

Purton Magazine



*St Mary's in the snow,
detail from an original painting
© Catherine Pier, with kind permission*

January 2017

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
	<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>	
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
	<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>	
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham	
	<i>bethaney23@icloud.com</i>	
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane	<i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>	
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Health and Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020
Schools and Play Groups:		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	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 judith@judithwells.wanadoo.co.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>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 Michael Robertson 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

Perhaps we might be the first to wish you a happy and healthy New Year – even if you are reading this before Christmas. As regular readers remember, we do try to have copies of the January magazine ready for circulation just before Christmas so that the production team can produce it before the seasonal break. This is also a good opportunity to thank publicly, our great bunch of volunteer distributors who often brave the cold, the wind and rain just to deliver your copy.

The essential component of any good community magazines is a rich and varied collection of contributions from their readers. A New Year is a good opportunity to start a new monthly column which we hope will feature some more contributions from readers. On [page 28](#) you will find the first “A Book I Will Always Remember” column which fittingly has been written by Caroline McLean, a former Editor of Purton Magazine.

Most people will have at least one book that they will always remember, perhaps because the story resonated with them at a particularly special - or memorable - time in their lives. The combination of a published story and personal circumstances should provide some very intriguing articles for others to read. We hope to receive lots of contributions from many different readers - our contact details are on [page 4](#).

Another essential component of a good community magazine is to provide information and advance notice of events that could have a profound and long-lasting impact on the community. This month we learn much more about the long-anticipated Neighbourhood Plan. Before the introduction of the Localism Act in 2011, it was almost impossible for communities like Purton to have a say in the planning matters that shape our surroundings.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is likely to become a key tool in shaping the growth and development of our area and every resident has the opportunity to comment on the published draft with two events in the village hall on Wednesday 25 January and Saturday 5 February – further details are on [page 8](#). Then, with our comments incorporated, a final version will be subject to a referendum on the Plan when we all can vote before it becomes actual planning guidance.

Surely taking this opportunity to contribute to the future shape of where we live is not to be missed – and a great way to start the New Year in Purton.

35/-

weekly wages in 'old money' for an apprentice starting at GWR
- see [page 24](#)

54

Brownies enjoyed a sleep-over in a soft play centre
- see [page 34](#)

£8,911

sent to the 2016 Poppy Appeal from Purton and District
- see [page 11](#)

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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

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Magazine Committee

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey, Helen Dixon,
Rick Dixon, Sheila Fowler, Sandra Horsnall, Francis Sheppard

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Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions

by 10th of each month, please to: Purton Magazine,
c/o In Touch Services, Quarry House, 51 The Hyde, Purton SN5 4EA
tel 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk
(Copy can also be left at 20 Hoggs Lane)

Distribution & Delivery enquiries only:

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

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:
The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Parish Council News



Happy New Year 2017

On behalf of Purton Parish Council and staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy happy New Year.

Neighbourhood Plan

You are invited to read and comment on your draft Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Purton. This neighbourhood plan is our chance to have a say in the future of our Parish. There are three key documents and these are available on the Parish Council web site (www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk). Limited hard copies are available at the Council Office, the Library and at the Doctors' Surgery. The Parish Council will be hosting two events to explain and discuss the draft Plan in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25 January and Sunday 5 February. Watch for banners that will advertise these events and the exact times. It will also be on: Facebook www.facebook.com/Purton-Parish-Council-1586755874912077 or by Twitter twitter.com/PurtonPC

Vacancy: Part Time Post: Deputy Clerk

Due to commence April 2017.

Purton Parish Council wishes to appoint a Deputy to assist with the smooth and efficient running of the Parish Council and its services and to act as Deputy to the Clerk.

Attendance at evening meetings and additional holiday and absence cover in a full-time capacity will be required. An ideal applicant would have an understanding of Local Government and experience in administration, minute-taking, risk assessment and health and safety, however full training will be given.

The position is part time (20 hours per week) plus evening meetings and salary is £23,938 (pro rata). The closing date for applications is Monday 30 January 2017 at noon.

For further information and an application contact the office on 01793 771066.

Road Traffic Management - Bus Shelter Repairs

On Tuesday 14 February, the bus shelter outside number 10 Station Road will be repaired due to damaged caused by a third party. In order to necessitate these works the road will have temporary traffic lights in situ all day from approximately 8 am until 5 pm. If you have any question or queries, please contact the Clerk direct. Thank you for your patience during this time.

January Meeting Dates

Mon 9 th	Council meeting	Mon 23 rd	Purton Institute and Village
Wed 11 th	Play Area meeting		Hall Charity
Mon 16 th	Informal Rights of Way followed by Planning	Mon 30 th	Charities Finance Meeting

Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council has the option to co-opt two Councillors to fill current vacancies. 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.

Planning

Permission Granted – with conditions

- N16/04917/LBC Bentham House, Bentham Lane. Internal & external works including creation of external entrance to north elevation.
- N16/06036/FUL 3 Upper Pavenhill. Retention of driveway (Retrospective)
- N16/07010/REM Land South of Common Platt. Erection of dwelling – all matters reserved following outline application 14/11425/OUT.
- N16/07218/FUL 90 Mustang Way. Proposed rear extension.
- N16/07795/FUL Hurstead Farm, Cricklade Road. Construction of 20 x 40m riding arena for private use and Change of Use of land to equestrian.
- N16/08141/FUL 1 Vastern Hill. Erection of a new side extension to replace existing garage.
- N16/08999/FUL 74 Cowleaze. Erection of conservatory to rear elevation.
- N16/05930/VAR Ridgeway Farm, Common Platt. Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 14/10200/REM relating to change in levels.
- N16/06850/LBC The Old Pike House, 65 Station Road. Existing steel windows to be replaced with new steel windows to front elevation. existing modern front door to be replaced with a traditional timber door.
- N16/07172/FUL The Barn, New Road. Orangery extension to the side of the existing property.
- N16/08745/FUL 22 Hyde Lane. Detached garage with studio over and rear single storey extension.
- N16/08888/FUL 27 Pear Tree Close. Proposed rear and side extension.
- N16/07970/FUL Bagbury Park, Lydiard Green. Proposed industrial unit for storage purposes, access road and associated works.
- N16/09636/ADV 113 Pavenhill. Advertisement consent, Item 1 (A, B, C) = 3 x partly externally illuminated fascia signs. Item 2 = 1 x internally illuminated projection sign. Item 3 (A, B) = 2 x non-illuminated window graphics. Item 5 = 4 x non-illuminated poster frames.
- N16/09171/FUL Hillview, Stone Lane. Convert and adapt outbuilding as dwelling.
- N16/09182/FUL 10 Highridge Close. Proposed conservatory.
- N16/09266/VAR Longcroft, 6 Station Road. Variation of Condition 2 of 15/12141/FUL – relating to roofing materials.
- N16/08951/ADV 1 Station Road. 1 x internally illuminated fascia logo, 1 x internally illuminated projecting sign, 2 x non-illuminated wall mounted aluminium panels.

Permission Granted – No objection

- N16/08364/TCA Purton War Memorial & Village Centre. 20% crown reduction to 10 Norway maple trees and 5 horse chestnut trees, fell 1 western red cedar and lift 2 leylandii to 4 metres.
- N16/08748/TCA Longcroft, 6 Station Road. Fell 2 Norway spruce, 1 Lawson cypress and 1 maple tree. 10% reduction to conifer, crown lift 4 apple trees to 2 metres from ground level and 20% crown reduction and 20% reduction to magnolia tree.

Refused Applications

- N16/06588/FUL 14 Mustang Way. Changed garage door to glazed door.
- N16/07708/CLP 19 Mustang Way. Proposed conservatory.
- N16/03625/FUL Land at Pavenhill. Demolition of 1 existing dwelling and erection of 25 market affordable dwellings, with associated access, car parking and landscaping.
- N16/09440/FUL Hayes Knoll Farm, Purton Stoke. Change of Use and conversion of existing Dutch barn to class B1 office together with demolition of buildings and change of use of land to part office, paddock and ancillary residential use.

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

On our website you can join up to receive regular updates which will keep you informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Purton Neighbourhood Plan

You are invited to read and comment on your draft Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Purton ...

This neighbourhood plan is our chance to have a say in the future of our parish. It could be a key tool for shaping the development and growth of this local area. Until the Localism Act in 2011, it was almost impossible for local communities such as ours to have a say in the planning matters that shape the place where we live. Although still limited, **this gives local communities the opportunity to develop a shared vision for their parish.**

There are three key documents and these are available on the Parish Council web site (www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk). Limited hard copies are available at the Council Office, the Library and at the Doctors' Surgery.

The documents are:

Purton - Planning for the Future (August 2016)

Draft) Purton Neighbourhood Plan (October 2016)

Purton Neighbourhood Plan - Statement of Consultation (June 2016)

The Parish Council will be hosting two events to explain and discuss the draft Plan in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25 January and Sunday 5 February.

Once we have incorporated your comments, a further draft Neighbourhood Plan will be produced for another consultation. After this, the revised version will go to Wiltshire Council. A Planning Inspector will be appointed to review the Plan. When completed, a final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be produced which will then be **subject to a Referendum in which all residents in the parish will be able to vote on the Plan.**

After approval, this becomes actual planning guidance when we are faced with providing housing for the future.

Comments may also be sent to Purton Parish Council (contact details at the front of the Magazine).

Watch for banners that will advertise these events and their exact timing. It will also be on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Purton-Parish-Council-1586755874912077
or by Twitter: twitter.com/PurtonPC

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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 £20 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 & District Age Concern



I must start this month by thanking everyone involved with our Christmas activities starting with Mrs Orr-Ewing for sponsoring our Christmas tree on the Institute building, Robin Gough for providing the tree, Mick Looker and his group of friends for erecting the Christmas tree and lights on the Institute building and for decorating the Village Hall and Silver Threads Hall, (the decorations looked lovely for our Christmas parties), Mr Butcher for PAT testing all our Christmas lights and equipment and Robert Cook for printing our Christmas vouchers. (I hope you've treated yourselves to something nice with your voucher.) Thanks also go to everyone who helped at our Christmas parties, Maria and her team of helpers for providing the delicious food, Sarah and her team for decorating the tables so beautifully and for waiting on the tables. Thanks also go to Tony M for providing the entertainment at both parties, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves again this year and to Jane Farr and her group of friends who did all the washing up and served the mince pies and hot drinks during the interval at the main party. Also, thank you to everyone who donated cakes, bric-a-brac and festive items including the mistletoe for our Christmas market and Andrew Hiscock and Robert Collis for providing the sausages and cooking equipment. Finally, a huge thank-you to all who donated prizes and sold tickets for our Christmas raffle and to everyone who has made financial donations to Age Concern during the festive period. We have been fortunate to receive some very generous donations recently including one from a local business. We are extremely grateful for all the financial donations we receive and for all the support we get from local people. We wouldn't be so successful without your support - THANK YOU.

At a recent committee meeting it was agreed we would make a donation to the Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal at Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust of £1 for every Christmas voucher we gave to our pensioners this year. I'm very pleased to report that 975 vouchers have been distributed so £975 will be donated to this appeal on behalf of all pensioners in our area.

For details of our Burns Night Celebration at the beginning of 2017 and Jumble sale in February please see future events for more details.

FUTURE EVENTS

Burns Night Celebration – This will take place on Saturday 21 January at the Village Hall; the doors open at 6.30 pm. The evening includes a three-course meal, a piper to pipe in the haggis, dancing with a live band and caller and drinks available at the bar. The cost is £20 per person and tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. By the time you read this, tickets may be sold out!

Jumble Sale – Our next jumble sale will be on Saturday 11 February in the Village Hall. Jumble can be left at the hall between 12 noon to 1 pm and the sale starts at 2 pm. Refreshments will be available. Come along a buy a bargain!

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

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

We hold gentle **T'ai Chi** exercise classes at 2 pm on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall. The classes will resume on Thursday 5 January. The New Year is a great time to start exercising so if you would like more information about the T'ai Chi classes please contact Louise on 772558.

Fitsteps FAB Dance Class – If you like Ballroom and Latin dancing why not try the new Fitsteps dance class held on Fridays from 4.30 to 5.30 pm in the Village Hall; a dance partner is not required. The classes are a mix of graceful ballroom steps and up tempo Latin dances and are suitable for people who love to dance, want to keep fit but for a variety of reasons prefer a lighter intensity, lower impact or perhaps a slower pace. Choreography created by Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe. The classes are open to adults of all ages and cost £5. For more information please contact Joanne Edwards on 01793 325341. I know a couple of our street wardens have joined the classes and are thoroughly enjoying it. Keep dancing!

Friendship Club – The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall from 2 to 4 pm. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 13 January. Transport is available to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

On behalf of Age Concern I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

LOUISE TIDMAN

New Year Waste Collections

Please remember household waste, black box and blue-lid bin collections will one day later than normal between normal collection days of 26 to 30 December, then as normal from 2 January. There will be no garden waste collections 26 December to 6 January then back to normal from 9 January.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society Pantomime

Well Panto time will soon be on us!

King Humpty Dumpty is under way and will be performed Thursday, Friday, Saturday 2, 3, 4 February 2017

We are still not sure where tickets will be on sale as there is a shortage of outlets in the village. Prices will be £7.50/£6.00 and £4.00 and a licensed bar has been applied for.

We still need chorus – you don't have to sing and dance, just join in. Ages 12 to 90 accepted.

KATE BATH 771442



Purton United Charities

The distribution of the charity funds will be made on **Saturday 28 January 2017**
at Purton Silver Threads Hall, between 2 pm and 3 pm

Qualifications to receive the Charity are:

- Only one payment per household.
- In the case of a married couple this will be paid to the husband providing he is of retirement age.
- Widows and single women providing they are of retirement age and are unable to work. (evidence of inability to work must be supplied)
- Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year to qualify.

If you are unable to attend on the day due to **illness or disability only**, you may apply in writing by no later than 20 January 2017 to:

Christopher New, 52 Byron Avenue, Wootton Bassett SN4 8HA or
Neil Miles 5 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR, Or any other Trustee.

CHRISTOPHER NEW, Secretary: Purton United Charities

NHS Equipment

You may have seen a recent report on BBC's "The One Show" regarding the amount of NHS equipment (i.e. crutches, walking sticks, zimmers etc.) which is out in the community and no longer needed by the patient. If the NHS could get back these unneeded items for re-use, they would save a considerable amount of money – hundreds of thousands of pounds per Trust. The problem is that a lot of people do not know where to return these items, others have no way to get them to a return point.

Great Western Hospital has a system in place for returns and items can be left there. Within Purton, a group of us are in the process of setting up a scheme whereby items can be left or collected for return. This will probably involve Purton Surgery, Age Concern and various other individuals.

There are more details to be gone through so please keep looking in the next magazine issue. Also, if you've got any equipment you no longer need, why not use the festive period to sort it out ready for return in the New Year.

If anyone would like to be involved with this scheme, please contact me on the number below.

SUE RICHARDSON, 01793 772581

The Royal British Legion 2016 Poppy Appeal

A total of £8911.28 has been sent from Purton and district to the 2016 Poppy Appeal, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way.



Special thanks to the volunteers who helped again this year. We are always happy to hear from anyone who is able to offer a few hours once a year to help with the House-to-House collection or at the West Swindon Centre.

*SHIRLEY LAWRENCE, Poppy appeal organiser,
tel 01793 771084, the_lawrences@btinternet.com*

Alex Francis Grant: 1921 - 2016

In 1947 a young man from Essex came to settle in Swindon where, with his wife Mary, he set up home in Upper Stratton.

Encouraged by his father, who had been on the Lords' ground staff, Alex became keen on cricket and in 1933 he played for Essex U13 XI and he remembered the day well because he had tea after the game and another tea when he went home. He could not, however, remember the result of the match.

Soon after his arrival in Swindon he began looking for a club and by a lucky chance he was invited to play for Purton 2nd XI against Moredon Royal Oak. Cricketers are good at remembering success and Alex was no exception. Out of Purton's score of 18 he made 9!

This began a 68-year association with Purton. The Purton ground after the war was in a poor condition as cows had grazed the outfield during the conflict and a filled in tank trap scarred the outfield. He immediately took an interest in pitch preparation which was to last for the rest of his life. It became his passion and he dedicated a great deal of his time to preparing and maintaining what was to become, by reputation, one of the best squares and outfields in Wiltshire.

He began his work for Purton CC with little to encourage him. For the first three or four seasons after the war the tea was carried from Rawlings' farm, and the only water used on the pitch preparation was collected in a large container placed behind the pavilion. There was no heavy roller and the wicket mower needed one person to push it and one to pull! There were plenty of weeds and good bowlers aimed to pitch on the plantains which assisted in the dismissal of many batsmen.

Pitch preparation was extremely difficult and Alex told how on one occasion large numbers of cow 'pats' were mixed with water and rolled into the pitch. Despite dubious looks from opposing players the mixture dried out and played tolerably well!



Alex was always keen that everything should be done properly from playing forward correctly to ensuring that all was in order before the opposition arrived. He was a perfectionist who always guarded the club's reputation jealously. There were few tasks he had not carried out. He has given thousands of hours working for the club and saved money. He set us all a marvellous example and his dedication to Purton Cricket Club was constant and unwavering.

Left: Mary & Alex Grant in their home in Stratton holding the engraved silver plate and book of memorabilia presented to Alex to mark 60 years of unbroken service to Purton C.C. Maurice, the dog, was an expert at finding lost cricket balls.



Left: Alec pictured in May 1990, reporting for duty one Sunday morning!

In his early days, Alex came to the ground on his motorcycle often with Mary and daughter in the side car. From this he progressed to a trusty three-wheeler until it was written off as beyond repair in March 1990.

Between March and December 1990 Alex took driving lessons and eventually passed his test at the second attempt, just before Christmas. He then became the owner of a brand-new sparkling blue Metro.

During the nine months when he was without a car, Alex, at the age of 70, rode his bicycle to the ground from his home in Swindon several times each week during the cricket season, on every Saturday afternoon from April to September when the 1st XI played at home in order to carry out his umpiring duties, and on every Sunday morning in order to repair the damage done to pitches on the previous afternoon.

From October to December and the joyful day he passed his test he cycled to the ground every Sunday morning where he spent his time carrying out his usual autumn and early winter routines.

Alex was a serious man and was always keen to have everything completed perfectly before a game started. On one, never to be forgotten, occasion Alex carried out the cutting, the rolling, and the careful marking of the creases before pitching the stumps. He stood back to admire his work, mounted the roller, started it up and reversed it off the square forgetting that there was a tin of white paint without the lid on in his line of 'roll'. Those of us watching were unable to warn him to stop before he demolished the paint tin and spread the paint over a wide area. It took a while for Alex to get over the good-humoured teasing he received and for the paint to fade.

In 1995, Purton CC sent an entry to the 'Cricket World' magazine which was running a 'Groundsman of the Month' competition. The entry won Alex, in the company of club chairman, John Bartlett, a trip to Lords where they had a tour of the ground and facilities. They met MCC's head groundsman, Mick Hunt, and the MCC Secretary, Roger Knight, at a reception in the Banqueting Suite.

The article ends 'An enduring impression is that when the cars pull away at the end of matches he is seen silhouetted on the field still tending his square. If ever a man was determined to make a pitch as good as it could be that man was Alex Grant.' The article concluded with 'What a man – may he live to be 100!'

Sadly, he was run out for 95 but let's hope that memories of him will last for 100 years.

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 photo, via the contacts on [page 4](#) of the Magazine. We can crop or resize photos supplied.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery - Group for Patients - G4P

New Specialist Practitioner

Andy Molyneaux is a Specialist Practitioner who started work on 1 November. He works across the group of surgeries in Purton, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett in support of patients aged 75 and over who he will visit on referral by a GP. During his visits, he will assess patients and report back to the GP with the aim of avoiding visits to hospital. Andy's post is funded through Transforming Care of Older People scheme.



The funding of GP Surgeries

Some patients have asked why G4P fundraises. GP surgeries receive a Core Funding which is based on the number of patients and is a global sum with a basic allocation per patient plus additions based on demographics. Additional funding is available for Enhanced Services which the Practice can (and does) apply for.

The NHS does not provide funding for the 'extra' things that can enhance patient experience. The money raised by G4P contributes to these extra items of equipment and furniture, such as new ECG machines, more comfortable chairs, self-checking-in system etc.

New high-backed chairs with arms

You will remember that we purchased two high-backed chairs with arms, one for Purton Surgery and one for Green Gable surgery. We are grateful to Purton Age Concern for funding two further chairs for Purton Surgery which are already in use.

Vintage Tea Party Saturday 28 January 2017, 3 - 5 pm Purton Village Hall

We will be holding our third Vintage Tea Party on Saturday 28 January 2017 when we will have entertainment by Breeze, a local group of musicians. Tickets are £8 and will be available in December from Purton Surgery. These Tea Parties have proved to be popular events so do reserve the date.

Receiving the G4P Newsletter

G4P Newsletters are always sent to our local magazines, however if you would like to receive them earlier then you can do so by email. Simply email G4P on groupforpatients@gmail.com to let us know.

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, and don't forget Bank Holidays around Christmas time.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Hello. Just a quick word to remind you all that 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

Purton Methodist Church

It seems funny but as I'm writing this we will have already celebrated Christmas!

On 4 December we held a Junior Church Anniversary, it was so lovely to see the chapel packed and the young people were well represented, congratulations to the three senior members that had a bible presented to them and to others with badges for helping to raise money for the Junior Mission Appeal - well done!

On 8 January it is our Covenant Service; all are welcome, and what better way to start the new year! 11 January is our ladies fellowship and Hazel Woodbridge will be taking the service to talk about her carriage driving - all are welcome.

The new year is now upon us, so may I wish you all a very peaceful 2017 and that all our hopes and dreams may come true.

ROSE STUMP

St Mary's Church Christmas Flowers

We hope you were able to come into St Mary's during the Christmas Festival, to see the flowers that had been donated for the festivities.

It is quite remarkable how many people visit the church during this time, for the regular services, Messy Church, Christingles, funerals, school carols, Nativity services, Midnight Communion ... the list goes on and on. And there are also many people who call in at our beautiful church, quietly, throughout each day for their own reason, maybe to admire the architecture; maybe to pray on their own; maybe to look up a memorial or a grave; or to see where friends and family were married; or maybe they were just out for a walk and called in to have a look.

Throughout the year the church welcomes everyone; and we thank those who fund the decorations, to make the church look so splendid and loved.

If you would like to help pay for flowers, for a special anniversary or memorial, please contact Libbie: 771018.

Purton Luncheon Club

The committee of the Luncheon Club is looking for a secretary. The committee meets only 4 times a year with an Annual General Meeting in May. The secretary would be required to take minutes of these meetings and to circulate them to the members of the committee. There is occasional correspondence to be dealt with but mainly the secretary will inform committee members of any relevant factor that affects the Luncheon Club including keeping up-to-date with regulations such as Health and Safety, the care of Vulnerable Adults etc. Communication is mainly by email.

This is necessary work for an organisation that is entirely voluntary and serves a vital function in the village providing hot meals to elderly members twice a week throughout the year.

Anyone interested please contact Diana Thombs on 01793 770525 or thombs@btinternet.com





St Mary's pupils visit for Christmas Stories

Just after the start of advent, on Friday 2 December 2016, our library hosted a seasonal story-telling session for Year 2 primary pupils from St Mary's School. Over 45 primary children listened intently as five of our students took turns to read Hans Christian Anderson's festive tale, 'The Fir Tree'. The story is about the journey of a young fir tree to a beautiful Christmas tree and our students used props to help them make the story come alive for their young audience. Our students then helped the St Mary's pupils to make their own Christmas decorations to hang on their Christmas tree at home.



Megan Cuthbert from Year 7 and Year 9 students, Robin Wilson, Dan Holmes, Sydney Miller and Amy Walter helped with the St Mary's pupils.

Where the Wall - Street Art Workshop for Year 10 Artists

On Thursday 24 November, Year 10 Artists took to the streets of Bristol for a tour of some of the local street art. The guided tour, hosted by Where the Wall included some history of graffiti and street art, how Bristol has embraced the artistic movement and discussion of the techniques used. The students were also able to get up close and personal with some famous art including pieces from Banksy, Inkie and Nick Walker.

The group then headed to one of the studios for an 'Introduction to Stencil' workshop. After a brief demo, students were able to choose from a selection of pre-cut laser stencils and put their own artistic stamp on it.

Head of Art, Mr Martch Harry commented, "There were some really cool pieces of art that came out of the workshop and the students really seem inspired. It was interesting to learn about the development of street art and how each artist has their own flare. We all left wondering whether anyone will ever know who Banksy is!"

Year 6 Models bring GCSE Project to Life

Thanks to a group of models from St Mary's Primary School, our Year 10 Textiles students saw their recent project come to life. The Year 6 girls headed over to the Textiles department on the morning of Tuesday 29 November as a surprise to the Bradon Forest artists. The class had designed and made a variety of dresses, made for younger girls, out of a pillow case. They used a variety of techniques, including, laser cutting, patchwork, plique, starch resist, heat transfer, embellishments and machine embroidery to bring their design to life.

Mrs Bone said: "I am so impressed with their creations! They all did such a fantastic job, and it has been wonderful to see them modelled, rather than on a hanger. It really brings it to life and also serves to highlight areas which may need



extra attention when it comes to their GCSE pieces.”

Year 6 pupil, Lois said: “I’m very impressed with the dresses. They are very inspiring and I can’t wait to try textiles when I come here.”

The project was set as a practice for their final pieces, and students went through the whole process of design to execution. Inspiration came from all around: “I looked to the autumn colours for my dress and am really pleased with how the leaves turned out. It was great to have the freedom to try different techniques, and incorporate our own ideas.” *Mia Buckingham.*

Thank you to all the Year 6 pupils and to Ms Duffy and Mrs Howse for making the surprise possible. It’s funny to think the dresses started life as a simple pillow case!

Awards Presentation Evening Year 11 (2011-2016)

It was a pleasure to welcome back our ‘Class of 2016’ for our Annual Awards ceremony on Thursday 24 November 2016. The hall was packed and it was standing room only as staff, students and parents celebrated the outstanding success of this year group.

The evening was organised and opened by Head of Key Stage 4, Mr Martin Bray. After a brief introduction by Headteacher, Dr Andrew Morrison, our Guest Speaker, Chair of Governors, Mr Keith Richards took to the stage.

During the Award Ceremony, all students were able to collect their exam certificates. However, in addition students were nominated for their overall achievement in a particular subject from A to Z or more likely Art to Science. Students were awarded for their achievement, as well as their steely effort and commitment.

The Main Awards this year included the Twins Cup for Sport which is given annually to a sportsman but unusually this year it was handed over to genuine



twins, Greg and Lewis Griffin, for their sporting achievement and help with coaching younger students. The coveted Corbett Cup for Outstanding Achievement, given to the student whose exam success reflects their commitment to academic studies across all areas of the curriculum, was awarded to Ashley West.

Congratulations to all of our ex-students, we truly wish you every success for the future!

Church Floodlighting

- 3 December St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on his 26th birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- 5 December The church was floodlit to commemorate **Les Coole**. From all the family.
- 9 December The church was floodlit in loving memory of **Elsa Trotter** on her birthday. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love Jude, Deb, Steph and our families
- 31 December St Mary's will be floodlit to welcome in the New Year. **Happy New Year** to all in Purton
- 5 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Barrie Bunce** on what would have been his 75th birthday. Sadly missed and loved by Joyce and all the family.
- 7 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**. Always in our thoughts. Sadly missed by Mum and Dad and family
- 8 January St Mary's will be floodlit for **Bob Wightman MBE**, in celebration of what would have been his 105th birthday. Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family
- 15 January The church will be floodlit to celebrate a special birthday for **Janice Maxfield**. From all her family
- 20 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on the 5th anniversary of his passing. Dearly loved and sadly missed husband, father and grandfather.



If you would like the church floodlit, for a special date, occasion, memorial, please contact Libbie: 771018. The cost is £17 for one evening and it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a couple of weeks before the chosen night.

A short announcement can also be put in this magazine for no extra charge.

Prayer for Purton

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

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

We Record ...

In Memoriam:

- 11 Jan 1917 Thomas John Selwood, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action, aged 20, at Kut, Mesopotamia. Buried at Amara War Cemetery and remembered on Purton War Memorial.
- 25 Jan 1917 Frederick Henry Litten, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action, aged 25, at Kut, Mesopotamia. Buried at Amara War Cemetery and remembered on Kintbury War Memorial.
- 29 Jan 1917 Edward Harry Hedges, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Died of pneumonia, aged 19, near Thiepval. Buried at Couin New British Cemetery, and remembered on the Purton War Memorial.



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 ...

Purton Horticultural Show



At our November meeting, we welcomed Pat Hughes to our committee, whom I'm sure will become a very valuable member. We would still dearly like to encourage more new members. If you feel you would be able to offer your services, do please have a chat with one of our committee: David Herbert, Dr John Belt, Graham Price, Chris Rumming, Lorna Robinson-Wardle or Pat Hughes.

The 2017 show will be on Saturday 19 August in the Village Hall, with lots of brand new categories:-

- "A decorated show stopper cake" to your own specification. Start practicing now!
- Children's photography, decorated cupcakes and vegetable sculptures.
- Additionally, a "Potato Challenge" will be introduced. Intrigued? Watch this space.

LORNA ROBINSON-WARDLE, Secretary, Tel: 778013

Cricklade Country Market



Start the New Year well and buy locally made and grown; cakes and pies, jams and chutneys, fruit and vegetables - and beautiful gifts for all occasions

Everything is handmade, home cooked or home grown by us just for you.

Find us at "The Club at Cricklade" on Friday 27 January, 9 am to 11 am. Coffee, tea and cakes available too.

Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market. Market date for your diary: 24 February.

A New Year Thought

I never think of the future - it comes soon enough.

Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Purton Diary - January 2017

1	Su		New Year's Day
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	New Year family service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
2	M		Public Holiday
3	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Bingo with John & Brenda</i>
4	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
5	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
7	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (<i>Guide Dogs</i>)
<hr/>			
8	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at S Mary's Church
9	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome - other committee dates, see page 6
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>The Bloodhound Project</i>
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
13	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
		2.00pm	<i>to 4pm</i> : Silver Threads Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
<hr/>			
15	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Methodist Church
		10.30am	United service at Purton Methodist Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
16	M	7.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: <i>AGM and Party</i> *please note earlier time*
		7.30pm	Parochial Church Council meeting at the Vicarage
17	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Ukulele Piddle</i> with Paul Levy
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: Jan's New Year Quiz led by Jan at her house
18	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Jon Coward – <i>Liquorice Heaven</i>
21	Sa	6.30pm	Age Concern Burns Night Celebration at the Village Hall
<hr/>			
22	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
24	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Defence Cuts</i>

		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: AGM followed by Alan Holland - <i>TWIGS Community Gardens</i>
25	W	tbc	Neighbourhood Plan exhibition and comments day, Village Hall
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
26	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Bill King - <i>The River at War</i>
27	F		Holocaust Memorial Day
		9.00am	<i>to 11am:</i> Cricklade Country Market at "Club at Cricklade"
28	Sa	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm:</i> Purton United Charities distribution day at Village Hall
		3.00pm	<i>to 5pm:</i> Vintage Tea Party at Village Hall (G4P)
29	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
31	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Talk by Val Walker</i>

February

2	Th	7.30pm	PADS panto: Humpty Dumpty at Village Hall (also on 3 rd , 4 th)
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Every week

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

Moon Phases

 5 January
  12 January
  19 January
  28 January

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

Purton Magazine Advertising Rates for 2017

You may notice that our advertising rates have increased compared to the 2016 rates. We have for some years struggled with late payment from some of our advertisers though eventually we have always received payment ... even if a year late!

We have decided to give late-payers an incentive to pay on time by making this "apparent" increase with the proviso that if they pay within a calendar month of the invoice they may deduct 10%. We hope that improves your magazine's cash flow and allows us to keep the price per copy unchanged at 50p ... without increasing charges for the vast majority of our loyal advertisers.

The Magazine Committee

Great War Project

Part 42: January 1917

The following men with Purton connections were mobilised in January 1917:

Francis P Bathe, 116th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force
Frederick Thomas Bowden, Royal Field Artillery, Tank Corps
John Ranby Brown, 102nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry
Harry Lewis, 172nd Brigade Royal Field Artillery
Arthur Percy Richardson, 10th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Ralph Shailes, Royal Flying Corps

Ottoman Campaigns:

In January 1917, the 5th (Service) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment was stationed in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) involved in the Battle of Kut, which commenced on 9 January. On 11 January at 9 pm, they were at the River Hai taking over a line held by the South Lancashire Regiment on the east bank. While the Regiment dug an advanced trench "A" Company provided a covering fire. 5 men of the covering party were killed including **Thomas John Selwood** of Purton, aged 20 (*pictured*). 20 other officers and men were wounded.



By the 25th the Battalion was advancing under cover of an intense bombardment as they attacked the Turkish front line. The objective was to capture and consolidate the Turkish first line. The engagement was considered a success with 234 Turkish dead. However, 35 officers and men of the 5th Wilts were killed including **Frederick Henry Litten**, aged 25, born in Purton but later of Inkpen near Hungerford. 114 other officers and men were wounded.

Both Thomas and Frederick are buried at the Amara War Cemetery. Thomas is remembered on the Purton War Memorial, and Frederick on the Kintbury (Berks) War Memorial.

Elsewhere, on 9 January, the last Ottoman Army garrison on the Sinai Peninsula was captured by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force's Desert Column at Rafah while the remaining Turkish troops withdrew into Palestine.

A Royal Navy flotilla captured Wejh in the Hejaz on the 24th and the position was consolidated by Arab forces under Faisal and TE Lawrence (of Arabia) the next day.

Western Front:

At the same time, the 6th (Service) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment was in the line at Hebuterne, near Thiepval. **Edward Harry Hedges** contracted pneumonia and died, aged 19, on 29 January 1917. Edward was buried at Comie British Cemetery near Mondicourt. However, individual graves and small cemeteries were moved to larger communal cemeteries after the War by the Imperial War Graves Commission and battlefield clearance teams. He was moved to Couin New British Cemetery. Edward is remembered on the Purton War Memorial.

On 3 January, the first contingents of the Portuguese Expeditionary Force landed at Brest in Brittany, France. Although not in any alliance with the joint Allied Powers, an alliance between England and Portugal had been in existence since 1386. It was and still is the oldest alliance in the world.

Also on the 3rd, General Sir Douglas Haig was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal.

Women's Land Army:

With 3 million men away fighting in the war, there was an immense shortage of labour in agriculture, haymaking (horse fodder) and timber, all essential for the continued feeding of Britain and the needs of the war. The Board of Agriculture started activities in 1915, organising the Land Army in 1915.

In January 1917, the Women's Land Army was set up and by the end of 1917 there were over a quarter of a million women working as farm labourers, with 23,000 in the Land Army itself, doing chores such as milking cows and picking fruit.

Many farmers were against women workers so one of the early goals of the Board of Agriculture was to speak with farmers to encourage them to accept women's work on the farms. One sticking point was that the uniform of the Women's Land Army included trousers, which many at the time considered cross-dressing.

The first female Board of Agriculture inspectors were appointed and paid women officers were appointed in each county of England and Wales.

Munitions:

On 19 January, a blast at a munitions factory at Silvertown, West Ham in London, killed 73 workers and injured 400 more. The explosion and the resulting fire caused over £2 million worth of damage but was also a major set-back for armaments production.

Surrender?

In response to US President Woodrow Wilson's peace note in December 1916 and following an Inter-Allied conference in Rome on 5 January, the Allies sent formal note to Wilson outlining their war aims on the 10th. Belgium also placed itself in Allied hands.

On the 11th, Germany and Austria-Hungary issued a note saying they would not accept responsibility for the Allies' continuing the war. But they declared they would continue the war to a successful end if they had to.

In the face of the opposing views of the 2 power blocs, on 22 January Wilson made his "peace without victory" speech to the US Senate, effectively calling for an armistice.

However, in the background to this, saboteurs had set off the Kingsland Explosion at a munitions factory at Lyndhurst, New Jersey, on 11 January. On the 19th the German government sent a telegram instruction to its Ambassador in Mexico to negotiate an alliance with Mexico and Japan against the United States. Known as the Zimmerman telegram, it was intercepted by British surveillance and passed on to the Americans.

Far from ending the war, Germany appeared to be escalating it by dragging the USA in on the Allies' side.

At Sea:

In separate actions, HMS Cornwallis was sunk by submarine in Mediterranean (9 Jan); the Harwich flotilla was in action against the German 6th Flotilla in the North Sea when HMS Simoom was sunk (23 Jan); the British armed merchantman SS Laurentic was sunk by mines off Lough Swilly (Ireland) with the loss of 354 of the 475 aboard (25 Jan). German destroyers shelled Southwold and Wangford on the Suffolk coast on 25 January.

On 31 January, and against its stated position in surrender terms, the German government announced to the USA and other neutral powers that it would resume unrestricted submarine warfare and would not respect the status of hospital ships.

Rumania:

In the first week of January, German forces captured Focsani and Braila in Rumania, and the last of the Russian and Rumanian forces evacuated the Rumanian heartland province of Dobrudja on 6 January.

Other News:

J.R.R. Tolkien, had been on medical leave from the British Army suffering illness since the start of the Somme campaign in July 1916. In January 1917, he began writing "The Book of Lost Tales" which eventually became The Silmarillion, with the "Fall of Gondolin".

RICK DIXON

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

Purton Historical Society

Inez Gale

The Autumn Course finished on a sad note with news of the death of Inez Gale. Inez organised all the paperwork and our trips for the last few years and so is sorely missed. We sent a donation from the Course fees for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance in her memory. As some people wanted to make a personal contribution, we put out a collection tin and collected a further £52 which has been sent on.

PAUL & EVE BOOY

On 24 November, the Society had another enjoyable evening with Andy Binks an ex engineer at the GWR Swindon Works from 1970 to the closure of the works in March 1986. Andy gave us an hilarious illustrated lecture of his days as an apprentice ("first wages 35 shillings a week, 10 shillings to his Mum, 10s to Leeds Savings Society, 15s. spending money"). *[Ed. There were 20 shillings in £1.]* Those were the days! The apprenticeship demanded hard work and punctuality "they were banged-in if late, and lost wages". Over 500 attended their reunion and there was a holiday trip once a year. Extra study and recreation were held in the Mechanics Institute, in the evenings. The high-speed trains they built at Swindon works were exported all over the world but the last night shift was 23 February 1986



and the days of the hooter, heard for miles, calling the workers was over. Our members were joined by many old GWR workers who joined us for refreshments and we had the chance to buy Andy's book "Swindon Works through Time".

We also had a fun Christmas party on 2 December, with food, wine and carols.

Happy New Year to all, from your Purton History Society.

JILL WATTS, teddington1940@gmail.com

Thursday 26 January, 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Change to Programme: Due to unforeseen circumstances our original speaker is unable to attend. We are very pleased that Paul Booy has agreed to do his presentation on Enclosures originally scheduled for 23 March.

The Enclosure Movement – National and Local

During the 1700s and 1800s a movement called Parliamentary Enclosures took place throughout much of England. This meant huge open fields were enclosed to form much smaller privately owned fields that form much of our landscape today. This movement caused much anguish and misery as well as economic progress. Purton was, as we shall see, part of this upheaval.

*The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose off the common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from the goose*

This old rhyme would mean little to Purtonians today. Once it would have meant a great deal.



Thursday 23 February, 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Wreckers Tales – Ship Breakers of the Severn – Paul Barnett

Thursday 23 March, 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Annual General Meeting followed by –'Touched by History' – Marion Hobbs

New Members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JANET NEATE

E mail: tjneate57@gmail.com Tel: 01793 770117

Purton Stoke Charity Ball

Although it seems far away, we are starting to plan our 3rd Charity Ball. This will be on 9 September at Greenacres, Purton Stoke again. Tickets remain at £50 each and Ellisons will be running a coach from Purton and back home.

This year the proceeds will all go to Brighter Futures towards the new Radiotherapy Centre at GWH.

If you wish to reserve tickets or book a table of 10 then please let me know. Further details will be available nearer the time but please make a note in your diaries now!

LINDSEY HALL 771890

Purton & the Great War

I am pleased to confirm that my commemorative sculpture to the men and animals of the Purton Remount Depot will be located at the entrance to the Pear Tree Hotel. The location overlooks the fields where between 1915 and 1918 the Depot was established and worked by local men, boys and women. This project has taken time to think of a suitable sculpture and materials to make it from



as well as location. The sculpture will take the form of the universally accepted symbol for remembrance, the poppy. The sculpture itself will be made from recycled horses shoes to symbolise the damaged and imperfect animals that were processed through the Depot. I publicly wish to thank Purton Carnival Committee who funded the sculpture and plaque, as well as Mrs Anne Young who has agreed for it to be placed on her land at the Hotel. I would also like to thank everyone who continues to support my projects as we continue to remember the Great War years in the Parish.

PURTON REMEMBERS continues to commemorate those with Parish links who died during the Great War. Ceramic poppies are still being made by Sally Cooke. The poppies seen in November at the annual service are starting to have the impact I wanted people to experience, the different colours showing the poppy colours that would be found at the place of their deaths from the UK across to France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Turkey, India, Mesopotamia and Palestine. To date I have organised walks, talks, exhibitions and publications as I attempt to get the full story of the parish involvement during the War years. My work will continue through to 2020 as I attempt in real time to show just how long the War lasted. Indeed the suffering continued for years after the 1918 Armistice came into effect.

I have chosen since 2007 to work alone as it's easier to maintain control of my work. I have contributed where possible to other people's work such as Rick's excellent work in this publication as well as helping PADS with their Remount street theatre and Purton Museum. For anyone who missed my Purton Remount Depot talks I will be giving this talk to the Highworth Historical Society on 30 January.

Research continues as more is uncovered as archives are made available.

BOB LLOYD

Researching Purton (Wiltshire) & the Great War

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

OFFERED: a good home needed for a child's pine wooden table (H 20": table top 20" x 23") and 2 chairs. Tel 01793 770525.

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

PURTON PLACARD

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

Silver Threads Club

Jumble Sale

4 February
2 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Jumble Sale

Saturday 11 February 2017
At 2 pm in the Village Hall
Bargains galore!

Purton Guide Dogs

January Jumble

Silver Threads Hall
Saturday 7 January : 2pm

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 21 January 2017
At the Village Hall
Tickets available from
Jenny Barnes on 770339

Silver Threads Club

at Silver Threads Hall 2 pm
New programme starts
on Tuesday 3 January

Come and join us for entertainment,
a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

For more details
call Jenny Barnes 770339

Group for Patients
Purton and Green Gable Surgery
Shake off winter
and join us for another

Vintage Tea Party

Saturday 28 January 2017
Village Hall, Purton
3 to 5pm

Entertainment by Breeze
(A local group of musicians)

Tickets £8
Tickets from Purton Surgery,
tel 01793 770207



After a very successful 2016 season, we went to the Swindon & District Tennis League Annual Presentation and collected all our trophies! See the pictures at www.purtontennisclub.com, on Facebook or Instagram.

We are now playing in the Winter League with our A team joint top, B team 3rd and both C&D teams at mid-table.

We held a Touch Tennis tournament in December which was won by Ben Langley.

Our full coaching programme can be seen on the website.

Our 2017 season kicks off with social skittles on Wednesday 8 February, 8 pm at the Red House - feel free to come along, non-members welcome. Social evenings are Tuesday and Friday evenings weather permitting.

LINDSEY HALL, Chairman

A Book I will Always Remember

Community magazines thrive on information and articles shared most often among their own readers. Purton Magazine is no different and we are so fortunate to receive regular contributions from up to 50 clubs, societies and individuals each month. That said, we are still always on the lookout for other interesting articles and we are starting this new column in the January 2017 issue in the hope that readers will contact us with contributions for future issues.

Most Purton Magazine readers will have read a few books that they will always remember and, each month, we would like to print a review of a book that is particularly memorable to someone, perhaps with a couple of reasons why it has become so memorable. These book reviews can be as short as you wish and probably not much more than 450 words and as personal as you would like to make them. The copy date for each magazine is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on [page 4](#).

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

When I was at primary school in Scotland and my mother was working in a repertory theatre I was occasionally roped in if they needed a child in a particular play. So - "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder (American accent) and then Adèle in Jane Eyre (French accent)! Adèle was a spoilt brat brought to England to live with her guardian, Mr Rochester; more about him later. It was a fun part and I could dress up in pretty clothes and stay up late on school days. Mr Rochester was the desirable bachelor of the neighbourhood deemed to be a 'catch' rather like Darcy (Pride and Prejudice) but not as handsome and altogether more mysterious – a man with a secret past. So, I didn't start by reading Jane Eyre but rather I lived in it.

And it wasn't till I was a teenager that I read the book for the first time and was blown away by the romantic element. Will Jane, the plain, downtrodden governess manage to secure the heart of this difficult man bearing in mind the huge disparity in background; she poor, him rich and socially on completely different levels?

Years later I re-read the book and hugely enjoyed all the background of nineteenth century life which underpins the story. The very different behaviour of men and women in varying professions ranging from generous hearted to mean, and spiteful or totally self-centred is vividly portrayed. The story takes place in North Yorkshire which is more often than not described as cold and inhospitable rising occasionally to a bleak grandeur. Best of all there is always Jane at the centre of the story. Brave, even courageous, she remains true to her own beliefs through the many changes of fortune she experiences. She is characterised by an unswerving loyalty to those she cares for and a determination to win through when life seems at its blackest.

John Reed, Jane Eyre's uncle was a prosperous wine merchant in Madeira and he plays an important part in changing the path of Jane's life. When Hector and I visited the island last November, the main house of our hotel was exactly the kind of establishment that would have been familiar to John Reed. A handsome,

spacious property with a fine garden featuring many imported as well as native trees and flowers which had also belonged to an English wine dealer. Another exotic location important to the story is Jamaica where I spent four happy years of my childhood and which caused Jean Rhys to write an exciting 'prequel' to Jane Eyre "The Wide Sargasso Sea" which has now achieved almost classic status. But you want to know – did Jane's story have a happy ending? Now for that I can only suggest you read this very special book and find out for yourself!

CAROLINE McLEAN

A Date for your Diary

The Friends of St Mary's are delighted to welcome the award-winning Wessex Male Choir to perform at St Mary's Church on Saturday, 11 March at 7.30 pm. More information next month.

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

In our magazine 10 years ago, there was an article about the Covenant Service that is held on the first Sunday in the year across the country and here at the Methodist Church in Purton, where it became a united service for the whole village. The heading for that article was "January – A New Year, a New Life, a New Beginning" and included a Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition.

Then we had an interesting article about New Year predictions. The American Henry Adams was pessimistic about the future in 1862 when the Civil War was raging in his country. He said "*I firmly believe, before many centuries more, science will be the master of man. The engines he will have created will be beyond his strength to control. Someday science shall have the existence of mankind in its power and the human race commit suicide by blowing up the world.*" Whether or not he had anticipated the digital revolution we will never know but it is interesting to compare that prediction with a very recent utterance from Professor Stephen Hawking – "*Artificial Intelligence could be the biggest event in the history of our civilisation; it could also be the last.*"

Now for more cheerful reflections. 10 years ago, there was a letter in Purton Magazine thanking the village for all the contributions to the Shoebox appeal. Apart from £274 donated then for the transportation costs, Purton despatched 248 shoeboxes in 2007 compared with 138 in 2006 and 76 in 2005. In the December 2016 magazine, we learnt that at least at least 421 shoeboxes were filled and despatched from Purton. We should be really proud of the continued growth of our combined contributions to Operation Christmas Child.

Finally, a sporting achievement reported in your magazine 10 years ago of which we should also be proud. Purton Cricket Club's under 13s award for both batting and bowling was won by a certain Craig Miles – now a successful professional cricketer with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

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

Purton & District Probus Club



On 8 November, **Dr Christopher Scott**, ex Head of History at New College, Swindon, and founder of the Guild of Battlefield Guides, gave a talk entitled "The Mistresses of Charles II", of whom there were many.

Although the talk was laced with amusing incidents, such as the reference to young John Churchill as the "Royal Bed-warmer", together with some of the ribald sobriquets used for the women who offered themselves, the significant message was that they were all motivated by political ambition and a desire for wealth and power.

Charles II was born in 1630, and at the age of eight was given his own court at Richmond. His mentor, the Earl of Newcastle, who taught him good manners and horsemanship, advised him "to women you cannot be too civil, especially to the great ones". Charles was to follow Newcastle's advice and example closely. At 15 years of age he was given command at Bristol, and here there is reason to believe that he may have enjoyed his first affair with Mrs Wyndham, his former governess.

After a succession of Royalist setbacks for his father, Charles II and his supporters retreated to Pendennis Castle in Cornwall. From here they sailed to the Scillies and a little later to Jersey where he flirted with pretty Margaret de Carteret, a kinswoman of the Governor. On 26 June 1646, Charles landed in France to join his mother in St Germain, but here he was dominated by the Queen and ignored by the French court of his eight-year-old cousin, Louis XIV.

Here Charles was something of a miss-fit. His mother proposed a liaison with the daughter of Gaston, Duc d'Orleans, but the young lady did not rate Charles and he preferred the company of his exiled supporters, passing his time at balls, masques and plays.

In 1648 when a Parliamentary fleet turned itself over to the Royalists, Charles hurried to The Hague to take command, but he was soon distracted by the charms of a previous acquaintance, Lucy Walters. The following year, Lucy gave birth to his first child, James Scott, later Duke of Monmouth. Charles was forced to kidnap his son when Lucy fell into a life of dissipation. She died in Paris before Charles was restored to his throne. At the time of the restoration, 1660, Barbara Villiers, who was married to Roger palmer, became Charles mistress. Eventually she bore six children, 5 of them acknowledged by Charles. The youngest child may have been the daughter of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. Barbara, Charles greatest love, became Countess of Castlemaine and later Duchess of Cleveland.

After his coronation in 1661, Charles needed a Queen and a legitimate heir. His choice fell on Catherine of Braganza, 23 years old and the daughter of the King of Portugal. The attraction was a dowry of £300,000, the acquisition of Bombay and the Port of Tangiers. The marriage failed to produce an heir but they remained close friends.

Frances Stuart, attendant on the Queen, was pursued by Charles, but she constantly refused his advances. She is thought to be the model for Britannia, which featured on British coins for 3 centuries. In about 1667, Moll Davis, a Drury Lane actress became a mistress, had a child, Mary Tudor, but was quickly retired with a pension of £1000 a year.

Nell Gwynn first met Charles at the Duke's House Theatre in 1668. The King was enchanted and they became lovers. Nell gave him two more sons Charles

Beauclerk (Duke of St Albans) and James Beauclerk. Louise de Keroualle, maid of honour to Charles' sister Minette and sent by Louis XIV to influence the English Court, became a mistress in 1670. She gave birth to Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond, while she herself became Duchess of Portsmouth.

Other mistresses of Charles II were Elizabeth Killigrew, mother of Charlotte Jemima, Catherine Pegge, mother of Charles – Earl of Plymouth, also Winifred Wells, Maid of Honour, and Elizabeth, Countess of Kildare. All of these women sought to influence the rule of the King, but the most significant were the French who persuaded Charles to Declare War on the Dutch. In spite of the King's philandering, Charles II's reign was a period of great progress in exploration, navigation, science, art and entertainment.

Footnote: Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon, who once lived in College Farm, Purton, was advisor to Charles II during his exile and rose to Lord Chancellor. His daughter Anne Hyde, married Charles' brother who became King James II, but only reigned for three years. Anne was the mother of two queens, Mary who married William of Orange and Queen Anne who ruled the Kingdom of Great Britain from 1707 until 1714.

On 22 November, we were entertained by **Malcolm Lewis and Chris Hilditch**, who took us back to our wartime and teenage years by way of Radio and early Television Signature Tunes. For some we were asked to identify the name of the programme, and for the more obscure ones Malcolm and Cliff enlightened us with the titles of the music and the composer of each piece. We all recognised the signature to Dixon of Dock Green, but few knew that Sergeant George Dixon's alter ego, Jack Warner, had passed the police retirement age of 55 years when he started, and over 80 when he hung up his handcuffs. Nor did anyone remember that his character had risen from the dead, being based on a policeman who had been shot in the film "The Blue Lamp".

When it came to "The Archers" we were asked how long it had been running – Incredibly, since January 1951, and the tune Barwick Green by Eric Coates has been broadcast more than 20,000 times. "With a Song in My Heart" reminded us of "Family Favourites" and the romance between Cliff Mitchelmore and Jean Metcalfe, whom he married. Old and memorable favourites were "Much Binding in the Marsh" from "Round the Horne" and "Victor Sylvester's Dance Club" which ran on television for 17 years. The signature tune "Dancing on my Heart" sold 17,000 copies.

Chris, Malcolm's colleague (technician), played upwards of twenty different signatures and our speakers called to mind some famous names in composing: - Eric Coates, Haydn Wood, Charles Williams, Arthur Wood and the American Richard Rogers. The programmes reminded us also of many famous presenters; Billy Cotton, Richard Dimbleby, Franklin Engelmann, Parky, Richard Johnson, Lesley Crowther, Kenneth Horne and many other memorable comedians.

Finally, during "Any Questions" someone asked for "It's That Man Again" from ITMA, but unfortunately there just wasn't enough time.

The Purton and District Probus Club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10 am in the Red House Lounge. New members welcome.

January programme:- 10th The Bloodhound Project, 24th Defence Cuts.

BOB STEVENS

Gaffer's Tales

Hi folks. After my hard first year on a farm, I went on to a year at a farm college in Hampshire. It was a good place, I made so many friends there. After the days learning, a lot of us went to the local pub, The Woodman, where we sometimes got happy and thrown out! We were not that bad, but we did get up to mischief on the odd occasion!

For example, some Toff come to visit, and annoyed us. He had a fancy sports car and thought he was the bee's knees. Some of my fellow students thought up a prank. They jacked his car up a bit, put blocks of wood underneath, so that the wheels were just off the ground. Said Toff came out to go home, started the car, into gear, and went nowhere. A lot of giggling as his wheels spun, and he did not move. Quite harmless really!

There were two cart horses used on the farm. This was in the late fifties, and they were put to good use one day by us students. There was a farm visit planned one afternoon, about a mile down the road. We were expected to walk there, but, blow that, we harnessed the two horses, hitched them up to a cart each, and off we went. The visit was interesting, as one of the farmer's daughters was a student with us. Nothing was ever said about us using horse and cart transport all around the farm.

The farm foreman, with whom we students worked, was a bit of a hard man; ordering us to do this and that. He did teach us block laying, a useful thing for me, as I built several sheds and barns when I was farming for myself. So, one night, some of us thought we would like to build something. A wall, so we put our new-found skills to work. We built this wall, only about six feet long and about five feet high, outside said foreman's office door! He was not amused! The cement had not hardened too much, so the nine-inch hollow block wall was soon demolished.

We had two milking herds at the college. One was Guernseys housed in sheds and milked in ultra-clean conditions. The other was comprised of shorthorn cows and milked in a moveable shed called a bail. The milk from the bail was taken to the cowsheds each morning by horse and cart. A black horse called Violet was used. The milk from the bail, when tasted, was always of a better quality than the Guernsey herd, even though the Guernsey lot were milked in extreme cleanliness. The woman in charge of the Guernsey herd was so fussy. Anyway, we students got fed up with her, so another prank was hatched. One night a band of trouble makers went down to the cattle sheds and got the very nice Basil the Bull from his pen and led him off to the dairy where he was shut in to await the arrival of Mrs Fussy. She had the shock of her life when she turned up to oversee the morning milking. I really can't remember the outcome of this misdemeanour!

We went on trips to places of interest, mostly by lorry which had a covered back with benches. Once we went to Harris's of Calne where they made sausages, squirting the sausage meat into intestines. Interesting.

Then we went to a grain harvesting event where there were new tractors on stands. 3 International B250s caught my eye. Getting on one I managed to start it and told some fellow students how. There were three tractors chugging around. Naughty.

On the way home in the lorry, fireworks were thrown out, going off with a loud bang! Poor old Jack the driver kept stopping thinking he had a puncture! He got quite cross after a few stops.

I hope I have entertained you with some of my tales, maybe I shall tell some more in the future.

All the best, GAFFER

After 8

Sandra Horsnall hosted our November meeting which was appropriately titled 'Fireworks'. Helen Dixon led the evening and started with a short history of fireworks. Sometime between 600 and 900AD Chinese alchemists, hoping to create an elixir that would make them live forever, concocted an early form of gun powder. Within a hundred years, fireworks were being sold to people of all walks of life and displays became the focal point of many cultural and religious celebrations. Many of us have seen fireworks used in other countries for such purposes often with scant regard for Health and Safety. Indeed, some of our own reminiscences of 'Bonfire Night' would have had health and safety pundits reeling: a spark entering a shed and igniting all the fireworks at once, Dad's poking at Catherine Wheels to make them spin, the tales were endless. Fireworks were introduced to Europe by Marco Polo around 1295. Italy became the first European country to master fireworks, they had the idea to put various metals with the powder to produce the effect we see today - vibrant bursts of colour lighting up the sky. Calcium creates orange colour and iron makes gold, aluminium flakes put the hissing noise in fireworks. The first known firework display in England was at the wedding of King Henry VII to Elizabeth of York in 1486. Queen Elizabeth I bestowed the title Fire Master of England on the best firework maker.

These are just some of the facts we learnt about during the evening. Arguably one of the biggest occasions for fireworks is our own Guy Fawkes Night, 5th November. The history of The Gunpowder Plot seemed embedded in our memory along with our childhood experiences of Bonfire Night: penny for the guy, potatoes cooked in the fire, treacle/bonfire toffee and Parkin (much to our delight Avril had baked some Parkin for us to taste, delicious).

The names of fireworks we had lovingly chosen from cabinets and stored in biscuit tins remain with us: Roman Candle, Mount Vesuvius, Golden Rain. Before we wandered too far down Memory Lane Helen produced a Bonfire Night Quiz with such questions as in what year was Guy Fawkes executed? What was the name of the leader involved in the Gunpowder Plot? Which is the only property on a Monopoly board that doesn't contain any of the letters from 'Bonfire' in its name. I don't think anyone got 10 out of 10 despite our usual pleading for half points ...

To round off a very lively evening Helen had brought some indoor fireworks - there were a few who couldn't resist writing their name with a sparkler! Thank you Helen.

Our next meeting will be Jan's New Year Quiz on 17 January so start swotting now.

JANET McCARTHY



Purton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

Christmas started early this year for Rainbows as they started making festive crafts in November! As well as cards, presents and tree decorations the girls had fun making placemats ahead of the Christmas party held as the last meeting of term.



2nd Purton Brownies have also been busy making Christmas cards and crafts, including Santa baskets, snowmen tree hangers, calendars and candy cane mice. They visited Ashgrove House nursing home too for carol singing and a couple of Brownie songs thrown in. The residents were given a Christmas tree: each Brownie cut out a handprint from green card to make the tree which was topped off with a star and a red sparkly pot.

Continuing with the Christmas theme, thanks go to Rev David Perkins for joining the Guides and running a lively session about Christmas involving a quiz, games and some drama.

The Rangers' Christmas activity was making salt dough decorations whilst 1st Purton Brownies made sleighs for Santa in their six groups which they then used for some relay races collecting presents.

New adult leader with 2nd Purton Brownies, Lauren Law (or Marigold as she's known at Brownies), celebrated making her Promise with the Brownies. Having not been a Girlguiding member as a child this was her first time making the guiding Promise, proving it's never too late to join! She planned the evening around the Promise and chocolate. The Brownies played a Promise washing line game which involved putting the words of the Promise in order, played a game where they had to pick up Maltesers with chopsticks, did a chocolate bar word search, and iced biscuits - chocolate of course!

1st Purton Brownies have completed their challenges for the Agility badge. Thanks to Matt Hall for putting them through their paces with a warm up and talking about the importance of suitable clothing and equipment as well as encouraging them as they were devising their own aerobic routines. They have also completed the Seasons badge by celebrating another winter festival, Thanksgiving and by having a very mucky evening planting bulbs and making bird puddings from lard and bird seed. They've since had fun watching a variety of birds enjoying the puddings in their gardens.

The beginning of December saw the two Brownie units join forces with Brownies from Blunsdon and Oakhurst for a sleepover at a soft play centre in Melksham. A total of 54 Brownies made the most of their exclusive late night use of the slides, tunnels, nets, ball pit and foam shapes for energetic and creative play before supper and then sleeping on the mats within the soft play space. They squeezed in a bit more play before and after breakfast, then headed home to catch up on their sleep!

Guides hosted members from the Cricklade and Minety units for an indoor campfire. The Rangers made lanterns for the Guides to sing around and, as is customary at a campfire, marshmallows were toasted, albeit over a candle! A frequent request from the Guides is an evening of games in the dark which was brilliantly organised by Young Leader Kirstie. To round off the end of term, the Guides went trampolining at Better Extreme.

Congratulations must go to Maddy, Maria and Rianna who took part in Streetwise, a day's treasure hunt around Swindon on buses and on foot for Scouts and Guides. The trio were thrilled to win the accompanied team category.

As we go into 2017 and thoughts turn to new beginnings and New Year's resolutions, you might be thinking of taking up some volunteering. For more information, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

Find us on Facebook too:
www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



Purton Football Club

By the time the magazine comes out Christmas may have passed us all by and our Hellenic side might have played five more league games.

At the time of going to press the team are having a great run of results winning six and drawing two of their last eight league game only sandwiched by a 3-2 Senior Cup loss away against Royal Wootton Bassett, our opponents only going through with a disputed late winner!

Sadly due to poor player response our Reserve side had to be withdrawn from the Hellenic Div 2 despite all the efforts to keep it going by managers Pete Temple and Daniel Allen after just 7 matches having had to call off three others due to not being able to field a team.

Matt Bennett is the team's current leading goal-scorer with 10 goals, and could have been a few more (as many near misses). Joe Hiscock, Aaron Stevens, Shannon Pocock, Nathan Gambling, Marcus Hall, Jamie Sheppard, Ed Herbert, Joe Herbert, Matthew Evans, Matt Bearne and Ollie Hunt have also notched goals that sees the team currently in third place in the table.

Although this season attendances at our games have been down on previous season the club are most grateful to all those who have been attending. Please continue to come along and support the team – it is appreciated.

The club would also like to thank all those who supported recent sporting dinner where former pro player Dean Saunders was the speaker.

Also, club thanks to Phil and Tina of the Red House Club for all their support as landlords of the club who left in early December. Phil is our current Hon Sec and groundsman. The new landlord is now in place and the club wish him and his staff all the best for the future.

ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman/Hon Sec

DISCLAIMER

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

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

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

Purton Silver Threads

A huge thank-you to the members of Purton Age Concern who decorated the hall for the festive season, providing such a cheerful welcome to everyone using the building.

2016 was an extremely busy year for the Silver Threads, lots of fundraising and various improvements. The kitchen flooring has been renewed, notice boards replaced, and our main update being the purchase of fifty new chairs from Bourne Furniture. We do have to thank many individuals and also the Carnival Committee for their generous donations, we are extremely grateful for their support.

The upkeep of the building is a hugely responsible task. In 1988 the 'black hut' was demolished and after fundraising and donations the new Silver Threads Hall was built. Naturally the building is hired out to provide a certain income and we are extremely grateful to Brenda Cook who deals with the hire and maintenance requirements, completely unpaid! Thank you, Brenda, for your unstinting commitment to the Silver Threads. I would also like to thank everyone who helps and supports us - you are all much appreciated.

The Silver Threads Club is held every two weeks on Tuesdays at 2 pm, where speakers or choirs provide the entertainment. We are always welcoming new members to join us for a cup of tea, piece of cake and a chat - a nice social afternoon.

We have also started a Friendship Group which meets once a month for tea, chat, games etc. This has proved quite popular, especially with members' outings to The Bell at Purton Stoke for some delicious meals!

If you are interested in joining us or perhaps have some time to spare to help occasionally with various events we organise, please get in touch.

Finally, thank you to all the minibus crew, without them our members would not be able to come to meetings or enjoyable occasions.

A very happy, healthy and peaceful new year to you all.

JENNY BARNES, 770339

Cricklade Cricket Club

On 12 November we had our annual presentation dinner. Many fine performances in the 2016 season were rewarded with various trophies for best bowling, batting and catching but the two most prestigious awards went to Paul Paginton for Best Player of the Year and to Paul Dewsbury for Clubman of the year. Well done and congratulations to them both!

Our indoor winter net practice sessions will start on Thursday 2 February in the sports hall at Prior Park School. The junior sessions are from 6.30 to 7.30 pm and the senior sessions 7.30 to 8.30 pm. This is not just for existing club members but all newcomers are welcome to attend as well. If you are interested in joining your local Cricket Team for the 2017 season at either level, then this is the ideal opportunity to get some pre-season practice in.

The Club AGM will be held in 'The Buffs Room' at The Red Lion on Friday 3 February. Again all newcomers and existing members are welcome to attend.

If you require any further information then please contact Jon or Rob:

JOHN YOUE, Club Secretary, tel 07514 035177 or

ROB MILICAN, PR, tel 07881 662486

As I write this, Christmas is just two weeks away and 2016 has flown by at the speed of light! With the start of the new year a team of WI ladies are busy preparing the programme for 2017/2018. Will we go for the lady who talks about Venetian masks or welcome a very talented cake maker? Hopefully we will book both, along with a host of other speakers and people prepared to inspire, educate and impress us with their skills and experiences.

The speaker for our October meeting had to cancel as she was poorly so we did our own Christmas readings and poems, as well as making Christmas decorations. In addition to the usual tea and coffee mulled wine was also on offer. We thoroughly enjoyed our unexpected DIY evening so our next programme may incorporate a meeting or two where members have the opportunity to display their talents, share their experiences or just have a bit of fun playing games or quizzing.

On 18 January we welcome Jon from Liquorice Heaven, which should be interesting as long as we haven't overdone the sweet consumption during the festive season! Liquorice Heaven has supported the Purton Food Festival for the last 4 years so you may have already sampled their wares. We will learn about the history, what it is and how it is made and the chance to taste is a strong possibility. Instead of receiving a fee, Jon will make a donation to Prospect Hospice.

Please come along to Purton Village Hall on 18 January at 7.30 – visitors (£3) are welcome.

HELEN DIXON, 01793 770648

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Our ever-popular American Supper was the focus of the November meeting and, as usual, the tables were soon heaving with a mouth-watering array of goodies for the table.



Before partaking of the delicious offerings on display, we welcomed Pat Smith who demonstrated, with ease and flair, how to make a variety of Christmas decorations including a door wreath and candle decorations for the Christmas table. There were certainly some inspirational ideas for us to consider but I think we all realised that Pat's skill made the whole process appear far easier than it really is.

So diets forgotten for the moment, it was then time to tuck into the delicious mix of Yuletide favourites and member's creations with plenty for return visits to the table! This was a light-hearted end to our 2016 programme.

The new year begins with the AGM on 24 January at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. This is a brief affair and will be followed by a talk by Alan Holland on the subject of 'TWIGS', the Community Gardens based in Swindon.

If you enjoy gardening, we have a wide range of garden-related topics for 2017 and newcomers may be assured of a warm welcome.

Our annual subscription for 2017 will be £15. A very happy new year to one and all.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, 770906



St Mary's CE Primary School

As I write this, preparations for Christmas are well under way and the children are all very excited!

They are practising hard for their Christmas nativity service ahead of their performances to parents, carers and guests just before Christmas. The photograph below shows the 'candle lit' ending which is very atmospheric!

The children have also attended our special Carol Service at St Mary's church hosted by Reverend Judith, where they sang three lovely songs from memory, in the wonderful setting of the beautiful village church.

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA Christmas Fayre, on Friday 9 December. With several tombola's, games and various stalls selling beautiful Christmas crafts made by the children themselves, it was a great success.

On behalf of all the staff at St Mary's School we wish you a very Happy New Year.

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 or by obtaining a paper copy from the School Admissions Team in County Hall Trowbridge. The deadline for all applications is 15 January 2017.

Should you wish to visit the school prior to submitting your application, you are warmly welcome. Visits can be arranged through the school office 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

Mrs NAOMI CLARKE, Head Teacher



VACANCY: SCHOOL HANDYPERSON

St Mary's CE Primary School is seeking to appoint a Handyman to undertake general maintenance and to assist in maintaining security of the school buildings and facilities.

Main duties to include, but not limited to:

1. Routine maintenance and minor refurbishment of premises, fixtures and fittings as necessary.
2. Carrying out other duties arising from use of the buildings and grounds, such as regular Health & Safety checks of playground, fire and access equipment.
3. Recording of gas and electricity meter readings as required.
4. Arranging rooms for meetings, lettings and teaching use.
5. Assisting in the collection and disposal of all refuse and ensuring the school buildings and grounds are free of litter.
6. Acting as joint keyholder for the site, ensuring security at all times, including the operation of the alarms.

We would ideally require the post-holder to work 10 hours per week, daily, throughout term-time and for a minimum of 2 weeks during school holidays. However, the hours are flexible, dependent upon need and the successful candidate would need to be well-organised and able to work independently to prioritise their workload ensuring Health & Safety requirements are met at all times.

Salary: £16,481 pro rata (this equates to £8.54 per hour)

We would love to hear from anyone who feels they have the skills and dedication required to perform this important role but would like to discuss the flexibility of the hours.

Please contact Liz Stephenson on 01793 770239 for further information or e-mail admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk for an application form.

Closing date: January 13th 2017

Defibrillator at Red House

The Red House Club now has a portable Defibrillator on the premises kindly donated by Mr Jeremy Anderson. Jeremy, as many of his friends will know, had a serious heart scare and was determined to raise monies for this vital piece of equipment. He duly did so and the monies raised exceeded his expectations. With his close association with the Red House, he decided that with all the sporting activities in the Village Centre area, it would be a beneficial place for all.

On behalf of all the members, Jeremy, many thanks yet again and while we all hope it is not put to use in the future it is a still vital we have one.

NOTE All members of the Sporting clubs have been made aware via their secretaries of the Defibrillator on the premises.

On a lighter note most people will know Phil and Tina have left the Red House and we wish them all the best for the future. The new manager is Neil Lowe and hopefully during 2017 many of you will pop in and see how Neil is getting on and wish him all the best.

TERRY CRUMBIE