the highest possible finish he could have achieved? P.S. it's not 170.

MARTIN RICHELL, Secretary

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

OFFERED: Single bed, mattress (standard size) - good condition. Dave 01793 772350.

OFFERED: A selection of Kilner jars for storing fruit etc. Libbie Sheppard: 771018

OFFERED: Some demijohns for brewing wine etc., plus other wine making equipment. Libbie Sheppard: 771018

OFFERED: 45 chairs from Purton Silver Threads Hall due to purchase of replacements. Some are still quite substantial. Contact Jenny Barnes on 770339

OFFERED: Chico Highchair 2001. New seat cover. Very robust. Ideal for visiting grandchild. Contact Lorna, 778013.

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

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## Purton Bowls Club



We had our Finals Weekend over the period 3-4 September and fortunately managed to avoid the really bad weather on the Saturday afternoon by cancelling a couple of matches and playing them on the Sunday. Well done to the match organiser for the quick planning.

Well done also to the players that took part, the games were very exciting and closely fought on a green that was just about holding together due to the changeable weather.

The winners were: Ladies singles: Chris Mitchell; Mens singles: Colin Baker; Mens two-wood: Paul Boyles; Ladies two wood: Chris Mitchell; Mixed two-wood: Alison Fail; Mens pairs: Colin Baker and Phil Reddan; Ladies pairs: Judith Fish and Alison Fail; Mixed pairs: Alison Fail and Peter Berry; Mixed handicap: Colin Baker; Novice: Ben Baxter and Club Triples: Chris Mitchell, Margaret Adams and Ben Baxter.

We were quite well supported on both days by members and had a barbecue cooking sausages, bacon, burgers etc. run by Dave Mitchell which was as popular as ever. Lots of cakes were donated which all added to an enjoyable event.

By the time you read this, the bowling green will have shut down for the winter and our next event will be the prize giving and annual dinner at the Club at Cricklade in November.

Work will continue on the green over the winter period and Graham Price and his team will be regularly visiting the site.

Many of our members play indoor bowls during the winter months, and I wish them luck in their competitions and league matches, bowls is an all year round game, and if you would like to start playing then contact me on 778119 or visit our website by searching 'purton bowls club swindon' (or direct to [www.hugofox.com/community/purton-bowls-club-9987](http://www.hugofox.com/community/purton-bowls-club-9987)) This is a new website and has all the information you need.

*PETER BERRY*



The summer season is now at an end and the final results saw both the Ladies' C and Men's C teams survive in their respective divisions to round off another good year for the club.

The courts are busy at the moment with 'ladder' matches being played, Ladies' night on a Tuesday evening, Cardio Tennis on a Wednesday and the junior coaching after school. The competitive matches will recommence early October when the Swindon & District Winter League kicks off.

The club is holding its annual Race Night in the Red House on Saturday 1 October starting at 7 pm. Everybody is welcome to come and place a bet or buy a horse!

The club has recently launched a new website, created by club member Ash Stevens, which looks very professional. Members can keep track of everything from latest results, available coaching for both adults and children, social events and historical club and individual honours. So, if you ever want to see what we are up to or indeed find out about belonging to the club, please log on to [www.purtontennisclub.com](http://www.purtontennisclub.com) and take a look.

*NICOLA GARDNER*

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



Our August meeting was a very pleasant evening, with many of us turning up in outfits that we had worn at special or memorable occasions, and then having the opportunity to try and buy clothing described as 'Fashion for the Mature' being sold by Mandy Hughes. It really was a 'made to measure' meeting for our fashion conscious ladies. Impromptu fashion shows were in abundance and I know that many of us left with lighter purses! If that was not enough activity, we then had to exercise our brain cells with a rather challenging fashion quiz put together by one of our committee members.

Our October meeting will take us back to the days before motorways and yellow lines, before cars had heaters and seatbelts and you could have any colour car you wanted as long as it was black! We will be welcoming Alan Nix who will be talking about 'Motoring and the Motor Trade' from the 1950s to 1980s.

As usual we shall be delighted to welcome visitors, and in particular our men folk, to what should be quite a nostalgic evening if, like me, you have memories of struggling to wind open the car window to give the indicator a helping hand or yanking the starting handle round to get the car started on a cold and frosty morning!

We look forward to seeing you all at Purton Village Hall, 19 October at 7.30 pm. Entrance for visitors £3 which includes a cuppa at half time.

*HELEN DIXON, 01793 770648*

## After 8 Annual summer lunch and walk

Well, after a not very sunny BBQ evening in July, Tuesday 23 August turned out to be a gorgeous sunny day. Eleven of us met at The Bolingbroke Arms, Hook for a convivial lunchtime meal and chat session.



'Too many choices on the menu', we cried. After much deliberation choices for food were made and we were well looked after by the waiting staff. Many topics of conversation were covered, depending on which end of the table you were sitting, a lovely atmosphere. We did spare a thought for absent members who through other commitments or illness were unable to join us.

The idea was that the calories gained during the meal could then be exercised off with a walk? Probably a vain hope! A slightly circuitous route across the fields and back home to Purton was taken by half of the assembled group. There ensued much discussion on various flowers, trees, birds and butterflies. The sun was still shining as we wandered home, enjoying our local countryside as we went.

Thanks to all for coming to the lunch/walk. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Next meeting; Tuesday 18 October 2016 – Short planning meeting followed by 'Surprise' led by Janet and Avril at Janet's house.

*SANDRA HORSNALL*

## Surprise

Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.

*George S. Patton*