

# Purton Magazine



Age Concern presentation to Brighter Futures  
See [page 8](#) for details

# March 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
Recyling 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

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith,  
tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031)  
email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk

Curate: Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email judith@judithwells.wanadoo.co.uk

Wardens: Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157 Jane Smith, tel 772422

Administrator: Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk

Web site: [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk) Services: See Diary Page in this magazine

## METHODIST CHURCHES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT**  
Parish Deacon      Reverend Terry Aspell   tel 325681  
                        Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett  
Services:            Holy Days        7.30 pm  
                        Sundays         11.00 am Mass  
*For times of weekday services please see Church notice board*

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

**Priest** Father Michael Robertson tel 01285 712586  
St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade  
**Holy Days** 7.00 pm Mass Sundays 9.30 am Mass

## From The Editors

Along with death and taxes, there is one other aspect that is certain - and that is change. Over the last 13 years and more, all editions of this magazine owe themselves in great part to Rick and Helen Dixon. Many readers will be aware that Rick has been the well-oiled machine that has received, scanned, typed, written and re-written contributions and advertisements submitted before proofing, checking and printing approximately 1000 copies of Purton Magazine each month.

Probably all advertisers will have had numerous contacts with Helen over the same period as she has helped to keep this magazine financially viable, even with the very reasonable cover price of 50p. Without our advertising income, the price would be approaching £2.00 per copy.

Readers might also not be aware that, to prevent advertisements swamping our general content, the committee have restricted the amount of advertising to an average of 35% of the total content. Yet, even with such restrictions there is usually a small queue of advertisers waiting and wanting to advertise in Purton Magazine - all of whom have been effectively managed by Helen.

The fact that so many companies and organisations want to advertise in these pages is due to the quality of the magazine and our attractive rate card but especially its varied and informative content. Without so many valuable contributions from our readers, we would not be able to sell so many copies each month and thereby would be significantly less attractive to advertisers.

For those who don't yet know, Rick and Helen are moving - all the way to Cricklade - but their many contributions will certainly not be lost to the various village organisations in general and to Purton Magazine in particular.

However, true to the spirit of the magazine, we have been very fortunate to find two most suitable replacements. Heather Ponting-Bather is taking over In Touch Services from Rick and will be preparing and producing future issues of this magazine as part of her new business portfolio. On [page 25](#) Heather introduces herself to readers with several interesting details about her background in the design and print business.

We are also very pleased to announce that Liz Stevenson has kindly agreed to look after the advertising for the magazine. It is a testament to Rick and Helen's thoughtfulness that each have volunteered to support Heather and Liz in the next few months to effect seamless handovers.

**196**

years was the extent of the Russian Empire that ended in March 1917  
- see [page 27](#)

**981**

Pensioners in Purton set the Brighter Futures donation - see [page 8](#) and the front cover

**1000mph**

Is the target for the latest British attempt on the Land Speed Record - see [page 33](#)

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**Purton**  
Magazine

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Magazine Committee

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**Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions**

by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, please to: Purton Magazine,  
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tel 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

**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](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

# Purton Parish Council News

**Community Speed Watch** (CSW) is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.



Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff.

If you are interested in knowing more and how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Griggs on [chezneymb@hotmail.com](mailto:chezneymb@hotmail.com) or Debbie Lawrence on [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk) or call the office on 01793 771066.

## Purton Parish Council Fun Day

We are holding our second Parish Council Fun Day on Saturday 20th May from 11am to 4pm at the Village Centre, Church Street with funfair, stalls, crafters, charity groups and Purton's clubs. If you are a club, charity 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](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk) or call 01793 771066

## Blooming Marvellous

A big thank-you to TOOMERS for donating mountains of bulbs which have been planted around Purton. Here's to a continuing spring display.

## March Meeting Dates - all are Mondays

- |            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6th March  | Burials Committee                    |
| 13th March | Full Council Meeting                 |
| 20th March | Planning Committee                   |
| 27th March | Institute and Village Hall Committee |

## Dog Fouling Act

Wiltshire Council is responsible for the prosecution of dog owners if they do not adhere to legislation regarding dog fouling. You can report dog fouling issues on your phone using the Wiltshire App or contact the Dog Warden on 0300 456 0100 or email [lostdogs@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:lostdogs@wiltshire.gov.uk).

## Planning Permission Granted with Conditions

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 16/09103/FUL | Fox Mill Farm, The Fox. New access from highway into an agricultural field with the gateway being 4.56 metres in width. |
| 16/08601/FUL | 4 Orchard Gardens. Two-storey extension.  |
| 16/09309/FUL | 19 Mustang Way. Proposed Conservatory.  |
| 16/10518/FUL | The Laurels, 39 Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent. Extension to outbuilding to create residential annex.                    |
| 16/11150/TCA | 7 Church Path. Fell 2 conifers. No Objection.   |

- 
- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 16/11256/CLP | 57 Pavenhill. Single storey rear extension. Approve.  |
| 16/10069/FUL | The Royal George, Pavenhill. Single storey and rear extension, and conversion of existing sheds to restaurant area. |
| 16/10648/FUL | 1 Clardon Lane. Extensions and alterations.   |

### **Refused Applications**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 16/09820/VAR | Derryfield Farm, The Common, Minety. Removal of condition 9 of 16/03224/FUL relating to code 4 certificate.   |
| 16/09545/FUL | Bell Inn Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. Change of use of land to a caravan site for the siting of up to 12 caravans and the change of use of an outbuilding to a service building for the caravan site. |

### **Wiltshire Council App - Mobile reporting - download our My Wiltshire app**

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

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

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)  
Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

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

Just one click away will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures, meet the staff, "did you 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](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk) or call 771066.

Find us at :- Facebook – Purton Parish Council

Twitter - @PurtonPC

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

Purton Parish Council @PurtonPC

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

OFFERED: Unused original Epson ink cartridges T0711 - T0714 owing to my printer having failed. Please call 770336.

OFFERED: Large 2-seater sofa with spare covers. Tel 01793 770648.

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

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## News from the Trustees

**Village Hall Charity:** Please can I point out that the Village Hall car park is for users of the Village Hall, library and council offices. People have been parking there continually, 24 hours a day, and this is in spite of a sign that states clearly that this is not allowed. We have been asked for permits to allow parking but we cannot do this. It is not fair on hirers of the hall which includes the car park. When you have a function, you need to be able to accommodate as many cars as possible. People are not showing consideration to the users of the hall, of which eighty per cent are charities making money for good causes. So please be considerate, otherwise we will have to take further action.

Talking of the Village Hall, could I congratulate PADS on another excellent pantomime. It must have been one of the best they have done. I know it is fresh in my mind and it was a really excellent show. The work and the thought that goes into everything like scenery, costumes, sound effects, lighting etc. must be tremendous, so many thanks for such an enjoyable evening. Footnote – on the night we went the car park was full and overflowing!

### **Purton War Memorial & Village Centre News**

Could I say thank you to Chris Gleed for his letter in last month's magazine with reference to the Red House Club. When the whole complex was purchased in 1946 the vision was to have a bar and then the Centre would grow from there, which it did. Unfortunately, now the Club has started to go the other way, but some new committee members have joined and are really working hard to turn it around. They need our support so let's give it to them in any way we can. Remember that first and foremost it is a war memorial so we do not want to let those service men and women down who gave their lives for us to have a better life here in England.

Could I say many thanks to a gentleman who has contributed so much to the War Memorial and Village Centre over the years. His name was Ron Slade who has sadly passed away. Ron moved into the village and became part of it. He was a gentleman through and through and probably his greatest love was bowls. This was the type of man he was – a tradition was started when, as a thank-you to the green keepers at Christmas, Ron would cook them a full English breakfast and it was some breakfast! I believe it is still ongoing but they say it is not quite like Ron's. So, many thanks, Ron, your memory will live on when the greenkeepers are having their Christmas breakfast.

*Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees*

### **Village Diary ... a little late**

Once upon a time there used to be a Village Diary supplied by Pauline Ward and held at Sue Budd's Post Office in the High Street. This was used so that village organisations could look at it and check that their planned event wasn't at the same time as another do that would be targeting the same audience.

We now have a new 2017 Diary at **the Library**. Open hours: Mon 2 - 5pm; Tues 2 - 7pm; Wed 10am - 5pm; Fri 2 - 5pm.

So: **If you are planning an event in the village**, please go to the Library to have a look at it, and check that the date is clear of competing events before you decide to proceed. Then **put your event in the diary!**

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## Purton & District Age Concern



Charlotte our treasurer has reimbursed all the local businesses who received our Christmas Vouchers, a total of £8,489.10 has been paid out. Thank you Charlotte for sorting this out so efficiently.

At our February committee meeting we presented a cheque for £981 to the Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal. This was a donation of £1 for each of the 981 Christmas vouchers given out at the end of 2016 to pensioners in our area. Some of you may have seen a photo of the presentation in the Swindon Advertiser. For those who don't receive the newspaper, you'll see a photo on the front cover of this Magazine. Our grateful thanks go to Robert Cook for printing the large cheque.

We will be distributing a £5 travel voucher to all pensioners in our area to use as part payment for one of our outings between April – October this year. The vouchers should be with you before our first outing in April, which will be a mystery tour with pub lunch. We will not be increasing the cost of our mystery tours this year, the price will remain at £13.50 for pensioners in our area and £15.00 for non-pensioners and those outside our area.

We recently received the final settlement from the solicitors handling the estate of Mr John Sorsby. We are very grateful to receive this generous legacy.

I regret to inform you that Mr Ron Slade passed away recently. When Ron and his wife Lilian moved to Purton they got involved with village life. They were always very generous to Age Concern and Ron was a great asset to the Bowls Club. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts and condolences are with Ron's family and friends. We are very grateful to Ron's family as money in lieu of flowers at his funeral is to be shared between Purton GP surgery and Age Concern.

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Annual Auction** – Our Auction this year is on Saturday 4th March at 1pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9am-11.30am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. Street Wardens have 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-1pm and the auction starts at 1pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this year. Come and join in the bidding, it's great fun!

**Mystery Tour with Pub Lunch** – This will be on Wednesday 5th April, the coach will leave the village at 10.30am. Cost is £13.50 for pensioners in our area and £15.00 for non-pensioners and those outside our area. If you would like to go please contact your street warden to book your place before Monday 27th March. Come along and join us on the first outing in 2017!

**3B's Evening** – This is on Friday 7th April at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £6 and includes a two course supper. Bingo tickets will be available to buy separately. Admission tickets sell out fast, remember there is no entry on the night without a ticket so if you would like to attend please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339. Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus if you need transport.

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## PAST EVENTS

**Burns Night Celebration** – This was very successful once again. It was good to see some new faces and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. We've had lovely feedback regarding the hall decorations, the band, especially the new female caller who proved very popular, the piper and the meal. Congratulations and thanks go to everyone involved in making it such a great night including, the team of vegetable peelers, the team of hall and table decorators led by Sarah, the kitchen team led by Maria and the experienced and younger waitresses who served the food so efficiently. Thanks also to Richard, Josie and Craig for the parts they played in addressing the haggis, to Martin for selling the raffle tickets, Jenny for selling the admission tickets, Mick for being the host for the evening and raising funds with the auction items and Matt and team from Purton Club for running the bar. We couldn't put on such a popular event without all this help and without the people who come along on the evening and support us. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

## 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](mailto:andywhitepacmb@gmail.com) (New volunteers are always welcome.)

**T'ai Chi** – We hold gentle T'ai Chi exercise classes on Thursday afternoons at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. For more information please contact Louise Tidman on 772558. **Fit Steps FAB Dance Class** – If you like Ballroom and Latin dancing why not try the Fit steps dance class held on Fridays from 4.30-5.30pm in the Village Hall, a dance partner is not required. The classes are open to adults of all ages and cost £5. For more information please contact Joanne Edwards on 01793 325341.

**Friendship Club** – The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall from 2pm-4pm. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 10th March 2017 when the group will be going for a meal at The Bell in Purton Stoke so won't be at Silver Threads Hall that day. Transport is available, to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.                   LOUISE TIDMAN

## Garage Sale

At 51 The Hyde SN5 4EA on Sunday 19 March from 11am to 4pm. 25% of proceeds will go to Prospect Hospice.

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## Jean Flynn

Jean Olive Flynn passed away peacefully at Ashgrove House Care Home on 29th January 2017, aged 87 years with Paddy by her side. Jean will be sadly missed by her family.

The funeral was held at St Mary's Church, Purton on Wednesday 15th February at 11.00am followed by interment at Purton Cemetery. Flowers were welcomed. Donations if desired for Salvation Army can still be sent c/o Hillier Funeral Service, 170 Victoria Road, Swindon SN1 3DF. Enquiries: Tel 01793 522797.

## 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

## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

**Vintage Tea Party:** We have been very pleased by so many positive comments about the Vintage Tea Party held on 28 January. This event raised £691 which is going towards funding a new ECG machine which will allow the transmission of ECG traces to the hospital.

**Change of name:** G4P is part of a National group of Patient Participation groups (NAPP) and we have decided to rename G4P as Purton PPG (Purton Patient Participation Group). We will shortly have a new logo.

**Repeat Prescriptions:** As a result of increased prescription workload Lloyds Pharmacy now requires five working days from when you drop off your request at the surgery to dispense repeat prescriptions. Boots Pharmacy in Cricklade is still working to the three-day period.

**Next Information Evening:** We are hoping to hold an Information evening on Respiratory diseases in March, date not agreed yet.

**Receiving the PPG Newsletter:** Purton PPG 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 on [groupforpatients@gmail.com](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com) to let us know.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, Purton PPG

## Keen Hares Setting Their Clocks for 26th March

Runners and walkers won't want to miss the start of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mad March Hare so will be sure to remember to change their clocks to British Summer Time!

Only a few weeks now and hundreds of walkers and runners will turn out in all sorts of fun costumes to launch the celebrations in style! Come and join in the fun on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at Lydiard Park Academy. Participate in one of the routes – 5 or 10k, walk, jog or run, bring the family or walk the dog! Follow up with a cuppa and bacon roll or a piece of mouth-watering homemade cake!

The aim is to mark the anniversary with a cumulative £100,000 raised for Breast Cancer Now over the 10 years! To take part or help at the event please visit [www.madmarchhare.org.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk), email [info@madmarchhare.org.uk](mailto:info@madmarchhare.org.uk) or call 0845 6808064.

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## Lent Lunches 2017

This year's Lent Lunches will be held at the Purton Methodist Church from 11.45 am to 1 pm, on Wednesdays 15, 22 and 29 March, and 5 April.

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

LINDA, SHEILA, VAL & SYLVIA

## Lydiards Link Scheme Reg. Charity no. 1093200

The Lydiards Link Scheme (2004 to present) – a Special General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 28th March 2017, at 2.15pm, at the Hook Village Hall. We are in danger of closing, due to lack of customers.



To try to continue helping those clients in need of transport to medical or other services, we are proposing to widen our current area served – Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoz – into Purton.

The service is primarily available to all adult persons in need, who have no alternative transport, to take them and return them home, to medical services (doctors, hospital, dentist, etc), or social services (shopping or similar), within a reasonable distance. The need may be due to a permanent or temporary condition.

The service is free, although we do request donations, to help maintain the service. We are an independent Charity, and one of the Wiltshire Link Schemes.

We are very aware of the valuable service the Age Concern minibus provides, and will try not to affect their usual services, as far as possible. The majority of our usual trips are to local hospitals, and other medical and social services.

Our reason for the meeting is to gauge support for the proposed extension of area, and to authorise an appropriate amendment to our Constitution.

All parishioners and interested parties are invited, and all will be very welcome.

*TOM PEPPERALL, Chairman, the Lydiards Link, Tel: 01793 770734*

## Charity takes time out to launch £25k appeal

The Carer Support Wiltshire, Time For Carers Appeal is raising £25,000 to give the thousands of unpaid carers they support a break, and they are calling on the people of Wiltshire to help them reach their target.

Three in five of us will become a carer at some point in our lives. Often as a result of illness or accident suffered by a loved one, many take on the role without question, but are often unprepared for the impact on their own life and health.

"One thing all carers say – whatever their age – is that they need a little time for themselves. But one in three carers never have a weekend or evening break from their caring role, and one in three feel guilty if they do. Many don't have time to enjoy some of the things we all take for granted: a cinema trip, sporting activities, or spending time with friends. This can affect their physical and mental wellbeing and lead to feelings of isolation," says Catharine Hurford, CSW Chief Executive.

"All the money we raise through this appeal will go directly to enabling carers to have a bit of time to themselves."

We are calling on people to get involved with fundraisers or sponsored events, and businesses to make CSW their charity of the year.

You can find out more about the appeal here: <http://carersinwiltshire.co.uk>

## Re-roofing at St Mary's Church – Wood for Bat Boxes

As part of the project to re-roof the Chancel at St Mary's Church, mitigation measures for the bats have to be taken whilst the roof is removed and replaced. Bat boxes to provide a daytime roost are required. Once made, it is intended that these will be fixed in trees in the churchyard.



Our local Scout troop have agreed to make the boxes but need some "bat friendly" wood to do so. Unfortunately, new planed planks from DIY stores do not fit the bill! We are therefore, seeking some weathered, untreated, rough sawn planks to be donated to the project. Only short lengths are required with dimensions of approximately: 200mm (8") wide; 15 - 20mm (3/4") thick and longer than 230 mm (9"). The longest length required is 450mm (18"). Each bat box will require some 1.25m (4 feet) of planking and four boxes are required.

Tanalised timber is apparently acceptable to bats providing it is well brushed. So, if you have any offcuts or planks that come close to the above requirements please either e-mail [howard.smith@wiltshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:howard.smith@wiltshirescouts.org.uk) or call me on 01793 771493, or leave a message on the 1<sup>st</sup> Purton & Lydiard Scout Group's web-site [www.plscouts.org.uk](http://www.plscouts.org.uk).

HOWARD SMITH

## Wessex Male Choir are coming to Purton!

Wessex Male Choir will be returning to Purton on 11 March to raise the roof with their singing to help St Mary's Church repair the roof of our beautiful church.

The Wessex 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 at 115 Pavenhill (next door to One Stop) and buy your tickets there.

## Knit-a-Square

We are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th March at the Silver Threads Hall, from 10 am to 12 noon.

We will have Homemade Cakes, Tombola, Raffle, New Yarn for sale, Bric-a-Brac and more.

Admission £1, includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

All profits will go to the Charity.



## Purton Methodist Church

15 January saw both churches come together in a service of Christian Unity. The service was held at our Methodist Church with St Mary's Church joining us. The church was full which made it such a special occasion.

During the service, we were reminded of how the two churches are working together in so many ways, Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith led the service with Rev David Perkins and Revd Judith Wells assisting. At the end of the service Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith asked for 2 volunteers, Sandra from St Mary's and Sylvia from the Methodist Church who got up and unrehearsed, with the help of Ian's umbrella, they showed by walking under the umbrella together that this should be our future in unity with one another.

At our Women's fellowship on 8 February, Jacky Parker and her husband told us about the children of Zimbabwe and how Heatherbank Primary School was run by volunteers to give these children an education. It was so interesting and very moving. It was lovely at the end of the meeting when Linda was able to give a donation of £60 to help with this worthwhile project - thank you Jacky for giving us such an interesting talk.

On 8 March, Fellowship will be taken by Lou Ashford from Highworth starting at 2.30 pm - all are welcome.

The amount raised in the League of Light boxes this year was £220.22. Thank you to all those who gave and a big thank-you to Jean Bamford for your hard work!

Our services on a Sunday start at 10.30 am - a warm welcome to all and a welcome cup of tea before you go home.

ROSE STUMP

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell and Bagbury Lane*.

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

## We Record ...

### *Funerals at Kingsdown Crematorium:*

16 January Brenda Mary Hobbs (86)

2 February Elsie Frances Maynard (85)

### *In Memoriam:*

25 March 1917 Edward James Williams, killed in action, aged 21, southwest of Ypres. He is buried at Bailleul British Cemetery and remembered on the Purton War Memorial.



## Purton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers

One of the 'Five Essentials' of guiding is a balanced and varied programme and it's easy to see from just the last month how well that essential is met in Purton.



Rainbows have been busy earning their Get Healthy badges with a range of different activities exploring things like well-being, personal safety and the environment. Holly, Katie, Yvie and Zoe also made their Rainbow promise. The unit sadly bade farewell to Shirley Lawrence (aka Robin). Shirley, along with Sheila Kirk, set up the Rainbow unit in 1993 so has seen hundreds of girls pass through and enjoy the fun of Rainbows at the start of their guiding journey. We are all very grateful to Shirley for everything she has done, both as a Rainbow Leader and in her previous incarnation as a Brownie Leader with 2nd Purton Brownies. We wish you well Shirley.

2nd Purton Brownies have started working towards the World Cultures badge. They've made beads and threaded them to make necklaces and/or bracelets. They also made "Danish Heart" baskets which by the end of the evening miraculously contained some sweets!

Thanks must go to Kanna's mum Akane who, along with a group of her friends ran a fabulous Japanese evening for the unit. The Brownies made origami tulips, played a game using chopsticks, played with some Japanese toys and dressed up in costume.

Not to be outdone on the international front, 1st Purton Brownies celebrated Chinese New Year by tasting Chinese food (using chopsticks of course), learning about Chinese New Year customs, and making dragon masks. The previous week they'd been closer to home for Burns Night celebrations, playing a game to discover words which have a Scottish variation as well as tasting shortbread, haggis and Irn-Bru.

It's far from all craft and food at Brownies though. 2nd Purton spent an evening at a trampoline park where two hours of bouncing will surely have meant that they slept well that night!

Guides enjoyed an evening around the Promise, including using a tin of alphabet spaghetti to write out the words. It got messy! The same evening Emma, Jade, Lauren, Lucy, Niamh and Summer made their Promise as Guides. Food is always popular in Guide meetings although one week it was food for their feathered friends rather than for themselves as part of the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch. They made apple feeders and string buffets to entice birds into their gardens in order to count them.

Guides have also been trying to break Guinness World Records (or at least break the ones set by other Guides in 2012!). To be a record breaker, you'd need to eat three cream crackers in 18.02 seconds. Lauren managed 87 seconds but beat her sister Kirstie's record from 2012 by 10 seconds! Maria also came close to the record of the fastest time to make a pasta necklace (with 25 pieces of penne).

If you were in the audience at the Friday evening performance of the PADs pantomime, you can't fail to have seen a large contingent of Brownies, Guides and

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Rangers enjoying the performance, throwing themselves into the traditional audience participation. Thanks to the pantomime cast for making us all so welcome and for a very entertaining evening.

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

Find us on Facebook too:  
[www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision](https://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision)



## Future of Purton Carnival

How important is Purton Carnival to you? Do you want it to continue?



Last month Kevin announced that he is resigning as Chairman after this year. Last night (6 February) we had a committee meeting and the problem is more serious than just finding another Chairman (although that problem is certainly quite a big one!) A number of members of the committee will need to leave after this carnival season for various reasons and the remaining members would not be able to run a carnival on their own.

So, if Carnival is to continue we need new people to come on board. At present, there are about 8 people on the committee and, along with our partners, we run all the events. It's very hard work but incredibly satisfying and I personally think it's important for the village that it continues. If Carnival is important to you, please don't assume that someone else will step up to the mark to save it.

If you might want to help run Carnival next year, why not join us now and help with this year to see how we've been doing it? Otherwise, let us know that you are interested for next year, and you can change anything, even everything then!

But, if no one comes forward, 2017 Carnival will be the last one. If you want to volunteer or have further information as to what's involved, please get in touch by email on [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk) or 772298.

MARY NETTLETON

## Cricklade Country Market

New Venue and time for Cricklade Country Market, our next market will be: Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2-4pm, at The Jenner Hall 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.

Pop along for a delicious afternoon tea or come in for after school refreshments too!

Future market dates: April 28th

Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Moira on 01793 771656 to place an order or for further information about the market.

## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society



Another Pantomime over ...

Thanks to all who came and supported us, we had fantastic audiences. Apologies to those who came Saturday afternoon and could not hear. We were full and with the children talking and moving chairs, it was difficult to project our voices over the noise.

We have had good feedback and well done to all involved. Many thanks to DG'z and the Library for selling tickets for us.

Our next production could be the spring play – look out for details.

KATE BATH, 771442



## Health & Wellbeing Champion

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*

## Spring news from the Cricklade Band

It's a bit of a mixed bag of Spring news from the band this year. Much as usual we were out and about in Cricklade and all the surrounding villages on 18 occasions from just before December. Our festive season began with an invitation to play the opening night of the prestigious Westonbirt Arboretum's 'Enchanted Christmas' display. We only found afterwards that there were about 3500 people there during the evening! Our 'Christmas Present' show was sold out a week in advance and we're told it was 'one of the best'. We thank everyone for their donations for our festive carol-playing, thank you too to the increasing numbers of people coming to the doorsteps, singing along, tagging along with us, applauding and taking pictures – you're all very welcome!

Traditionally, we fund our rehearsal facilities and considerable insurance costs

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from the money we raise during the festive season and we also donate a sizeable chunk to a worthy cause. 'Brighter Futures' has already received part of the result of all our efforts.

At the beginning of the weekend of 21/22 January we were told that our former 'home', the Club, was being foreclosed – and that we had to move out by the end of that weekend! A tall order indeed with no notice. We made it with a great deal of hard work and the removal of 11 pallets of band equipment and our music library. The band was effectively homeless. By the time this is published we hope to confirm where our new 'home' will be. Again, it's taken an immense effort to locate somewhere for all the band 'family' and our equipment, it looked for a while that it may, regrettably, have been outside the town. We thank sincerely all those people who have helped and shown their loyal support during this very difficult time in the band's 130-year history.

**The Performance Band** events list for the year has filled up quicker than ever and sees us returning to Bath, Chippenham, Weston-super-Mare and Swindon bandstands and Westonbirt too. New venues this year include Lyme Regis and a possibility of Stratford on Avon. Our participation in local community events also has its welcome repeat listing.

The Performance Band itself now has Nicola and her alto saxophone, the first saxophone in the band for many, many years. If you play saxophone, specially tenor, why not come and join Nicola and create a sax section? In fact, just shout if you're a brass (or keyboard) player and like the sound of what we do!

**BandAcademy** continues enthusiastically with our student youngsters and not-so-youngsters taking part in several community events of their own and also joining the Performance Band in concerts. If you would like to learn to play an instrument then we would be pleased to see you. Just find out where we are from Facebook and call in and say hello.

If you'd like to be involved with all that the band does we're specially looking for some new recruits to our Crew. They're the valuable people who do all sorts except play an instrument. Have a look at Facebook for all the information you might need and drop in and have a chat.

Thanks for reading our news, it's all seemed to have turned out ok! - just a couple of diary dates to finish:

**Saturday 18 March** – Spring Table-Top Sale, somewhere in Cricklade\*, 11am to 1pm. If you're a Table-Top seller, please call 01793 750516 to book your table, still at just £5. Setting-up is from 10am. If you're a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? The band itself will have our famous eat-in or takeaway home-made cake array, tea, coffee, games of chance and a raffle or two. \*Watch out for posters or check with Facebook to find out where!

**Sunday 2 April** – Spring Show – 'Housewarming' – probably at the Town Hall, Cricklade at 7.30pm. A concert of music you'll know and love, also with the up-and-coming musicians of BandAcademy doing their bit too. Watch for the posters and Facebook details - tickets are just £4, available from Cricklade's Council Office in the High Street.

PAUL HEWER

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# Purton Diary - March 2017

1	W		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
		10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's Church
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
5	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	W		<b>International Women's Day</b>
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
10	F	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
		2.00pm	Purton Silver Threads Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
			<b>Magazine copy deadline</b> for April issue. Please ensure any handwritten submissions are sent to 2 College Road or 20 Hoggs Lane, and not 51 The Hyde. Thank you
11	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Knit-a-Square Coffee Morning, Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Concert at St Mary's Church
12	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
13	M		<b>Commonwealth Day</b>
		7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome - <i>dates of committees see page 6</i>
14	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Military Aviation</i>
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
15	W	11.45am	<i>to 1pm:</i> Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Purton Village Hall: AGM & Member's night - <i>My Favourite Decade</i>
16	Th	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council meeting at the Vicarage
18	Sa	11.00am	Cricklade Band spring table top sale - venue TBC
19	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		5.00pm	Youth Service at St Mary's Church
20	M		<b>Spring Equinox</b>
		7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Prospect Hospice, fundraising and services

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21	Tu	7.45pm 8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House <i>After 8: My Trip Down Memory Lane</i> led by Jacquie at her house
22	W	11.45am	<i>to 1pm:</i> Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
23	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society at Purton Village Hall: AGM followed by Marion Hobbs - <i>Touched by history</i>
24	F	7.30pm	General Knowledge & Pop Quiz, Purton Village Hall <b>Red Nose Day</b>
26	Su		<b>Start of British Summer Time - clocks go forward</b>
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Mothering Sunday United Parade Service at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
28	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Reminiscences of a Concorde Pilot</i>
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Paul Williams - <i>Swindon Now and Then</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
29	W	11.45am	<i>to 1pm:</i> Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
31	F	2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at *NEW VENUE* Jenner Hall

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### **April**

1	Sa	10.00am 10.00am	Coffee morning at Silver Threads Hall Purton Museum re-opens with a special event and displays
2	Su	7.30pm	Cricklade Band Spring Show at Cricklade Town Hall (TBC)
5	W	10.30am	Age Concern Mystery Tour with pub lunch
7	F	7.30pm	Age Concern 3B's Evening at Silver Threads Hall

### **Every week**

Tu	9.00am 12 noon 7.30pm	<i>to 11am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall (term time) Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am 6.30pm	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.00am 12 noon 2.00pm 2.20pm	<i>to 11am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall (term time) Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s <i>to 3pm:</i> Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall 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 March      ○ 12 March      ○ 20 March      ● 28 March

If your Club or Organisation's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road

or email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

## Church Floodlighting

- 18 February      The Church was floodlit in memory of three family members who passed away at this time.  
Mum, **Sheila Osborne**, Dad, **Pete Osborne** and Nan, **Lil Vincent**.  
Remembered with love by all the Osbornes and the Vincents
- 22 February      St Mary's was floodlit in memory of the passing of **Ray Suddaby**. Loved always by his wife Pat.
- 23 February      St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary of **John and May Griffin**.  
(Congratulations to them both!)
- 5 March            St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of my darling **Jeffrey Waite** for the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.  
He was very much loved and is missed by Iris, Roslyne, Lesley & family;  
and also Jeff's family, Ann, Julia, Robert, Helen & Annette.
- 12 March           The Church will be floodlit In memory of **John Dixon** who died one year ago on March 12.  
Loved by Valerie, Roy, Laura and family.
- 29 March           The Church will be lit for **Dom's Anniversary**.  
The years have passed:  
but our love for you will never fade.  
Luv from Mum, Dad and Leah X

*If you would like the church floodlit, for a special date, occasion, memorial, please contact Libbie: 771018. The cost is £18 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.*

## Purton Guide Dogs

On Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February I went to the Guide Dogs AGM and Branch Meeting for Swindon and District.

The current Chairman Alan Fletcher said that he was standing down, he has been in the post for eight years, and he thought it was time for some one new, possibly with fresh ideas to take the reins. And the two ladies who share the role of Secretary also stood down. Unfortunately, none of the members at the meeting offered to take on either of the roles, but two of the ladies offered to be Branch Organizers on a three-month trial, and the current Treasurer Kevin Reynolds, said he would continue on in the post. Gemma who was one of the representatives from Guide Dogs HQ, offered their support to get the Branch going again after the changes.

Our sincere thanks for your continued support for us.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group





## Scholar's Programme - Graduation Day

Ms Hunter reports: On Thursday 2 February, 10 students from Year 8 travelled to Cardiff University for the Graduation Trip. Students had been



studying Paternalism with their PHD tutor Jonny Scaramanga and had submitted a 1500-word essay to graduate. We were delighted to see Harry Gray received a grading of a First for his assignment. All students have been working on this topic and have submitted work 3 years ahead of their current school year standard.

During the trip we had a tour of Cardiff University, including lecture theatres and the Students' Union! Our Scholars were given a study skills session and information about what universities are like.

## Swindon Young Musicians Award, 2017

Mrs Fry reports: This was the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the Swindon Young Musician competition and we had 4 students representing Bradon Forest School. Two students in Junior category Elizabeth Lai and Charlotte Martin both playing the piano. In the Senior Section Jack McCarthy on drums and Caitlin MacClay voice. The students performed brilliantly. The adjudicator praised Elizabeth for her wonderful phrasing, Charlotte for the beautiful sound, Jack for his fantastic fills and Caitlin for the lovely way she portrayed the feel of the music. Charlotte was awarded highly commended in the junior section and Caitlin won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Senior Vocal section. Well done to all involved.

## Primary Spelling Bee

Teams from six of our partner primary schools have spent the morning battling it out to be the victors in our inaugural Bradon Forest Primary Spelling Bee Competition.

Teams are comprised of four of the best Year 5 spellers from each school; St Mary's, St Sampsons, St Francis, Oakhurst, Peatmoor and Bridlewood. Host and 'Spell Master', Mr Johnson, quizzed the groups through a variety of rounds including Animal Anagrams, Team Spelling, Choices, Pyramids and Food & Drink, before an individual spelling round where pupils had to spell their allotted word in front of the rest of the competitors.

It was great to see so much concentration and each team was eager to do their best and spell to win! Looking around the room you could see each pupil mouthing out the spellings as individuals took to the stage. They were willing each other to spell well, even if they weren't on the team.

Mr Johnson said: *"I was amazed at the ability these young people displayed. We threw some really challenging words their way and they rose to the challenge. Every single one of them should be proud of what they achieved."*

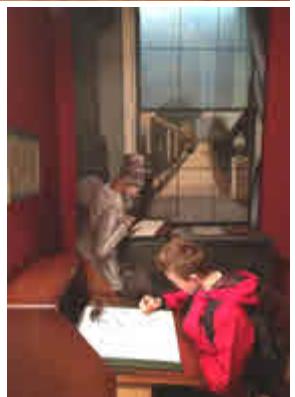
Congratulations to St Francis for winning with a total point score of 114. Well done everyone who took part, you were all outstanding! O.U.T.S.T.A.N.D.I.N.G.

### **Year 7 Most Able Trip to Explore Georgian Bath**

Ms Hunter reports: On Friday 27 January, 2017, Ms Hunter and Mr Morris took a group of Year 7 students out of school to experience Georgian Bath and visit the Jane Austen Centre. They were given a one-hour tour of the centre, finding out about who Jane Austen was, about her family and why she is going to be on the new £10 note! Students even got to try on some Georgian clothing and write with quills.

After that, the group enjoyed an hour walking tour of Georgian Bath. We wandered the streets Jane would have walked down, looking at the grand boulevard she lived near when her father was alive, to the worst street in Bath when her father had died and they had little money. Students found out about how Georgian society was all about socialising, even gossiping in the Cross Bath whilst wearing your bonnet or tall hat!

Students heard about Daylight Robbery taxes during the era and we even visited the part of Bath where duels were held and the saying 'pistols at dawn' was created.



## **YEAR 5 OPEN MORNING**

**Wednesday 8 March 2017**

**9.15am - 10.30am**

Book your FREE place here: <http://tinyurl.com/gv8yxmr>



**Bradon Forest School**  
[www.bradonforest.org.uk](http://www.bradonforest.org.uk)



## St Mary's Primary School

As we approach the end of Term 3 we have lots to celebrate at St Mary's School:

The annual Youth Speaks competition, organised by the Rotary Club, saw teams from local schools present a strictly-timed, prepared talk to an audience and judging panel. The St Mary's team had worked hard over recent weeks (all in their own time) to write, prepare and practise their talk, and were understandably thrilled to win this most challenging competition.



Congratulations to the St Mary's swimming team who won at the recent Cluster Swimming Gala. They had to compete against 6 other schools, swimming in individual and relay races, across the four stroke disciplines. Their behaviour and sportsmanship were exemplary and we were very proud of them and their achievement. Their success means the team have now qualified for the Level 3 competition in the County Finals.



On a very wet and muddy day in January, approximately 100 children from Key Stage 1 visited Quarry Farm along The Hyde. The children fed the pigs, visited the donkeys and found out how cows were milked. Needless to say, they all thoroughly enjoyed their trip. A huge thank-you to everyone on the farm who kindly gave up their time to show us around, and answer the thousands of questions the children had!

Staff News: This Term we warmly welcome Miss Richardson, Class 9 Teacher and Mrs Clark Class 7 Teacher. In addition, we have three new Teaching Assistants; Mrs Abbott, Mrs Eastman and Mrs Ward, and a new Handy Man, Mr Waldron.

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

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

*Mrs NAOMI CLARKE, Head Teacher*

# PURTON PLACARD

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

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 i

nclude 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).

**PURTON AGE CONCERN**

**Annual Auction**

Saturday 4 March  
At 1 pm in the Village Hall  
Come along and join in the  
bidding!

Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society presents  
**J Stainer's 'Crucifixion'**

Monday 10 April, 7.30pm  
at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church,  
Royal Wootton Bassett

Free admission, refreshments, retiring collection

Will Griffin & Billy Saunders  
World Challenge Trek in Nepal  
2018

**General Knowledge  
and Pop Quiz**

Friday 24 March, 7.30pm,  
Purton Village Hall  
Licensed Bar and Raffle  
£10 per team of six  
Tickets from Helen Griffin  
Tel: 771645/07710 765868

**PURTON AGE CONCERN**  
**Mystery Tour  
with pub lunch**

Wednesday 5th April  
Coach leaves at 10.30am  
Come and join us on  
our 1st outing of 2017!

**Southern & South Western Birman Cat Club**  
**Championship Cat Show**

at Ellendune Community Centre,  
Wroughton SN4 9LW  
Saturday 4 March

Open to public 12.30 to 4 pm  
Stalls, refreshments, raffle and beautiful cats.  
Admission £2.50 Adults, £1.50 concessions  
(under 12 must be accompanied by adult.)

Enquiries to  
01793 481554 Jackie, Show Manager

**PURTON AGE CONCERN**  
**3B's Evening**

Friday 7th April at 7.30pm  
at Silver Threads Hall  
Cost £6 and includes hot supper  
For tickets please contact  
Jenny Barnes on 770339

**KNIT-A-SQUARE**

**Coffee morning**

Saturday 11th March  
Silver Threads Hall, 10 am - 12 noon  
Homemade Cakes, Tombola, Raffle, New Yarn  
for sale, Bric-a-Brac & more. Admission £1,  
includes tea, coffee & biscuits.

# 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.



## ■ PADS PANTO PRAISE

As one of the founder members of Purton Amateur Dramatics, and having acted and supported them through the years, I felt I must congratulate them on 'King Humpty Dumpty'. This was the best panto I've seen. Humpty Dumpty, the Dame and evil fairy were excellent and the rest of the cast were very good, with scenery and costumes above their usual standard. It was very encouraging for them to have a full house on three days.

With support like this, they must be feeling proud, long may it continue.

Many people do not realise the hard work that goes into producing a panto or a play, behind the scenes. If you enjoyed 'King Humpty Dumpty', I've heard a whisper that next year it could be 'Toad of Toad Hall', so watch this space!

Jill Herbert

In Touch Services



InTouch  
Design & Print

## Keeping In Touch

News travels fast in Purton, and as soon as news got out that Helen and Rick were moving, I was being quizzed about the who, what, when, where and why of their departure!

As many of you will know, In Touch Services moved from its premises in Pavenhill last May, to Helen and Rick's home in The Hyde, where it's been business as usual. However, it was always Rick's intention to take a step back, when he felt the time was right.

I first met Helen through our work together on the Community Café project, and when it came to light that I was a graphic designer, embarking on a return to freelance work, a little bulb lit up above Helen's head.

After Rupert left in 2015 to pursue his sailing interests, Rick was in need of an extra pair of hands at In Touch with a view to the right person eventually taking over the business. So, from July 2015 I started working in the shop every Friday, while Rick showed me the ropes (of which there were many!). Printing on this scale was uncharted territory for me.

After graduating in 2001 with a 2:1 BA(Hons) in Graphic Design from Swansea Institute of Higher Education (now University of Wales Trinity St David College), I worked in various in-house design studios. During this time, I visited numerous

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commercial printers and picked up a thing or two about the print process and writing print specifications.

However, nothing had prepared me for Purton Magazine! Rick had spent the previous fifteen years or so perfecting the process, from the contributed articles (sometimes emailed, sometimes less easy to read, hand-written on the back of an envelope!) to the finished magazine and I was all too aware that one false move on my part could jeopardise the Purton public receiving their much-anticipated magazine on time, and waste reams of paper in the process!

Luckily, we encountered no serious disasters, and having just about passed my initiation into the print world, Rick and Helen asked if I would be interested in taking over the business.

This turned out to be another situation where I happened to be in the right place at the right time. In 2006, I started work at the in-house design studio of Oxfam, at their UK HQ in Cowley, Oxford. When I arrived at my interview I instantly recognised one of my interviewers as the former studio manager of a design company in Swindon, where I had spent a week doing work experience whilst at school in 1994. It was that week in that studio that made up my mind to pursue a career in graphic design. It was also my work at Oxfam that enabled me to start my own freelance design company in 2007, when I lived in Royal Wootton Bassett. I continued to work for Oxfam on a freelance basis, along with other NGOs and businesses. (I'll never forget the design meeting via Skype with a client from Oxfam International, I was in my office/spare room in RWB, he was in a field office in Addis Ababa – the wonders of technology!)

In 2010 I took a career break to have my first daughter and moved to Purton in 2012, just before the birth of our second daughter. With both girls now settled at St Mary's School, I've been taking on more freelance work and from the end of March I will be taking over the helm of In Touch Services.

Combining my freelance design work with Rick's print business made perfect sense and so In Touch Services will become In Touch Design & Print. I will be able to provide the same print service to local businesses and organisations that you are all used to, with the addition of my professional design skills and experience.

The business will be staying within the village too, moving from Rick's home in The Hyde to mine in College Road, where you'll be able to contact me on the same phone number and email address as before. The transition should be (almost) seamless, with Purton Magazine being produced as it has been since May 2016 ... and even 2004! As always, all submissions for the magazine should be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month and emailed to [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk) or posted through my door at 2 College Road.

All that's left is for me to wish Helen and Rick well in their new home with new challenges and opportunities beckoning, and I look forward to working with you all on your many and varied design and print requirements!

*HEATHER PONTING-BATHER, In Touch Design & Print*  
*heather@intouchpurton.co.uk*  
*07426 291544 & 01793 772954*

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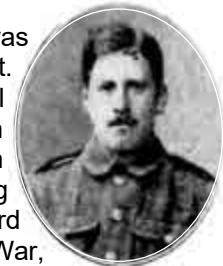
# Great War Project

## Part 44: March 1917

The only man with a Purton connection who was mobilised in March 1917 was:

Harry Tyler, Northamptonshire Regiment, Labour Corps, a groom, whose address was given as Stoke House, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire. His mother Sarah Tyler was listed as next-of-kin.

**Edward James Williams** (*pictured*) of Station Road, Purton, was serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. On 25 March 1917, the battalion was in trenches in the Dieppendaal Sector, some 5 miles southwest of Ypres. Edward was killed in action near Kemmel Hill in a dugout with 2 other men by a German shell; another 2 were wounded. He was aged 21. His Commanding Officer stated that he was a good man and a brave soldier. Edward was buried at Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery. After the War, individual graves and small cemeteries were moved to larger communal cemeteries by the Imperial War Graves Commission and his burial is now at the British Cemetery, Bailleul. Edward is remembered on the Purton War Memorial, and on the Memorial Board and in the Memorial Book both in St Mary's Church.



**USA:** On 1 March, the US government published the text of the Zimmermann Telegram via the newspapers; this telegram had contained a proposal for Mexico to join the war on the German side, with the offer of southwestern US states being ceded to Mexico. However, tensions between the US and Mexico had mostly passed and Mexico and the USA renewed diplomatic relations on 3 March. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Venustiano Carranza was elected president of Mexico and the US recognised his government.

Woodrow Wilson was sworn in for a second term as President of the United States on 4 March. The Zimmermann scandal and the continued German naval hostilities against neutral ships were pushing the US towards war and on 12 March the United States announced the arming of all of its merchant vessels in the war zone ... by Presidential executive order after failing to win approval from Congress.

The same day, a German submarine sank the Algonquin, an unarmed US merchant ship. By 20 March, after the sinking of 3 more American merchant ships, Wilson and his war cabinet, voted unanimously in favour of declaring war on Germany. This would still have to be accepted by Congress and Wilson planned to get that through in April.

In an unrelated deal, on 31 March the United States completed its \$25 million purchase of the Danish West Indies, which were renamed the US Virgin Islands.

**Russia:** Events of major significance were also happening in Russia, with the outbreak of the February Revolution.

Confusingly this happened in March 1917 as the Russian Empire still used the old Julian calendar which was 13 days adrift from the modern Gregorian calendar. I have

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used the modern calendar here apart from noting the old calendar date of the start.

On 7 March, [old calendar 22 February], the Russian February Revolution broke out in Petrograd (now St Petersburg) with food riots in that starving city including a massed women's demand for increased bread supplies to be procured. Riots spread quickly through Petrograd, fuelled by unrest over the conduct of the war and poor to non-existent supplies of food, clothing and equipment to troops. A strike broke out at the Putilov factory, a major ironworks, producing steel, artillery shells, railway rolling stock. This could not be ignored and, by the 11<sup>th</sup>, Tsar Nicolas II ordered the army to put down the civil unrest by firing on them, but the army mutinied and joined the protesters.

In the face of mutiny, the Duma (parliament) set up a Provisional Government on 12 March. Revolutionary activists, Stalin, Kamenev & Muranov arrived in Petrograd and formed a rival soviet Executive Committee the same day. The Russian Provisional Government (RPG) removed the Premier and the Minister for War from office on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

On 15 March, the Tsar abdicated and dissolved his sons' claims of to the throne. His last act in power was to nominate his brother, Grand Duke Michael, to succeed him, but the Grand Duke declined and power passed to the RPG under the premiership of Prince Georgy Lvov. The Russian Empire had ended after 196 years.

The Provisional Government was recognised by Britain, France, Italy, USA, Rumania and Switzerland on 22 March.

While these negotiations were going on, mutiny broke out in the Russian Baltic Fleet on 16 March.

Other things started unravelling. Since the Tsar was no longer head of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Georgian Orthodox Church restored its independence (autocephaly) on 25 March, which had been denied to them by Imperial Decree in 1811. Then on the 30<sup>th</sup>, the Provisional Government acknowledged the independence of Poland.

**Mesopotamia & Persia:** While the Russian February Revolution was in progress, Russian activity in western Persia (Iran) against Ottoman forces continued, with the recapture of Hamadan, Kermanshah and Qasr-i-Shirin.

Meanwhile British and Indian forces crossed the Diyala river in Mesopotamia on 5 March, occupying Baghdad on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Egyptian & Palestine Front:** British forces began an offensive in Palestine on 24 March, which resulted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Gaza on 26 March. The British Egyptian Expeditionary Force troops virtually encircled the Gaza garrison but were ordered to withdraw, leaving the city to the Ottoman defenders on 27 March. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the Jews of Tel Aviv and Jaffa were expelled by the Turkish authorities.

**The War at Sea:** Three British hospital ships were mined or torpedoed in March: Glenart Castle (towed to Southampton), Asturias (beached) and Gloucester Castle (towed ashore). None was sunk but they were damaged and put out of action.

The German surface raider Leopard was sunk on 16 March in an action with British ships HMS Achilles and armed steamer Dundee. German destroyers raided Ramsgate and Broadstairs on the Kent coast on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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The French Dreadnought battleship Danton was sunk by submarine south of Sardinia in the Mediterranean on 19 March. 806 men were rescued by escort vessels, but 296 went down with the ship, including Captain Delage.

**Austria-Hungary:** The war had not been going well for Austria and on 31 March, the Austrian Emperor Charles sent a letter to President Poincaré of France containing a secret proposal to open peace discussions. This ran totally counter to the agreement between the Central Powers not to seek a separate peace.

**Western Front:** On 14 March, the German army began its planned withdrawal from the Somme front, strategically falling back on the Hindenburg Line defences to the east.

**China:** On 14 March, the Republic of China cut off diplomatic relations with Germany.

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



Purton History Society held its first meeting of the year on 26 January in the Village Hall. As usual a full house for Paul Booy to hear and see his illustrated talk on The Enclosure Act, its meaning and effects on Purton.

The Common Lands had always been free for the people to grow food for themselves and family and pay a tenth (or tithe) as rent to the Church and Lord of the Manor. This was stored in a tithe barn. (We have a superb example in Purton near the church-but sadly shut up and not open to the public). Generally, crops were grown in rotation - 1<sup>st</sup> year wheat, 2<sup>nd</sup> year barley, 3<sup>rd</sup> year fallow to preserve fertility. But the system was wasteful, seed was wasted and workers walked long distances to their plots. Villagers had no legal right to their lands. Lords of Manors and the Church forced a scheme of fields to be enclosed by walls, which was enforced by Parliament, but was disastrous for the poor as they were driven off where many starved.

However, it improved soil fertility, crops, animal food etc and it ensured the success of the following Industrial Revolution by reducing wages paid to the workers forced off the land.

A fascinating lecture on our own local history. Maps, pictures and tools can be seen in our museum (over the library) which will be reopening on 1st April - Free to all.

Apologies for the faulty sound system which will have been corrected before our February talk.

JILL WATTS, [teddington1940@gmail.com](mailto:teddington1940@gmail.com)

**Thursday 23rd March 2017 – 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall**

**Annual General Meeting** followed by – ‘Touched by History’ – Marion Hobbs (*To replace ‘Enclosures’ that was presented at January’s meeting*).

The first half of the meeting will cover the AGM business, i.e. Chairman’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Museum news, Election of Officers etc. There will be a break for

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refreshments with the opportunity to browse over the Society's notices and details of future events. We also have two new pamphlets available – 'Pubs and Ale Houses of Purton' and 'Non-Conformity: The Foundation of the Methodist Churches of Purton'.

This will be followed by a short reflection Entitled 'Touched by History' when Marion will share her thoughts - 'How History has repeated itself in both England and Ireland'. Remembering, entwined with the life of a poet, accompanied with photographs of Purton, Brixham and her homeland, Ireland.

### **Grand Re-opening of The Purton Museum**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 - 10.00 a.m. - 12.30p.m.

Following the Winter closure, the museum will re-open with this special event. Members of the Society will be present and light refreshments will be available. Displays will include the recently restored Golden Chapter. This book, which was previously kept in the church, commemorates local people who lost their lives in the First World War.

Also on display will be the ceramic poppies. Every poppy is unique and is inscribed with the name of a person whose life was lost in the First World War.

**Thursday 27th April 2017** - 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall

Historic Wootton Bassett – Roger Smith (further details to follow)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017** - 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall

Avebury through the Ages - John Farrow (further details to follow)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** - Annual Outing (further details to follow)

*New Members and visitors always welcome*

TONY & JANET NEATE E mail: [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com), tel: 01793 770117

### **Swindon Choral Society**

The next concert is at Marlborough College Chapel on Saturday, 1 April. Robin Nelson will conduct the choir and chamber orchestra in Poulenc's Gloria and Organ Concerto and Gounod's Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cecile. The choir is joined by soloists Ian Crabbe (Organ), Laurette Pope (Harp), Ben Schoeman (Piano), Augusta Hebberts (Soprano), Alessandro Fisher (Tenor), Richard Quine (Bass/Baritone).

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets are £15 (one under-18 free with one full paying adult). Tickets on the door or visit [www.swindonchoral.org.uk](http://www.swindonchoral.org.uk)

Pre-concert discussion on the Poulenc works at St Peter's Church, at 6:30pm with Robin Nelson & Ben Schoeman on piano. Admission by concert ticket.

### **Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE**

Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door. For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area.

Postal deliveries cost £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.

# A Book I will Always Remember

*Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago and whether serious or funny, factual or fictional? Each month we are hoping to publish a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader and especially why it has become so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very long and probably not much more than 450 - 500 words. As usual, the copy date is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month and our contact details are on [page 4](#).*

## "Emma" by Jane Austen

The first Jane Austen I read, at 14, was "Pride and Prejudice", which I loved then for the romance and the glamour of late 18<sup>th</sup> Century social life. Austen's satirical judgement of the Tory gentry from whom she came passed me by completely. I experienced the same limited reaction at 16 on first reading "Emma", but the raised eyebrows of my wonderful and terrifying English teacher, Miss Morgan, aka the Gorgon, told me I was missing everything of significance. Thanks to her initial guidance I eventually gained a true appreciation of Austen's deeply moral vision of life. This sounds very serious, but both Austen herself and her readers have a great deal of fun while watching her characters negotiate the pitfalls we all meet on the road to maturity.

When we first meet Emma Woodhouse she is "handsome, clever, rich" and just 20 years old, but has "too much her own way and a disposition to think a little too well of herself." She befriends the naïve, amiable but silly Harriet Smith, of doubtful parentage, decides on no grounds except her own fancy, that Harriet's father must be of good birth and ruthlessly causes her to refuse a local farmer whom she loves, encouraging her instead to aspire to Mr Elton, the new vicar. Even I, at first reading, could see that Mr Elton was after rich, well-born Emma and saw Emma's friendliness as decidedly favourable. The comedy is played out over many scenes, with Emma priding herself on her superior understanding of everyone's motivation and ignoring warnings from more perceptive friends. It culminates in Emma's outraged refusal of his hand and his outrage at Emma thinking Harriet could be suitable for him.

Emma is very contrite, but still her errors continue. Having failed to appreciate Mr Elton's self-serving ambition, she then imagines that she and Frank Churchill, who is secretly engaged to Jane Fairfax, are falling in love with each other. Even worse, during a boring social engagement she amuses herself by imagining that Jane Fairfax must be in love with her best friend's husband and informs Frank Churchill of this. Many complications later, Emma is horrified to find that Harriet thinks Mr Knightley, the Woodhouse family's long term friend and advisor, may be about to propose to her. Only now does Emma realise she herself loves Mr. Knightley. She endures a long day of anguished retrospection, seeing clearly at last how her own vanity and self-deception has created this situation. As this is

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social comedy, Mr Knightley arrives the next day, all is finally made clear and the novel ends with Harriet marrying her faithful farmer and Emma marrying Mr Knightley.

DIANA THOMBS

# Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

The reason was neither a sadness nor celebration but rather something of a mystery. BBC Points West reported that "Police in a Wiltshire village have been trying to get to the bottom of an underwear mystery" after around 30 pairs of knickers had been draped over road signs and elsewhere in Purton since the previous November. All the items appeared to be new as well as of quite good quality. The highlight of the report was the quote from the Police – "we don't know if it's a criminal offence or a prank; if it's a prank, please tell us."

Writing this 10 years later – and just a few days before Valentine's Day 2017 – the opportunity to create a crime or comedy short story on that piece of notoriety for the village has yet to be taken up by any reader; the offer to publish such a story in future editions of your magazine remains.

In the February 2007 Magazine was a letter pointing out that members of the same family had lived in the same house in Purton for nearly 100 years. In the following magazine, we were able to publish two more letters with details of families that have lived in their same house for 105 and 113 years. Perhaps we have started a new local game of Top Trumps and look forward to receiving future claims to the title.

Another letter published 10 years ago came all the way from Pukekohe, just South of Auckland in New Zealand, written by an "ex-pat Purtonian" asking for some local knowledge. Down there, where apparently the water disappears down the plug hole in the opposite direction from us 'up here', the writer had started to bake some lardy cakes. His successes were that they looked, smelled and tasted like ours but his missing ingredient was the sticky topping and he was asking what the secret was. Probably because the recipe for the traditional Purton topping was (is?) a secret, we don't know if his request was ever answered.

For anyone completely new to the concept of Lardy Cake, Master Baker Paul Hollywood explains...

*"Lardy cake is a traditional English tea bread enriched with lard, sugar, spices and dried fruit. It originates from Wiltshire and is commonly found throughout the West Country. Historically, lardy cakes were celebration cakes and only made during special occasions as sugar, spices and dried fruits were considered luxuries. The relatively high fat content of lardy cakes means they will stay moist for longer than traditional cakes."* Credit: [www.bbc.co.uk/food/lardy\\_cake](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/lardy_cake)

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

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## Purton & District Probus Club

On the 11th of January **Martin Evans, an “Ambassador” of the Bloodhound Project**, presented a talk, which included videos and much technical information, on the latest British attempt on the Land Speed Record, the target being 1000 mph. The project’s aims are two-fold: to encourage young people to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in schools and universities, and to break the current record which stands at just over 763 mph. The team is headed by Richard Noble, the Project Director, himself a previous world speed record holder. The driver will be the current world land speed record holder, RAF fighter pilot Andy Green.

The car is required to accelerate from 0 to 1000 mph in 55 seconds, maintain this speed for 3.6s over a measured mile, decelerate, turn around, refuel and repeat the run in the opposite direction all within one hour in order to register the record. This will need a race-track of 12 to 13 miles.

Bloodhound SSC (supersonic car) is approximately 13.4m long and weighs 7.5 tonnes. The design is a mix of car and aircraft technology, with the front section being a carbon fibre monocoque (a safety capsule housing the driver who will use an oxygen supply) and the back portion a metallic framework with bulkheads and panels in an aircraft construction. The two front wheels sit within the body and the two rear wheels are mounted externally and carry fairings to reduce the sonic boom. The car will be powered by a jet engine and a rocket which together will produce 135,000 horsepower, about 6 times the power of all the cars on a F1 starting grid. The Jet Engine, a compact and powerful Turbofan, is the Rolls Royce Eurojet EJ200 as used in the Typhoon fighter. This will take it to about 550mph, when reheat and rockets will be turned on to boost it to the ultimate speed. The Nammo (Norwegian) solid fuel rocket heats up to 3000°C as the gases are forced out of the nozzle to produce thrust. There is an Auxiliary Power Unit which will drive the Rocket Oxidiser Pump, to deliver 800 litres of HTP to the rocket in just 20 seconds from a high-pressure stainless steel tank at 1200psi. This unit is powered by a 550 bhp Jaguar supercharged V8 I.C. engine.

The wheels are not driven, but disc brakes will be fitted to slow the vehicle below 250 mph. However, the wheels are solid and of a special high density aluminium alloy construction to resist the extreme centrifugal forces. Initial braking from high speed will be achieved with air-brakes similar to aircraft flaps and contact pressure with the ground will be controlled by electronically operated miniature ailerons above each wheel.

The Bloodhound supersonic car is unique and has demanded much spearhead development. The complexity of the engineering concept, together with its aerodynamics, make it an ideal project to inspire STEM educational programmes in schools and universities. Sixty to one-hundred thousand students per year have become involved during its development, giving them hands-on experience and quite a lot of excitement. Already a model rocket car has achieved 533.1 mph, a record entered in the Guinness Book of Records. Rolls Royce, Nammo and Castrol were founder financial sponsors of the project together with many others, the latest being Geely, the largest car manufacturer in China!

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The present target of the programme is to be an attempt, on the Hakskeen Pan in the Northern Cape of South Africa, to set a new record of 800 mph plus, in October 2017, and 1000 mph the following year. This was a very informative presentation by Martin and we were given a very clear picture of the project and how it is inspiring a new generation of young engineers.

On January 24th **RAF veteran ‘Winco’ Paul Morris** addressed the meeting with “Defence Cuts”, an account of the progressive decommissioning of military personnel and hardware from WW1 to the present day, i.e. the last 100 years. Paul used a graphical display to show the fluctuation of the total headcount which included Army, Navy and RAF figures: 1914-18 – 1.5m rising to 4.5 million; 1939-45 – 1.0m rising to 4.9 million; 1950-53 (Korea) 800,000, 1990 – 300,000, 2003 (Iraq) – 200,000.

Regarding budget costs, the USA in 1988 spent 5.6% of GDP on defence while the UK spent 3.8% of its GDP. In 2015 the USA spent only 3.3% on defence, while the UK’s budget had shrunk to 1.9%. Technical advances have allowed a much faster and direct response, but we still rely on the American C17 to move heavy equipment.

The talk was illustrated by short videos and images of the vast array of ships and aircraft that have become redundant even during Paul’s career in the RAF. An impressive video was that of Hurricanes and Spitfires against mass formations of enemy bombers in the Battle of Britain, a purely defensive fight which defeated the Nazi Blitz.

Modern-day combat in the air is fought with heat-seeking missiles at a much greater range than that of the cannon in a 1941 Spitfire. The Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Nimrod, served from 1970 to 2010, keeping a radar watch on ships and submarine manoeuvres. ‘Eye in the Sky’ satellites and drones, operated from a keyboard in Los Alamos, can do a comparable job. The Harrier, with its revolutionary features, proved its worth in the Falklands conflict, but high cost and restricted speed caused it to be decommissioned in 2011. Aircraft carriers Hermes and Invincible have been taken out of service, likewise Ark Royal. Paul assured us that though the military has been scaled down, we still have, with the USA, the best defence system in the world.

Two Queen Elizabeth class carriers are being built, promised for 2020, which will carry the F35B Multi-Role Combat Aircraft and the latest Westland HC4 Merlin helicopters. The UK’s nuclear deterrent is vitally important and will shortly consist of four Vanguard-class submarines each carrying up to 16 Trident ballistic missiles, (usually 8, together with more conventional weapons to answer a variety of threats to our security). At least one sub is constantly on patrol, while one undergoes maintenance and the others carry out manoeuvres. Paul explained that defence is an ongoing struggle to stay abreast, even if not ahead, of our enemies. For this reason, it is constantly reviewed and tested.

Purton Probus meets in the Red House lounge every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am. Visitors and new members welcome. March programme: 14th – Military Aviation, 28th – Reminiscences of a Concorde Pilot.

**BOB STEVENS**

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



I thought that our January meeting would be perfect for those with a sweet tooth as we were welcoming Jon from Liquorice Heaven, but we learnt so much more about liquorice than it being merely an item of confectionery that we consumed as children, and indeed we found a few adult addicts amongst us.

Liquorice root is a herb that dates back to ancient times and it has a long history, but space is limited here, save to say that it was found in great quantities in the tomb of Tutankhamen!

It is also thought to have medicinal qualities and the long list includes use as an antidepressant, an anti-inflammatory and antibacterial.

Thank you, Jon, for a most interesting and tasty evening. Jon will be donating his fee to Prospect Hospice.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 15 March at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall when we will have our AGM followed by members talking about their lives. You could be remembering a misspent youth of the 50s, 60s 70s or an interesting, amusing or maybe even a sad one off event that is indelibly in your memory.

As usual visitors are always welcome (admission £3).

HELEN DIXON, tel. 770648

## Free Outdoor Learning session for tots

The Army Welfare Service is supporting free Outdoor Learning sessions for pre-school children in the garden at MoD Lyneham Community Centre. The Sessions are running from February to October 2017.

For more information contact [chrissie@learning-with-nature.org](mailto:chrissie@learning-with-nature.org)

## Male Choir joint Concert

Wessex Male Choir and Swindon Male Voice Choir are joining together for an evening of top quality music and entertainment at Swindon's MECA on 25 March.

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.

Some rousing joint numbers with over 100 voices will make 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 principal accompanist for the Wessex.

Doors open at 7 pm and tickets for the event (£12.50) are on sale from Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus; from the Wessex on 01285 869955 and Swindon MVC on 01793 822495; or [tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk) or [Swindonmalevoicechoir@msn.com](mailto:Swindonmalevoicechoir@msn.com). In Purton, you can get them from Stuart Allison (01793 772359) or Rick Dixon (01793 772954); in Purton Stoke from Ken Bull (01793 772384).

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

There was a good attendance at our first meeting of the new year which began with a brief AGM when Moira White, our chairperson, presented a review of the previous year's activities.



On behalf of members, Moira expressed grateful thanks to David Herbert and Laura Comley who have now resigned from the committee after many years service.

The business side of the AGM completed, Moira introduced our speaker, Alan Holland, who had joined us to speak on the subject of TWIGS, based at Manor Garden Centre, Cheney Manor, Swindon.

He began by explaining that TWIGS (Therapeutic Work in Gardening in Swindon) was formed in 1997 by a local lady who realised the benefits that working with nature could bring to people experiencing mental health problems including depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and personality disorders.

Part funded by Swindon Borough Council, Zurich and the Community Trust, additional income for TWIGS is generated from sales (plants and crafts), donations and earned income from contracts, whilst 'Friends of TWIGS', their volunteer led fundraising arm, brings in approximately £30,000 per annum by way of the Olive Tree Café in the garden centre.

We learned that a team of paid staff (1 full time, 5 part-time) and 27 independent volunteers support the 80-100 service users currently registered.

Alan explained that the aim of TWIGS is to give people with mental health issues the chance to regain confidence and self-esteem and to learn new skills in a safe environment, so acting as a stepping stone to recovery, further education or work. This is achieved via the wealth of resources available including a large garden site, nursery area, craft studio, kitchen, café and organic allotment site.

A 'Wildlife garden', the 'Potager garden', the 'Physic garden' and the 'Path of Life garden' are among eleven themed gardens open to the public from 10.00-3.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The 'Path of life' garden features a serpentine path running through a garden planted using colour, texture and habit which reflects and evokes a mood. This symbolises the journey that people have to make from crisis to recovery.

The obvious benefits of working with nature were highlighted, on the video Alan showed as part of his presentation, with one service user saying 'While I'm working in the garden, the garden is working on me' and another enthusiastically stating 'This is a little bit of heaven on earth'.

To conclude, Alan highlighted the positive soft outcomes for clients. These include social interaction, motivation, creativity, concentration and communication skills whilst hard outcomes result in paid employment, voluntary work, supported work, practical skills and certificated training.

Pete Berry offered a vote of thanks to Alan for his professional presentation offering us such an informative background to TWIGS and what it means to the community.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28 March at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall when our speaker will be Dr Keith Ferguson who will be entertaining us with a talk entitled 'Flowers, Flamboyant to Demure'. The competition will be '5 Daffodils'. New members and visitors may be assured of warm welcome.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, 770906

## Purton Bowls Club

Here we go again, getting ready for another season. Already work has been started on the green, and if the weather allows it we will be ready for us to use in April (date to be finalised).



I hope you have all wintered well and have not been attacked by the raft of bugs and colds that have blighted so many people recently. What with that and the political maelstrom that seems to have affected the whole world, we shall be glad to get out and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Bowls Green.

The Club will be having a pre-season meeting on the 31st March which will be the day before the closing date for paying this years' subs, so make sure you come to this. It will also be a chance to meet up with all your colleagues before the season starts.

This year we will have more coaches for our training days and Friday evening sessions will be up and running as soon as the green opens. I talk to a lot of people that aren't aware of our coaching scheme, and if people are interested then ring me on 778119 for more details.

There is going to be another Village Centre Open Day on the 20th May and we will be supporting this with lots of fun, bowls-related games for all ages to enjoy. Details will follow in next months' notes.

I have some sad news as well, Ron Slade who was 93 this year, and a member of the Club for so many years, died in hospital on the 22nd January after an emergency ambulance was called to his house the day before. We send our condolences to his family at this sad time.

PETER BERRY

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



The casual walker passing by our Cricket Field will hopefully admire its delightful setting, its manicured playing area and its general well cared for appearance. In spite of a far too early cut of the meadowed area last year, the cowslips will soon be evident but other wild flowers may take longer to recover. Such matters underline the fact that the running of the Cricket Club in Purton is akin to having a house with outbuildings and a large specialised garden to care for.

My first headmaster, Mr Jack Maisey, recalled to me in 1964 that in earlier years he had loved playing at Purton. He was an accomplished slow bowler and the Purton pitch was renowned for its array of plantains! By 1964 these weeds had vanished and for the last fifty or so years we have been lucky enough to have had a succession of people willing to take on the responsibility for the caring of the playing area and the pitch itself.

Herbie Smith seemed to be the man who carried this burden in the early sixties; Alec Grant, Dave Evans and Michael Canter were to follow. Naturally they did not work alone and a much longer list of good people has been left out. Now we should rue the loss of two more stalwarts of the Club who have 'retired' this year. Father and son, Joe and Mark Gardner, have worked endlessly over the years to provide excellent wickets. It was through Mark's initiative that the whole square came to be

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re-laid over a period of years. It should also be mentioned that Joe and Mark steered the Club through a very difficult period some ten years ago, when dedicated workers, to say the least, were somewhat thin on the ground. Since that time our fortunes have much improved and other very dependable members have emerged.

By the time you are reading this it will be early March and, goodness gracious, there will be early season cricket at Purton in not so many weeks.

DAVID BISSET



The last few weeks of writing this have been rather wet so not a lot of tennis has been played. Despite this, the A team should win the Winter League with B team 3<sup>rd</sup> in their division.

Social tennis will continue on a Sunday morning - non-members always welcome.

We are running coaching programmes for children during the Easter break – see website for details – as well as all our normal programmes.

Pre-season training is starting for the Summer League and we should have new fencing up on Courts 1&2

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or [www.purtontennisclub.com](http://www.purtontennisclub.com)

LINDSEY HALL, Chairman

## Purton Open Gardens 2017

There is still time to enter your garden or group of gardens into Purton Open Gardens 2017 ... and to have a say on the dates chosen.

We normally have gardens open on a Saturday and Sunday in June or July, between 10 am and 4 pm - the date is open for discussion. If you think you might like to have your garden as part of the event, but don't feel you could do both days, don't worry. We've had several gardens open for just one day in previous years.

It isn't a competition, rather a fundraising weekend for local charities from the sale of public admission programmes. You can also raise money for your own favourite charity by serving teas and coffees, cream teas, sandwiches, garden or plants, whatever takes your fancy!

Some new gardens would refresh the selection for visitors. Gardens don't have to be pristine, weed-free or large, just a reflection of your gardening interests.

A group of residents in a street could perhaps join forces and make a scenic display from the street without having visitors on their property. We provide event insurance, direction signs and a garden programme with a map.

If you have opened your garden before, or are new to the idea, call me on 770552 or email [the.yerburys@btinternet.com](mailto:the.yerburys@btinternet.com). Once we have a number of interested people to make it worthwhile, you will be welcomed to a meeting at one of our houses to decide the date and other details. We're very informal and you won't be pressed into a committee role.

We'd love to have you with us!

NICK YERBURY

## Something to ponder...

"Different and new is just the same old if you keep doing it over and over."

Kyran Pittman, Good Housekeeping, June 2011

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## After 8

Once again in January we were all busy trying to bring to mind the events of 2016 ready for Jan Walker's "Quiz of the Year". As usual it reminded us of some good things and some we would like to forget.



This year there was a sheet for each month of the year. So with the swopping of the sheets and calls of "I need April etc" we completed the year. Some were accused of passing on information ...but whether it was the correct information and perhaps not in the correct order. Some things we thought were correct proved completely wrong. Who knew or even cared that Brad Pitt had broken off a new relationship but we all got the Bake Off question right. We've evidently got our priorities right.

Jan managed to cover football, politics, TV and even the Archers. We now know that the release of capturing the Pokémon would lead to accidents to drivers and pedestrians'. Looking at the e-mails flying around everyone had a great evening. Lorraine had decided that our rendition of "The twelve Days of Christmas" last December was below par so she taught us a new version. On the first day of Christmas my colleagues gave to me, A nice hot cup of tea, followed by paper clips, Pritt sticks (other glue sticks are available), ten gold stars, six annoying texts and ending with twelve cups of coffee.

Our thanks to Jan for organising an enjoyable evening as we recalled fond memories of the Referendum, Eurovision and the usual fight over what qualified for a half point.

Our meeting in March will be "My trip down Memory Lane" led by Jacquie at her home on Tuesday 21st March.

EVE BOOY

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