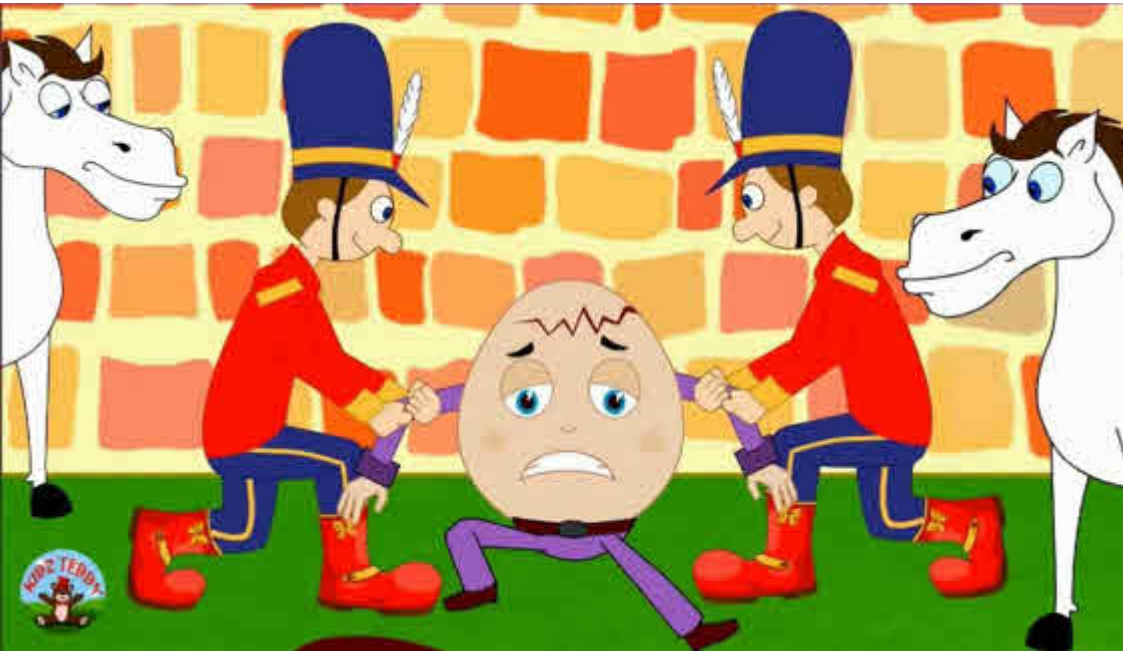


Purton Magazine



King Humpty Dumpty Pantomime
2 to 4 February at Village Hall
See [page 22](#) for details

February 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

Words, words and more words with the occasional picture - that's really all that you will get inside this issue of your magazine, as with all previous editions. Again, many of the words confirm what most of us have long known about our community: that it is very caring and considerate - even confirming that this village has a heart.

Last month we launched a new column about *A Book I Will Always Remember* with a personal reflection on *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë written by Caroline McLean and already reverberations have been felt in the village. Caroline tells us that a friend of hers left another book on her doorstep with a note saying that, following her recollections about reading *Jane Eyre*, she would probably enjoy this book as well.

This month's contribution on [page 24](#) comes from David Sweet with some lovely boyhood memories about the effect that Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* had on him. With a school friend, David was sufficiently intrigued by the story to write to the publishers to find out where the book was based, eventually leading him to visit some specific areas in the Lake District. We look forward to receiving more contributions from many readers in the village and beyond.

Most readers will also be aware of the craziness of the English language. Only the other day, a bunch of delicious grapes sold by a German retailer in Swindon proudly proclaimed on the packaging that the contents were "honestly grown produce." Many more common examples were discussed and enjoyed at a recent After 8 meeting and we are pleased to include some on [page 27](#). For example, why is a guinea pig neither from Guinea nor is a pig? There again, in what other language do people recite a play and play a recital or where your house can burn up as it burns down?

Elsewhere we learn on [page 12](#) that the award-winning Wessex Male Choir will raise the roof with their singing in St Mary's church to help St Mary's church raise more much needed funds to repair that self-same roof.

On a few, rare occasions the choice of words can best be left to the anticipation and imagination of each reader - as in describing either the story for the next PADS pantomime (see front cover and [page 22](#)) or the 45th President of the United States of America.

722

minibus bookings last year and more helpers would be welcomed - see [page 8](#)

981

Age Concern Christmas vouchers distributed by the end of December - see [page 7](#)

5505

knitted squares shipped last year to orphans and vulnerable children in South Africa - see [page 11](#)

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Typeset by: **In Touch Services**

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c/o In Touch Services, Quarry House, 51 The Hyde, Purton SN5 4EA
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Purton Parish Council News



Have Your Say - Neighbourhood Development Plan

You are invited to read and comment on your draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish of Purton. This neighbourhood development plan is your 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.

Consultation Dates

The Parish Council will be hosting two events to explain and discuss the draft Plan in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25 January (5 - 8 pm) and Sunday 5 February (2.30 - 5.30 pm).

It will also be on:

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

Purton Parish Council Fun Day

We are holding our second Parish Council Fun Day on Saturday 20 May 2017 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Village Centre, Church Street with funfair, stalls, crafters, charity groups and Purton's clubs. If you are a club or crafter and wish to hold a stall, please contact our offices to book your space. Let's make this a great family fun day and bring the community together. Contact the Clerk for more information: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call 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 damage 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.

Purton Parish Council Needs You!

Do you care about what happens in your community? Do you have some spare time to be involved in evening meetings to determine what services to provide? Want to know more? Then contact the Clerk as we have the option to co-opt two Councillors to fill current vacancies

February Meeting Dates all are Mondays

6 th	Finance and General Purposes	20 th	Planning and Highways
13 th	Council Meeting	27 th	Village Centre & Play Close
20 th	Rights of Way and Open Spaces		Charity

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.

NHS Equipment Return Scheme

I wrote in last month's magazine about a new scheme to return unneeded NHS equipment, i.e. crutches, walking sticks, Zimmers etc. to the NHS. BBC's "The One Show" highlighted the problem a few months ago and reckoned that thousands of pounds could be saved by the NHS if this equipment was returned. Great Western Hospital have put a returns scheme in place and saved enough money to be able to employ two more physiotherapy consultants.

Many people are unaware or unable to return these items. That is the purpose of this scheme. If you have any of these items you no longer need, they can be returned to Purton Surgery as they now have a system in place for storing them. If you are unable to get to the surgery, you can contact your Age Concern street warden who can arrange collection for you, or you can contact the Age Concern bus which will pick items up on its route around the village. If you are visiting the hospital at any time, items can be dropped directly into main reception or the physiotherapy department.

If you have any larger items such as beds, wheelchairs with a "Mediquip" label, you can ring the number on the label. Mediquip will arrange to collect the equipment and return it on behalf of the NHS. Please do not return Mediquip equipment to Purton GP surgery.

If you have any queries, or for any more information regarding this scheme, please ring me on 01793 772581.

SUE RICHARDSON

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always willing to include obituaries. If you wish us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it via the contacts on page 4 of the Magazine. We can crop or resize any photos supplied.

Purton & District Age Concern



The time of the monthly minibus to Cirencester has changed, it will now leave the village on the second Friday in the month at 9 am. Please can anyone booked onto this minibus be ready to be picked up just before 9 am. Your assistance will be much appreciated by the driver.

Last month I informed you that 975 Christmas vouchers were distributed, in fact by the end of December 981 vouchers had been given out. A cheque for £981 will be presented to Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal at our committee meeting on Tuesday 7 February at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall. We are hoping a photographer from the Swindon Advertiser will be present too.

By the time you read this Charlotte our treasurer will have paid out all the local businesses for the Christmas vouchers that were spent in December. Thank you to Charlotte for sorting this out and to the businesses that accepted our vouchers.

Due to the success of our £5 travel vouchers in 2016, we will be distributing them again this year in time for our first outing in April. If you haven't been on one of our outings before, why not give it a go in 2017 and save yourself £5.

You may have noticed posters around the village explaining how to return any unwanted NHS equipment. See the article by Sue Richardson on page 9.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

Our **Annual Auction** this year is on Saturday 4 March at 1 pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9 am and 11.30 am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. Street Wardens will have some booking-in forms if you would rather complete one in advance or you can fill the form in when you bring your items to the Village Hall. Viewing of lots is from 12 noon to 1 pm and the auction starts at 1 pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this year. Refreshments will be available. Come and join in the bidding, it's great fun!

PAST EVENTS

Christmas Market Stall – This was a great success despite the wet weather. We raised £479.58 which is amazing. Our thanks go to everyone who donated cakes, books bric-a-brac and other festive items to sell and to the Belcher family who provide the mistletoe. Thanks to Andrew Hiscock for providing the sausages and Robert Collis for the use of his cooking equipment. Also, thank you to everyone who helped out at the event and all who came along to support us.

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

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.)

T'ai Chi sessions are held each Thursday at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go or for more information please contact Louise Tidman 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!

The **Friendship Club** is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall from 2 pm to 4 pm. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 10 February. Transport is available, to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Finally, we have received some lovely Christmas cards, thank-you cards and letters for your Christmas vouchers, we are grateful to all who take the time to write to us, your kind words are much appreciated.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Purton & District Age Concern Mini Buses

2016 was a particularly busy year especially in the latter nine months with a 25% increase in mileage, and in December alone there were 7 special events and a record number of 18 people were taken to the Age Concern Christmas Party. Out of curiosity I did an analysis of the activities which produced the following information for the whole year.

The total number of bus bookings was 722. This included the following: 177 Surgery visits (the most being in August), 129 Purton Lunch Club days, 56 special

requests that include bookings for concerts, coffee mornings, bingo and from The Cedars to visit activities elsewhere in Wiltshire. There were 180 regular bookings like Coffee & Chat, Methodist Ladies, Gardening Club and Evening WI. Finally 180 days of taking people to Day Care in Royal Wootton Bassett.

The mini bus service is run entirely by volunteers – each outing will normally have a crew of two consisting of a driver and shotgun (non driving helper). The first pickups on Day Care days start at 8.30 am, and on Tuesdays and Thursday that 'crew' will continue throughout the day with any surgery appointments then lunch club and finishing with Day Care from Royal Wootton Bassett completing at about 3.30. There are a few regular evening bookings, but additionally we provide transport for village activities some finishing quite late in the evening.

The existing 'Team' is quite small consisting mainly of retired people who commit to either regular duties or 'one offs' as required either as a driver or shotgun. However we do have people who are still employed who help whenever working shifts allow or on weekend and evenings only. Whatever they are able to do is very important to me as Co-ordinator as I take great pride in being able to give support to our passengers when it is needed. If you think that you might be able to give time to the Mini Buses whether as a driver (you just need a normal car licence) or shotgun then please give me a call and have a chat, even if you can only help occasionally you would be made most welcome.

*HAZEL WOODBRIDGE BEM
Mini Bus Co-ordinator, 01793 770862*

Purton & Green Gable Surgery - Group for Patients - G4P

Availability of Doctors

Due to circumstances beyond our control the regular doctors of the Practice are under an extreme workload. The Practice has secured the services of several excellent locums, therefore while appointments are available please be prepared to see an alternative doctor if one of our regular doctors is not available.

When making an appointment please note which surgery your appointment is for - ie Purton or Green Gable, Cricklade Surgery, particularly if you are booking online. It is very easy to attend the wrong surgery - it has been done!

Next Information Evening

We are planning to hold an Information evening on Respiratory diseases in March – further details to follow in due course.

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.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P



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

OFFERED: Old wooden slatted serviceable cot, free. tel 770552

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

Health & Wellbeing Champion: Sunday Lunch Club

What are you doing on Sunday? For whatever reason, do you find yourself on your own and that Sunday is an “empty” day?

Whilst on holiday last year, I saw an advert for a “Sunday lunch get together”. It was very informal, no fund raising, collections, membership etc. Its simply a group of people who are alone on Sundays for whatever reason, getting together to have a good meal in good company. In my travels, I know of a lot of folk, young and old, who feel the same, so ... if this is you, get in touch! We had the first “pilot” lunch at The Wiltshire which was enjoyed by all who were there, come and join us or let’s think about getting this going around all of our Community Area? Give me a call on the number below to chat it through.

A new monthly get-together is planned to have their first meeting on **Sunday 19 February at The Wiltshire Golf Club and Hotel, 12.30 for 1 pm.**

If you feel you would like to come along and have some good company along with a fine traditional Sunday roast call me to book a place. Lunch cost is £10.95 and there are no membership fees or fundraising, just good food and good company. Transport can be arranged if necessary.

This could be for YOU! No age limit, just a desire to have company on a Sunday.

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

ELLEN BLACKER, Health & Wellbeing Champion
Tel: 07557 922020 Email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Purton Luncheon Club

Well, the festivities are well and truly over, although it must be said that the Silver Threads Hall was bulging at the seams when members and friends of the Luncheon Club enjoyed a wonderful Christmas meal with all the trimmings and more! A big thank-you to all the volunteers who did such sterling work and we were delighted to welcome students from Bradon Forest who helped serve at table and a group who entertained us so beautifully with carols.



At the start of a new year we look towards the coming months when plans have to be made and budgets set. We shall be asking members for menu suggestions and how we might improve what is already an excellent service for our more mature Purton residents. Inevitably our running costs have increased over the last twelve months so the cost of a freshly cooked two-course meal plus tea or coffee from the beginning of February will be £4.50.

In March, we be inviting our existing members to bring along a friend, and the two of you can eat for the price of one (one session only!).

Last, but not least we still need a new secretary! Full details appeared in the January edition of this magazine on page 28. If you can help or require more information, contact Diana on 770642 or email diana.thombs@btinternet.com

Knit-A-Square (KAS)

& Mama Ntombi's Community Projects (MNCP)

On 12 November we raised £417.51 at our stall at the Silver Threads Table Top sale. This included financial donations as well as proceeds on the day. Thank you to everyone who supported us on the day and all who gave financial donations.

It's been a while since I gave you news about Knit-a-Square so I thought a review of last year was needed. During 2016 we shipped the following items to orphans and vulnerable children in South Africa.

129 blankets (each blanket was stitched together using 35 squares, so 4,515 squares were used).

Also 990 squares, 43 fleece sleeping bags for babies and young children, 335 hats, 306 pairs of hand warmers/gloves, 158 jumpers/cardigans, 562 cuddly toys, 46 pillowcase dresses and school uniform dresses/skirts (each dress is sent with a new pair of pants), 35 navy blue scarves and 33 bags (part of the school uniform), 326 stationery items and finally 252 new plastic drinking tumblers so the children can be given a drink during the weekly Sunday Church Service on the informal settlement in Pietermaritzburg.

I would like to thank everyone who is part of Knit-a-Square in Purton and beyond, all our amazing knitters, crocheters, blanket stitchers, sleeping bag and dress makers and financial and event supporters. When I started this group in 2014 who would have thought it would be so successful? But it's all thanks to the kind and generous community that we live in.

Finally, the first shipment of 2017 will have set sail by the time you read this and on Saturday 11 March I will be holding my 3rd annual Coffee Morning from 10 am to 12 noon in the Silver Threads Hall. Please come along and see the latest photos of the children wearing the items you have made. Thank you.

LOUISE TIDMAN TEL 772558

Shoebox News

Operation Christmas Child

31,000 filled shoe boxes were sent to various countries from the Wiltshire warehouse in Westbury. Our boxes went early in November by container ship to Liberia in West Africa. At the end of 2016 OCC, were able to resume the distribution of shoe boxes to children in Liberia after being unable to enter the country in 2014/15 due to the Ebola virus.

Education in many areas is a bit 'hit and miss' and supplies for their needs can also be scarce. So, it is very satisfying to know that each of our boxes had a pencil case full of their requirements, along with note pads and paper.

I doubt I need to say this, but the 2017 project started in January. So, if you see any bargains that you think are suitable and would like to get involved, I am happy to accept them at any time.

My favourite Christmas present this year was 60 tubes of toothpaste and 60 tabs of soap. Well, it was much more acceptable than bubble bath and the wrong size slippers that's for sure!

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, tel: 770686



Re-roofing at St Mary's Church - Update

In the October issue of the Magazine we described the start of a major re-roofing project at St Mary's Church – to repair and replace the stone tiles on the Chancel roof. So, how have things progressed? Well, there is nothing to see at the church yet ... but things are happening behind the scenes. The architect has prepared the project specification and is now starting on the tender documents. We've appointed an ecologist who has carried out a bat survey and provided advice on the implications of the work on local bats and on the measures we should take to maintain the favourable conservation of the local population of bats. In addition, a faculty application (the Church of England's Planning Application process!) is in progress.

Hopefully, we will be in a position to invite tenders in the next couple of months.

The total project cost, including architect and consultant fees, is likely to be over £100,000. A big sum! – but it's work that must be done to preserve our village church for both present and future generations. We are fortunate that much of the cost will be covered by grants leaving about £10,000 to be raised locally so that we still have the reserves to continue to maintain and start to renew the church building for the future.

A future social event to take place in St Mary's Church will be a concert by Wessex Male Choir on Saturday 11 March at 7.30 pm. A concert not to be missed! Details are in the article below.

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

Thank you for your continued support and thank you to those who have already made generous donations.

St Mary's Churchwardens

Wessex Male Choir are coming to Purton!

Some of you may have memories of enjoying a wonderful evening of music when Wessex Male Choir came to Purton as part of our Christian Aid week a few years back, so we are delighted that once again they will raise the roof with their singing to help St Mary's Church raise much needed funds for work on the roof of our beautiful church.

This award-winning choir sing music to suit all tastes including songs from the musicals, sacred, pop and swing so we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, 11 March at St Mary's Church at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are £12.50 (to include a free glass of wine or juice). Accompanied children under 16 free but they must have a ticket. Tickets can be obtained from Sandra on 770157, Val on 771201 or Sheila on 770970 or pop into Flawless Floors (thank you Ashley) at 115 Pavenhill (next door to One Stop) and buy your tickets there.

Purton Methodist Church


We had our Covenant Service on 8 January; at that service we could renew our faith in God and it gave us new beginnings in our Christian lives for 2017, the service was led by Rev. David Perkins.

On 11 January, it was our Ladies Fellowship and the speaker this month was Hazel Woodbridge, talking about Carriage Driving. Thank you, Hazel, who not only drives the bus for us but carriages as well. Our February meeting is on 9 February when Jackie Parker will be the speaker telling us about Heatherbank Primary School "Bridges the gap". Our meeting starts at 2.30 pm.

Our Sunday services are at 10.30 am – all are welcome to the service and to enjoy a nice cup of tea and a chat afterwards.

ROSE STUMP

Church Floodlighting

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 28 January | St Mary's was floodlit in remembrance of Susan Morley , on her birthday. Remembered with much love. |  |
| 15 February | St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of Ron Gunter , a dear Husband and Uncle, on the 16 th anniversary of his death. Loved and remembered by Betty and family. | |
| 17 February | St Mary's will be floodlit for Mary Mills , on what would have been her 90 th birthday. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love from Karen, Garry, Amy, Jay, Martin, Harry and Lydia. | |

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.

Lent Lunches 2017

For a number of reasons, we will only be holding four Lent Lunches this year.

They will take the usual format of being held at the Purton Methodist Church from 11.45 am to 1.00 pm, with a menu of

- soup
- jacket potato or bread roll, with cheese and salad
- tea or coffee
- ... and of course, CAKE.

The dates the lunches will be held are Wednesdays 15, 22 and 29 March, and 5 April.

Look out for the posters and a reminder of the dates next month.

LINDA, SHEILA, VAL & SYLVIA

Prayer for Purton

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

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

St Mary's Fellowship of Women

I expect regular readers of this magazine will have noticed in the centrefold calendar under 'Purton Diary' that there is a meeting of St Mary's Fellowship every 3rd Monday of the month. We are a group that is part of St Mary's church and have been meeting for nigh on 30 years – originally in the homes of members but now membership has expanded to 30+, we hold our meetings at the Purton Methodist Church in Play Close.

We have over the years raised money for local charities and are involved with the Shoe Box Charity that Sylvia Freemantle works so hard for.

Our programmes are eclectic and usually quite a lot of fun. This year we are listening to an ex-Metropolitan and Special Branch policeman – a talk on quilting; meteorology; and re-homing of hens to mention just a few!

So, if you would be interested in coming along, we will be very welcoming to you. Our annual subscription is £20. We do have tea, coffee and biscuits at each meeting and we have time for a little 'gossip'.

The meetings start at 7.30 pm. Note: First meeting 20 February.

SUSAN BERRY, Secretary

We Record ...

Wedding at St Mary's Church:

6 January 2017 Carl Gordon Cozens and Raquelle Lubuguin Contreras

Funerals at St Mary's Church:

12 December 2016 George Henry Dodson (92)

30 December 2016 Sydney John Harper (95)

9 January 2017 Nicola Denise Watkins (54)

Funerals at Kingsdown Crematorium:

20 December 2016 Beryl Boncey (92)

In Memoriam:

1 February 1917 Harry Lewis of Moredon and Common Platt, died of wounds sustained in action with the 172nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, aged 20. Harry is buried in Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery and remembered on the Purton War Memorial.



Purton Evening WI purtonevevi.wordpress.com



Hopefully by now you have shed those extra ounces/grams that we inevitably put on over the Christmas period and you will be all set to come to our Pudding Evening. An array of homemade puddings will be on offer for you to sample as well as cheeses for those who don't have a sweet tooth. We shall transform the **Silver Threads Hall** into Pudding Heaven on **Friday 17 February at 7 pm**. Tickets at £6 will be available from Barb tel. 770818 and Anne 772365, and on the door (but you could be disappointed if you wait until then!). Tea and coffee will be available but if you need something stronger please bring your own alcohol.

Our December gathering seems like a distant memory but apart from being our Christmas meeting it was also the anniversary of when Purton Evening WI was formed 51 years ago so it is our Birthday celebration as well. We had a lovely meal and superb entertainment, so our thanks to John and his team from Hospitality Services and to Graham and the gentlemen of the After 8 singing group. We now have to put our thinking caps as to how we celebrate next year?

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15 February when we welcome Keith Walker who will tell us about life treading the boards with his talk 'There's No Business Like Show Business'. Bring along any old theatre programmes you may have and we shall ask Keith to select the one he thinks is the most interesting.

This is at our regular venue – Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

HELEN DIXON, tel. 770648

Swindon's Male Choir Giants join forces

For the first since their formation, two renowned Male Choirs will share the same stage at Swindon's MECA on 25 March, where Swindon Male Voice Choir and The Wessex Male Choir will host an evening of top quality music and entertainment.

The concert promises a sparkling programme of classic male choir pieces along with popular songs from the world of music theatre and opera performed by two award winning choirs. The Wessex Male Choir were Gold Cup winners at the 2016 Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts and male choir class winners at the 2016 Mid-Somerset Choral Festival

Wessex Male Choir's chairman Guy Edwards says; 'We are delighted to be hosting a joint concert with Swindon Male Voice Choir. This will be a great evening of music with a few surprises, and we look forward to singing some rousing joint numbers with over 100 voices – it will be a sound to stir the soul!'

The two choirs will be joined by The Cirencester Kingshill Advanced Singers led by Jon Driver, the Head of Music at Kingshill school and who is principal accompanist for the Wessex.

Doors open at 7 pm and tickets for the event are priced at £12.50 and are on sale now from Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus; from the Wessex on 01285 869955 and Swindon MVC on 01793 822495; or tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk or Swindonmalevoicechoir@msn.com.

Purton Diary - February 2017

1	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
2	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage, Hyde Lane
		7.30pm	PADS panto: Humpty Dumpty at Village Hall
3	F	7.30pm	PADS panto: Humpty Dumpty at Village Hall
4	Sa	2.30pm	PADS panto matinee: Humpty Dumpty at Village Hall
		2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	PADS panto: Humpty Dumpty at Village Hall
<hr/>			
5	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		2.30pm	<i>to 5.30pm</i> : Draft Neighbourhood Plan exhibition (final session) at Village Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at the Methodist Church: Jacky Parker - <i>Bridging the Gap</i>
		8.00pm	Purton Tennis Club Skittles and Fish & Chips at the Red House
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester (note new time)
		2.00pm	<i>to 4pm</i> : Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
11	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at the Village Hall.
<hr/>			
12	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion & Baptisms at St Mary's Church
13	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome - other committee dates see page 5
		7.30pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting at the vicarage
14	Tu		Valentine's Day
		10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>How to Age Positively</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Dorcan Choir
15	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Keith Walker - <i>There's No Business Like Show Business</i>
17	F	7.00pm	Pudding Heaven evening at Silver Threads Hall organised by Purton Evening W.I.
<hr/>			
19	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		12.30pm	Wiltshire Council Sunday lunch at Wiltshire Hotel & Golf Club

20	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: John Hughes - <i>My Life in the Met & Special Branch</i>
21	Tu	7.45pm 8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House After 8: Late Christmas Meal at The White Hart, Ashton Keynes
23	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Paul Barnett – <i>Wreckers' Tales: Ship Breakers of the Severn</i>
24	F	9.00am	Cricklade Country Market, The Club@Cricklade
26	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Messy Church at St Mary's School
28	Tu		Shrove Tuesday
		10.00am 2.00pm 2.30pm 7.30pm	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Paraguay</i> Silver Threads Club: Val Evans – <i>Simply Acoustic</i> Communion at White Lodge Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Charlotte Fyfe - <i>Keeping hens in the garden</i>

March

2	Th	10.30am	Communion at The Live and Let Live, Upper Pavenhill
4	Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Annual Auction at the Village Hall
11	Sa	7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Concert at St Mary's Church
15	W	11.45am	Lent lunches every week until 5 April

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

 4 February
  11 February
  18 February
  26 February

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 POSTBAG

The Editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However those details may be withheld from being published if so requested.



■ 80TH BIRTHDAY

A big Thank-You to all my relations, neighbours and friends for all the cards, good wishes, presents and flowers given to me for my 80th birthday. My lounge was just like 'Covent Garden', all so beautiful.

Also many thanks to The Pear Tree for an excellent meal and for making us so welcomed.

Lastly to Janet and Catherine for all their support and help in making my birthday a weekend to be remembered always.

Love to you all,

Vivien Lawrence

■ HELP NEEDED

I am a 50-year-old man with Downs Syndrome. I live in a flat attached to my parents house. I enjoy socialising, pool, ten-pin bowling and going to the cinema, etc.

I need someone who is caring and fun, to help me run my home and my life.

£10 per hour, 22 hours per week, plus 8 weeks respite a year. Essential car mileage paid. I would consider a job share.

Call Rick on 01793 770065

■ HOSPITAL STAY

Ken and I would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown during and after my stay in hospital before Christmas.

The many offers of help, telephone calls, gifts and the lovely Get Well cards were all very much appreciated.

Margaret Carter

■ RECENT TUMBLE

I would like to say a big heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has helped me following my recent tumble which resulted in me breaking my arm.

I have been amazed by all the kindness and support I have received from so many wonderful friends; for the lifts and errands, meals, flowers, gifts, cards, the visits and phone calls and of course for walking Brewster for me.

Bruce was right when he said that this village had a heart and I thank you all from the bottom of mine for everything you have done

With love and best wishes to you all

Val D'Arcy-Masters

■ RED HOUSE

Initially, I would like to thank the team for their efforts in creating and distributing a great magazine. Long may it continue!

I have just received a request from the Red House Social Club which is located in the Village Centre which incorporates the War Memorial. The letter was about the Social Club Annual Renewal, due in Jan 2017 and was a 'Request for your assistance to help by way of a donation of maybe £10 or, as a regular user of the Club, you may wish to pay the full renewal fee'.

I feel that should we lose this

facility, we would as a village, live to regret it, as so much takes place there with so many organisations involved. It is without question a 'Hub' of the village and to see it lost would be a travesty! As we know so very well, the 'Rental' for this type of facility and Licensed Premises is, to say the least expensive. If we lost the facility, the 'Rental' is lost so I feel that we although we have to pay 'Rental', we owe it to ourselves within this great village to do all we can to help maintain the use of the facility. How? Well, I am sure that many people like my Wife and myself, (who receive free membership), have already made up their minds to give a 'Donation' etc, but we are going to pay

the Full membership fee of £18 to try, along with others, to keep it going for many more years. Whether there could be a concession on the 'Rent' I don't really know as I am unaware of the circumstances, but I know that the Village Centre/War Memorial Charity will still exist whether the Red House Club stays or goes. That said, the lack of 'Rent' from the club will leave a hole in the Charity's finances. So can we help to make a difference all round?

Make a 'New Year Resolution', 'Support the Red House/Village Centre!' You know you want to!

Chris Glead

Purton Pealers

Some of the Purton Pealers are pictured below during one of their three Prospect Hospice charity collection days at John Lewis at Mannington over Christmas. This occasion was on 16 December.

*Photo:
Rick Dixon*



Cricklade Revealed

Thank you all for your support in buying Part Ten – the last of the main series – and helping me raise £1,200 for Cricklade Open Door.

My next project is to complete an *extra* book to cover WW2 (Parts 4 - 7) to contain indexes to these four books, plus extra memories from the war years given to me after they were published. Has anyone any more stories from the Cricklade area - maybe family anecdotes handed down, or childhood memories before they are gone forever? Please contact me on 750542 or e-mail mfparsons071@btinternet if you can help. It would be wonderful to hear from you.

MARION PARSONS

Great War Project

Part 43: February 1917

Only one man with a Purton connection was mobilised in February 1917 (to France):

William S Bathe, 116th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Born Swindon and emigrated to Canada 1913. Next of kin listed as Eleanor née Linsell, of Purton.

Harry Lewis was born in Moredon in 1896. His parents were Francis and Harriett Lewis (of Common Platt by 1917). Harry served with the 172nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and was wounded in action on 31 January 1917 and died of those wounds, aged 20, on 1 February 1917. Harry is buried in Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial.

Western Front: Between 23 February and 5 April, German forces made strategic withdrawals from the front-line positions on the Ancre river to strong positions on the Hindenburg Line between Arras in the north and Laffaux, near Soissons on the Aisne.

Egypt and Mesopotamia

By the beginning of February, the Senussi troops of Libya, loyal to the Ottoman Empire, had withdrawn to their stronghold at the Siwa Oasis on the western frontier of Egypt. A British column including the Light Armoured Car Brigade (LACB) was dispatched to Siwa, where the armoured cars surprised and engaged the Senussi at Girba (3 February). The Senussi retreated overnight. The LACB entered Siwa unopposed on 4 February. The British force returned to Matruh on 8 February.

On 13 February, units of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force 13 began a raid on Nekhl in the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula to recapture that British regional administration centre that had been occupied by Ottoman forces at the beginning of the war.

In Mesopotamia, British and Indian forces reoccupied Kut-al-Amara on the 23rd and the Turkish garrison retreated towards Baghdad.

War at Sea

On 1 February, Admiral Tirpitz announced the resumption of unlimited German submarine warfare, rescinding the 'Sussex pledge', and 2 days later the United States severed diplomatic relations with Germany. That same day, 3 February, a US liner, the Housatonic, was sunk by a German submarine.

The neutral Scandinavian governments published a joint protest against German submarine warfare on 13 February.

On 21 February, a British troopship, the SS Mendi, was accidentally rammed and sunk off the Isle of Wight, killing 646, mainly members of the South African Native Labour Corps.

On the 25th, German destroyers carried out a raid on the Kent coastal towns of Margate and Broadstairs.

Also on the 25th, German submarines sank the Cunard liner RMS Laconia, while

returning from the USA to England. President Wilson called it the “overt act” for which he was waiting and next day asked Congress to authorise the arming of US merchant ships.

USA

In addition to the American reactions to the submarine war, a new constitution was adopted in Mexico on 5 February and, the same day, the last of the American troops commanded by General John Pershing left Mexico. The new Mexican President Carranza was installed.

In January, Britain had intercepted the Zimmermann Telegram, in which Germany offered to give the American south-west states back to Mexico if Mexico were to declare war on the United States. It wasn't until 24 February that the US ambassador to Britain was shown the intercept, but shortly after, on the 28th, the text was published in the American press.

War Aims: On 14 February, Britain informed the Japanese government that it would support Japanese claims to German territories north of the Equator if they would support British claims south of the equator.

Also on the 14th, the British government announced in Parliament that restoration of Alsace and Lorraine to France was a British war aim.

Espionage: Margaretha Geertruida “Margreet” MacLeod was born in Zelle in Holland on 7 August 1876. She is better known her stage name of Mata Hari, as an exotic dancer and courtesan. She was arrested in Paris on 13 February 1917 on charges of spying for Germany against the Allies. She was convicted and executed by firing squad in France on 15 October 1917.

RICK DIXON

Our Family's War

A Deferment of Service

Rick Dixon writes: This is a piece of local history with relevance to the history of my own house and the farm next door. It will be typical of similar small farms and businesses caught up by conscription in the Great War.

A Deferment of Service Tribunal was held in February 1917 on behalf of James Telling Selby an unmarried man, aged 37, and employed as a cowman by Mr Harry Dash of Quarry Road (now known as Quarry Farm, The Hyde). Mr Dash applied for deferment stating that Selby was his only remaining farmhand. The Tribunal's finding was a 'conditional exemption' and James was never enlisted.

As an additional flavour of Purton in the Great War is the following extract from “A history of Quarry House” by David Bisset & Rick Dixon. Harry Dash took over the lease at Quarry Farm in 1903. Dash continued for some years and was still listed in Kelly's Directory as the farmer in the 1915 edition. Edward and Elvira Matthews began farming at the beginning of the First World War while Dash continued to own Quarry House and the attached Honeymoon Cottage. Mervyn 'Blackie' Matthews was born at Honeymoon Cottage in January 1911. He told Rick that he remembered the line of pine trees being planted along Short Hedge

footpath. The trees have grown a lot since but he said he was told off for playing leapfrog over those saplings with his mates!

The Great War saw the death of at least three of the Matthews men folk but someone may have brought back from France an 1897 five-centime coin to show family and friends. Unfortunately, this memento of strange faraway lands was lost in the front hedge of Quarry House, only to be found again in good condition when the driveway was widened in 1998. Up until 1922, Quarry Farm had always been farmed by tenant farmers under an absentee landlord. A momentous change came that year when Edward Matthews bought the farm outright from the landlord, by then one Henry Caleb Collingburn, for £2,000.

Harry Dash died at Quarry House in 1927 and was buried at St Mary's.

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

Purton Carnival 2017

As some of you will know 2017 signifies my 20th year on the Carnival committee and I have enjoyed it immensely. However I feel it is an opportune time to stand-down and allow someone else to take it over. So 2017 will be my last year on the carnival and I will resign at the September open meeting.

If anyone would like to join the committee and maybe lead it in a different direction or keep with the same format then please get in contact with me (Kevin@purtoncarnival.co.uk) so I can give you the dates of the next meetings.

I would like to go out on a high, so would encourage anyone who was interested in entering the 2017 Carnival Procession to please also get in contact.

Carnival day is Saturday 1 July

Procession: 12 noon to 2 pm

Fete: 12 noon to 6 pm

Roads closed: Pavenhill, High Street, Station Road (Part), Church Street, Church End.

Optional Theme is Emergency Services

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

King Humpty Dumpty will be performed on Thursday, Friday, Saturday 2, 3 and 4 February at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30 pm.

Ticket prices will be £7.50/£6.00 and £4.00 and a licensed bar has been applied for.

Tickets are on sale at Purton Library and DG's Salon, or call 772581, 770160, 771890, or 771442.



KATE BATH, 771442

Purton Historical Society



Thursday 23 February 2017 – 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall
Wreckers' Tales – Ship Breakers of the Severn – Paul Barnett

2015 saw the completion of Paul's Talk 7 'Wreckers Tales'. Paul uncovers the region's shipping fortunes and its ultimate demise at the hands of determined wreckers along the Severn foreshore at Sharpness. We hear stories of vessels driven ashore, be it intentional or by fate, whilst we recall and record the passing of so many by so few – not to be missed the end of this fascinating glimpse into Gloucestershire's long gone maritime past.

Thursday 23 March 2017 – 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

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

Thursday 27 April 2017 – 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Historic Wootton Bassett – Roger Smith

New Members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JANET NEATE

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

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



As there was no meeting in December, my report this month is a brief affair and just takes the form of a reminder that Charlotte Fyfe will be joining us on Tuesday 28 February to present a talk entitled 'Keeping Hens in the Garden'.

The competition will be 'A decorated egg'.

As usual our meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall.

If you are interested in gardening we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month with a speaker, competition and raffle and welcome new members and visitors. So why not come and join us? The annual subscription for 2017 is £15.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, 770906 & MOIRA WHITE, Chair, 771656

Purton Open Gardens 2017

It is 3 years since the last opening of gardens, an activity that usually makes a few thousand pounds for various local charities. Some new entries would refresh the selection for visitors; gardens do not have to be pristine, weed-free or large but something of interest. Selling goods for charity or even providing cream teas/sandwiches can be accommodated.

A group of residents in one street could perhaps join forces and make a scenic display from the street without having visitors on their property. There has not to date been any trouble with unsavoury characters and we have insurance. We also provide signage and guide leaflets.

We normally open for a whole weekend in June or July – the date is open for discussion. If anyone, past or present, is interested to join or has any questions please contact me on 770552 or email the.yerburys@btinternet.com

NICK YERBURY

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 started 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.

Swallows & Amazons by Arthur Ransome.

I always remember my Primary School teacher telling us the importance of reading, whether it was a comic or a book, it was all about understanding the importance of our English Language. So with this advice I have been an avid reader all of my life; from reading the Champion stories for boys with characters such as Biggles right through to Tolstoy's War and Peace plus many more both fiction and non-fiction. However, I think the first book I read that made a lasting impression upon me was Swallows and Amazons.

Reading about the Walker and Blackett children having wonderful holiday adventures led me into a boyhood fantasy where I could picture myself being a part of that life. Ransome wrote a total of twelve books where the stories about the children went from the Lakes to the Broads and adventures in China.

Swallows and Amazons was first published in 1930 and told the story of the Walker siblings John, Susan, Titty and Roger. They were on holiday at a farm in the lakes and sailed a dingy called Swallow. The Amazon, another dingy, was crewed by the Blackett girls Nancy and Peggy. The Walkers considered themselves to be explorers and set up a camp on an island on the lake. John was Captain and Susan was first mate, in charge of stores and cooking. The Blackett girls, who lived in a house opposite to the Walkers considered themselves to be pirates.

The whole book was a series of adventures between the two families, which led me into imagining I could go and do the same.

My passion was shared by the late Roger Datson. We were at Grammar School together and on our walks home we used to ask each other questions about the stories. We wrote to the publishers to find out the location of the book and discovered the lake was Windermere but the Island was on Coniston. We planned one day to visit these locations but this was of course a boyhood dream. Since then

I have visited the Lake District several times and always my thoughts take me back to those wonderful stories.

You may be aware the BBC have made two films on the book, the first in 1974 and the remake in 2016. I hope children who saw them were prompted to read the book and have as much pleasure as I did.

DAVID SWEET

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

In our magazine 10 years ago there were two articles about specific houses in Purton and some of the history behind them. One was prompted by an email published in Purton Magazine in the summer of 2006 received from Redwood City in California enquiring about who currently lived at number 64 Station Road – the house where the enquirer was born.

The resultant investigations confirmed that a member of the Shailes family was still living at the same address almost 100 years later, begging the question about any other houses in Purton that have been occupied by several generations of the same family for an even longer period. It's an interesting thought that, while our community is a slowly but constantly changing combination of people, the houses in which they live are often much more permanent – even if periodically modernised and extended.

The other article was from Hector McLean about the history of College Farm House, stretching all the way back to 1625. The name comes from the period from 1736 when George Clarke died and left all his property in his will. Clarke was elected to Parliament as Member for Oxford University in 1687 and served in high office. Although much of his Oxford life was focused on All Souls' College – from his election to a fellowship there in 1680 and well into the 18th century – it seems that he fell out with the authorities and bequeathed his property to Worcester College.

There must be many fascinating stories about the different inhabitants of some of the longer standing houses in Purton which would make for some more interesting articles in future issues of your magazine and every contribution is always welcomed.

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

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For further information contact Sandra Horsnall on 01793 770157.

Purton & District Probus Club



On Saturday 3rd Dec. Brian Gill, our Programme Secretary, and myself attended a meeting of about twenty other Programme Secretaries of the area to exchange lists of speakers available in North Wilts, South Gloucestershire and some perhaps from a little further afield. The secretary from Tetbury Probus organised the meeting, which was held at the Rose & Crown at Lea near Malmesbury. Copies of the current year's Speaker lists, from each club, were issued to us, which will prove a very useful springboard for organising a new programme of speakers for the coming year.

The Annual President's lunch, was held on 6 December at the Wiltshire Hotel Golf and Leisure complex, Royal Wootton Bassett. The Guests of Honour were Mr John Armstrong and his wife Mary from the RWB Probus Club. Forty-five members and guests attended. David Badcott, our President, welcomed everyone and thanked members of the committee for their input during the past year, particularly newcomer Mr Trevor Domm, who not only joined Purton Probus at the April AGM of this year, but at that time took on the role of General Secretary. Trevor made an excellent job of organising the event and conducted the programme as Master of Ceremonies, creating a sociable and enjoyable occasion. The RWB President called for a toast to the Purton Probus Club. We enjoyed an excellent festive lunch and look forward to an interesting Programme for 2017/18.

At our meeting on **13 December**, four of our members each gave a short address concerning memorable experiences of "Music in Their Lives" and played a record track to demonstrate their choice.

John Lawrence, who joined Probus early this year, recounted his time, from 9 to 14 years when, as a member of his local Church Choir near London, and which had achieved Cathedral Status, they were on occasions invited to sing in Saint Paul's Cathedral. Typical programmes were "The Messiah" and the "St Matthew Passion". The Choir was usually seated close to the orchestra and John said the boys were enthralled at seeing the instruments and musicians close up. An interesting observation is that the Great Dome reverberates for 13 seconds after each note is played. John's choice of music was Bach's Concerto No 4 – Heavenly Music.

Our second speaker, Dr John Belt, remembered an occasion when, called to a patient's house in Cricklade, he lingered in the car to hear out an impressive piece on the radio, for which, at the time, he did not know the title. He hurried to the door when a face appeared at the curtains. Later, whilst on holiday, he heard the tune again, in a busy and noisy Spanish Market. He recalls it as a "Moment in Time". The music seemed to arrest totally the movement and sound of the market as everyone stopped to listen attentively. John's recording was the rumbustious "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from Verdi's Nabucco, a very stirring piece of music.

John Clark was the next member to contribute music. Being an expert on Metal Detecting and the author of a book on the subject, he was inspired to play a track by the Beatles – "Paperback Writer", released in 1966. It was about this time that John was stationed with a tank regiment in Germany and he was lucky enough to be near Hamburg when the Beatles were performing there. John's second lifetime

hobby has been restoring vintage racing cars. In Michael Bowler's book "Classic Cars from around the World", he and his cars feature in a number of the photographs. His second piece of music was the introduction to the 1979 Formula 1 Grand Prix in South Africa with Murray Walker commentating. "The Chain" by Fleetwood Mac replicates the tick-over and roar as the F1 engines accelerate away from the Starting Grid. The tune was reintroduced by the BBC, again for the Formula 1 Racing Programme in 2009.

The last record to be played was chosen by Peter Jinks. Peter told us of meeting his wife Audrey soon after the war in 1945. As a young couple, they were very much in love, but there were a couple of hurdles. Peter was raised a Roman Catholic, while Audrey was C of E. He was keen on Jazz, but Audrey preferred Classical Music. At a Probus meeting this time last year, Peter treated us to some Memphis Blues and Jamming, with the likes of Gene Krupa and Charlie Parker, which he had experienced in Greenwich Village whilst his ship was laid up in New York. He now told us that during their long and happy marriage he and Audrey had learned to compromise both in religion and music. The record, which Peter had come to enjoy and had re-recorded from his set of 12" vinyl discs, was Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata – a soothing closure to the morning.

The Purton & District Probus Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 am in the Red House lounge. Visitors and prospective new members welcome. Programme: 14 February - How to Age Positively, 28 February - Paraguay.

BOB STEVENS

Purton Guide Dogs

I have been having a few medical problems over these last few months, which meant that I was unable to do a stall in Support of Swindon Branch at the *Christmas at Steam* event. Thanks to the Committee for finding other people, extra to our usual helpers, so that our *January Jumble* was able to go ahead. My grateful thanks to all of you who made it possible. We raised £223.29p, of which £70 was from Barbara and Kim Herron's stall, the one in the corner by the door; they buy and collect all the goods, come over here from Chiseldon, sell them, and give us all the proceeds – amazing! We also had some very generous donations of goods, so our sincere thanks to all who support us both as givers and buyers.

Due to the amount of work involved and none of us getting any younger, we think this will have to be our last *January Jumble*, and we will possibly look for something a little less strenuous that we can do in the summer months.

Many thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



Sing 4/4 Success

Choir leader, Mary New, congratulates the Sing 4/4 Community Choir on two sparkling Christmas concert performances at Purton and Cricklade last December. Both concerts were sell-outs, and the Choir has donated £200 each to Brighter Futures (GWH) and Listening Dogs for Deaf People (Wilts).

MARY NEW

After 8



Probably on one of the first autumn evenings when a winter coat was needed, fourteen members arrived at the home of Janet McCarthy to a planning meeting for the year 2017. Many suggestions for future events were forthcoming and within an hour topics and venues were decided upon. Two quizzes, one on the year 2016 and another based on art; the late Christmas meal and Sandra's summer walk as well as the summer social are just a sample of the events to look forward to.

We were promised a 'surprise' arranged by Janet and Avril to round off the evening and this turned out to be a test of our knowledge of countries and their capitals together with other questions, for example a river, known national food and drink and famous authors. A more difficult brain teaser was to describe the national flags. As well as informed answers it was amusing to learn that various types of sausage were put forward as food items when we really did not know the answers and wine and beer named as national drinks in many cases. We learnt that Monaco did not have a river as it is too small and that the majority of flags favoured the colours of red, white and blue. Janet had made a tasty pavlova (named food item for Australia) and Avril provided macaroon biscuits from France.

When our evening came to an end we could congratulate ourselves on completing the business in such an enjoyable way. Thank you, Janet, for your hospitality and Avril, for being such a competent leader for the evening.

JAN WALKER

Yet another year has passed so quickly and our December evening of Carols and fun was here once again.

Cathy kindly hosted the evening where 17 of us ladies arrived with our Secret Santa's presents and a beautiful array of food.

Diana started the evening with a Christmas Quiz. According to the UK Meteorological office the last white Christmas was in 2009, John Callcott Horsley designed the first commercial Christmas card in 1843 and Yorkshireman William Strickland is believed to have brought the first Turkey back from North America in 1526. These were just a few of our questions.

Diana then recited to us 'The craziness of our English language'. In what other language do people recite a play and play at a recital? We ship by truck and send cargo by ship. We have noses that run and feet that smell. We find that quick sand can work slowly; we have boxing rings that are square. A guinea pig that is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down and in which you fill up a form by filling it out.

Our evening continued with traditional carols and an interlude when Marion and Barbara played us a beautiful duet of Once in royal David's City.

The buffet followed and the Secret Santa gifts were taken from the sack, a book, scarf, a CD of Mamma Mia and a vast selection of other gifts.

Our evening resumed with more carols, The 12 days of Christmas being a highlight. Having difficulty remembering all the gifts given on the 12 day's Cathy

mimed them to us and with much hilarity we managed to get them right. Our evening finished with We wish you a merry Christmas, a fitting and super evening and a good start to the Christmas festivities.

EILEEN COE

PURTON PLACARD

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

PADS Pantomime

King Humpty Dumpty

Thurs, Fri & Sat 2, 3, 4 Feb
7.30 pm, matinee at 2.30pm
at Purton Village Hall.

Tickets £7.50, £6 & £4 on sale at
Purton Library & DG'z Salon or call
772581, 770160, 771890, or 771442.

Purton Tennis Club

Skittles and Fish & Chips

Wednesday 8 February
8 pm
at The Red House

PURTON EVENING WI

Pudding Evening

Friday 17 February at 7 pm
Silver Threads Hall

Tickets £6, available from
Barb 770818, Anne 772365
or Janet 772146
and on the door.

Tea and coffee available, anything
stronger please BYO.

St Mary's Church presents

Wessex Male Choir

with music to suit all tastes on
Saturday 11 March at St Mary's
Church, 7.30pm

Tickets at £12.50 include a glass of
wine (or juice).

Accompanied children under 16, free.

Tickets available from
Sandra 770157, Val 771201
or Sheila 770970 or Flawless Floors,
115 Pavenhill (next door to One Stop).

Silver Threads Club

Jumble Sale

4 February
2 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

Wiltshire Council Health & Wellbeing

Sunday Lunch

For people on their own
Sunday 19 February : 12.30 pm
Wiltshire Hotel and Golf Club
£10.95 call Ellen Blacker to book
07557 922020 or email
ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Jumble Sale

Saturday 11 February 2017
At 2 pm in the Village Hall
772581, 770160, 771890, or 771442.
Bargains galore!

Purton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

It already seems so long ago to now be reporting on Christmas activities. Both Brownie units held Christmas parties which included making Santa sleighs from candy canes and chocolate/sweets, musical games and of course food. One of the games played by 2nd Purton was the chocolate game - was another challenge towards their Chocolate Challenge.

Just before Christmas Maddie and Kanna from 2nd Purton Brownies, took Christmas gifts and cards the unit had made to the Lunch Club. Each Lunch Club member received a Christmas card and a pot of bulbs in a decorated bag.

Rainbows have welcomed new members Holly, Katie, Yvie and Zoe. They started the term undertaking activities as part of the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch. Bird feeders were made with apples, niftily studded with sunflower seeds. The girls also played Top Trumps and Snap as well as discussing the kind of birds we might see in our gardens.

The Rainbow unit was sad to say goodbye to Leader, Alix Baldwin at Christmas. Alix was one of the Rainbow unit's founder member girls when it started so to be able to return as a Leader was great to bring things full circle. The unit leadership team would be keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in getting involved to volunteer with them.

1st Purton Brownies' new members (Jaya, Maia, Freya, Lillie and Rebecca) joined in with games and then finding out what Brownies is all about, whilst the other Brownies wore themselves out finishing off the Agility badge they'd been working on before Christmas.

2nd Purton Brownies carried on the games theme at their first meeting in January too: pass the parcel, matching Christmas cards and a memory game using chocolate bars.

The first week back for Guides meant celebrating the New Year with a cheesy party. Cheese and pineapple with cheese savouries accompanied musical chairs and pass the parcel.

For more information about Girlguiding in Purton, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

Find us on Facebook too:

www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



Cricklade Country Market

Our next market is on Friday 24 February between 9 and 11 am, at The Club @ Cricklade.

All our produce is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown so come and find delicious pies and cakes, scones and cookies, jams and pickles and all manner of original gifts. Refreshments are available too.

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



Could you give a little time to guiding?

The Purton Rainbow unit would love an extra adult to join their leadership team. They provide a fun and varied programme of indoor and outdoor activities for the girls who are aged 5-7 years old. The unit meets for an hour a week during school term time.

Full support is given to all new volunteers and the role would suit a job share arrangement for anyone unable to commit to attending every week.

For more information, contact Rachel on 07729 462054 / braydondc@wncounty.org.uk or register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested



Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

The 2016 season brought many challenges but, in spite of this, our cricketers performed remarkably well.

Playing in the Wiltshire Division of the West of England Premier League, Purton finished in a very creditable fourth place. Players of previous years would be somewhat astonished to see us finish above the likes of Swindon, Marlborough, Devizes or Malmesbury.

The second XIs of the league, with the exception of Trowbridge, were for administrative reasons, placed en bloc into the Wiltshire Cricket League as its Division 7. Our second string performed really well to finish in second place.

Our Youth teams also performed well. A succession of rainy Sundays – when most youth games are played – resulted in a number of cancelled or abandoned fixtures – nevertheless, the u-15s won the county T20 competition and were placed 3rd. in the league. The u13s finished fourth out of ten teams in their league while the u-11s and u-9s all enjoyed some success. Interesting to note that we had four girls registered in our u-11 section. Kenley Thomas is our Youth Chairman and he and his team of qualified coaches and helpers deserve much praise. If you have any doubts about the future of cricket, take a walk up to the ground on a Friday evening in Summer.

DAVID BISSET



Winter League continues with the A&B teams doing well, C&D battling along!

We are starting Social tennis on a Sunday morning so if you fancy a hit, please come along. Non-members always welcome.

Our Skittle night with a fish & chip supper will be on Wednesday 8 February at the Red House at 8 pm – come along if you are interested.

Coaching has started back after the Christmas break – see website for details.

Our popular Khaliqie Tournament kindly sponsored by the man himself, will this year be held on 1 May.

Membership is now due so we can see how many teams to enter in the Summer Swindon & District League based on our numbers.

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter or www.purtontennisclub.com

LINDSEY HALL, Chairman