

Purton. Magazine

April 2017



Sculptor, Daren Greenhow from South Wales, working on the Purton Re-mount Depot commemorative sculpture. See page 43 for the full story

50p

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Sugery	770207
Dental Sugery	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, bethaney23@icloud.com	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020

Schools & Playgroups

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Purton Under 5s'	Fionna Griffiths	771723
Community Playgroup		
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239

Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk	
	Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judith@judithwells.wanadoo.co.uk	
	Tel: 770627	

Wardens	Sandra Horsnall:	Jane Smith:
	770157	772422

Administrator: Rosie Harris administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035

Methodist Churches *For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship*

Minister: Revd David Perkins Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw,
Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT

Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett

www.thesacredheartparish.uk

Parish Priest: Tel: 852366

Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues

Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell Tel: 325681

Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm

Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade

Priest: Father Michael Robertson Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Services: Holy Days 7.0pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.

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Purton. Magazine

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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2017

INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Maybe *Warhorse*, the wonderful children's novel by Michael Morpurgo has helped to bring the Purton Remount Depot more into our understanding and appreciation. For any reader who has not seen the film, the West End show or who has not read the book, the story is about Joey, a working horse commandeered during the First World War. The cacophonous and chaotic nature of that war as experienced by a working horse highlighted the pointlessness of all the violence in this very poignant story.

The idea for the book came after the author had met in a pub, a First World War veteran who had served in the Devon Yeomanry working with horses. The story is so vivid that it is easy to imagine horses like Joey from around the South West being gathered for training at the Purton Remount Depot, perhaps mixing there with traumatised horses already returned from the front for a period of convalesce before returning to the fray. All this is brought to our attention by Bob Lloyd's tireless researching. Now – and as you will see on our front cover this month – a commemorative sculpture is being created to remember the work carried out at Manor Hill during the Great War and more details can be found on page 43.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about changes to the Number 53 bus service to and from the village, due to come into effect on 3rd April – more details are on page 10, along with details of the Number 50 bus service being replaced by the shared Taxibus service operated by Bradies Connect.

There seem to be so many basic but beautiful daffodils brightening up our village this year and with the birds singing and the leaves sprouting, provide a sure sign of Spring. Easter is a wonderful time for floral displays, embodying for some people the new life that is the outcome of the Easter story – more details are on page 29 – and the Magazine Committee wish every reader a very happy Eastertide.

On page 14 we learn that Age Concern will be producing their own calendar for 2018 showing village scenes and are asking anyone to submit their photographs. With the longer, lighter days, here is a wonderful opportunity to get your cameras (or phones) out when walking around the village and perhaps some scenes could be used on future magazine front covers.

8 July

Is the date for Purton
Open Gardens this year
– see page 43

£1,429

Raised at the recent
Knit-a-Square coffee
morning – see page 55

≈750,000

People in the UK keep
hens in their gardens –
see page 30



Cemetery Land

As with most Parish and Town Councils land acquisition for burial provision is difficult to find and we are therefore asking the Community if they are aware of any pockets of land within Purton which the Council could consider suitable for future burial development land. Please contact the Clerk direct.

Cemetery Update – We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the works being undertaken to the “old cremated remains section” at the bottom of the Cemetery. There is still a large amount of work to be carried out to finalise the project and we appreciate your co-operation. Any comments or concerns please contact the Clerk direct.

The Great British Spring Clean

As part of the ongoing national campaign, Purton Parish Council has a small quantity of litter pickers and high-viz vests available for those who wish to borrow.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speedwatch (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 or Debbie Lawrence on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call the office on 01793 771066.

Family Fun Day

We are holding our second Parish Council FUN DAY on Saturday 20th May 2017 from 11am to 4pm at the Village Centre, Church Street with funfair, stalls, crafters, charity groups and Purtons clubs. Stall holders wanted for outside space – bric a brac, home made goodies, crafts, plants. Please contact the Clerk for more information: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call 01793 771066 – Please spread the word.

Purton Footpaths

Purton is very fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteers who work with both Purton Parish and Wiltshire Councils to keep as many of the 161 footpaths as they possibly can open. Wiltshire Council has limited funds to maintain these pathways and Purton Parish Council works with the volunteers to provide as much “hands on” and financial support as feasible. If anyone in Purton is thinking

of ways to remember a loved one or invest in the village, please consider the sponsoring of a Kissing Gate or Stile on one of our footpaths. Kissing Gates allow some of the footpath walks to be accessible to a wider group of walkers whilst giving a durable solution. If you would like to know more, please contact our offices for more information.

April Meeting Dates

Monday 3 April 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 10 April 2017 Council Meeting

Monday 17 April 2017 Play Areas Meeting

Monday 24 April 2017 Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity Meeting

Dog Fouling Act

Wiltshire Council are 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 03004560100 or email lostdogs@wiltshire.gov.uk .

Planning

Permission Granted with conditions

16/11062/FUL Folly Down Farm, Packhorse. Erection of Stables and Change of Use to Equestrian.

16/09804/FUL Harford House Stores, Harford House. Station Road. Installation of 3 items of External Plant to Service Operational Requirements of Retail Unit.

16/09805/FUL Harford House Stores, Harford House. Station Road. Installation of Two 800mm Dia. Satellite Dishes onto Rear Elevation of Existing Retail Unit.

16/10218/FUL 17 Restrop View. Two Storey Side Extension.

16/11073/FUL Parkview, White Lodge Farm. Braydon. Replacement and Extension of Existing Attached Garage to Comprise Garaging, Boot/Was Room. Farm Office and Attic Storage.

Appeals

APP/Y3940/D/16/3159601 – 6 Locks Lane – Granted.

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

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

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066

email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

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

Purton Parish Council @PurtonPC

Changes to No. 53 bus service

I have been advised that the current No. 53 bus service in Purton is due to change as from 3rd April 2017. This is because, although subsidised by Wiltshire Council, the current service is no longer viable and the operator needed to look at how to keep running at the subsidy level being received.

The Council did go out to tender to see if other operators could offer a service but the end result is that Stagecoach will continue to run the bus through the village but on a much reduced timetable.

A significant subsidy is being paid for a 2 year contract and to continue the service at the same level the subsidy would have had to be almost doubled. Posters will be going up onto the bus stops.

I note on the timetable that the No. 50 bus is being replaced by the shared Taxibus service operated by Bradies Connect. This service will offer more journeys than the current bus service. You will need to book a seat by phoning Bradies on 01249 890794.

I wonder if this will give us more flexibility and also mean we can get to Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett everyday where there are other bus routes into Swindon etc. I have asked for more information.

NEWS JUST IN...

I have found out some more information on the taxibus service which is to take over from the No 50 bus.

The new taxibus service for Purton starts on 3 April run by Bradies. I have rung them to find out the cost of a journey. For those holding Wiltshire bus passes then the journeys are free except for the non-concessionary time of 7:20. For those paying fares then the cost is £2 per zone. Each zone seems to be 4 miles or under. Hence, if travelling 4.1miles then the cost is £4.

The service is bookable but it could be on the day if you ring and there is space, on a running service, you might be able to fit onto the taxibus.

JACQUI LAY, *Wiltshire Councillor Purton and Braydon*
01793 770704/07449 978789

Purton Evening W.I.

Our February meeting was very informal, extremely interesting and most informative when we welcomed Keith who was a theatre lighting engineer. In his early career he met Cameron Macintosh, who started his long relationship with the world of theatre as a stagehand at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane and many of you will now know of him as the producer of such musicals as *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Cats*.

Their enduring friendship means that Keith was able chat to us most knowledgably about musical theatre with many anecdotes, facts and figures which gave us an insight into life behind the scenes both in the West End and on Broadway and he was able to answer all our questions. He kept us spellbound without a hint of modern technology!

Our next meeting is on April 19th and this will be when we discuss the Resolutions which is a member led democratic process which ensures that every WI member has the opportunity to set the direction of NFWI campaigns and policy, from the grassroots up. Every year WI members have the chance to put forward issues as 'resolutions' that they want to see the national body campaign on.

The resolutions under discussion this year are:

Alleviating loneliness

This meeting calls on every WI and the NFWI to work alongside health and social care providers and their local community to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of loneliness, thus ensuring better identification of lonely people in order to be able to offer them the appropriate assistance and support.

Plastic Soup: Keep Microplastic fibres out of our ocean

Microplastic fibres are shed from synthetic clothing with every wash and are the main contributors to microplastic contamination of the oceans. The NFWI calls on Government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to this problem in order to stop the accumulation of micro-plastic fibres in our oceans.

Do come and join our deliberations with a musical quiz to follow at Purton Village Hall on Wednesday, April 19th at 7.30pm.

For more information call Barb, Tel 770818

Purton & District Age Concern



Regretfully I must inform you that after 15 years Janice Simpkins has stepped down from her role as street warden due to her house move to Royal Wootton Bassett. Janice has been a marvellous street warden during her time with Age Concern, she has been dedicated to the pensioners on her patch and will be a hard act to follow. We wish her and Mick all the best and hope they will be very happy in their new home. Thanks for everything Janice. Fortunately for us, Carole Gleed has agreed to become our street warden. We are extremely grateful to Carole for joining Age Concern and we hope she enjoys her time with Age Concern. Carole's patch will be 100-127 Reids Piece, Kibblewhite Close and Proud Close.

We recently agreed to keep the price of our mystery tours at £13.50 for pensioners in our area and £15.00 for non-pensioners and pensioners from outside area. The first tour of 2017 is on Wednesday 5th April (see future events)

Tony has been contacted by someone who is willing to donate a used Samsung 39" slim-line TV to a pensioner in our area. If you would like to receive this TV please contact Tony on 770696 for more details.

This year's travel vouchers are being printed as I type, they should be delivered by your street wardens before the end of March in time for our first outing of the year. Please note the vouchers are for a £5 discount off ONE outing during 2017 and ONE voucher per person. Please write your name on the voucher before handing to your street warden.

Tony, Andy White (minibus secretary) and I recently attended a "Friends" of Age UK Wiltshire. Updates were given by all local "Friends" groups at the meeting. We were pleased to hear from one of the attendees that Purton & District Age Concern were mentioned at a meeting he attended where we were highly praised for the work we do. Our group is apparently a model for other Age Concern groups to aspire too. Praise indeed!

On Bank Holiday Monday 1st May The Maharajah Restaurant in Purton will be hosting an afternoon tea from 12noon - 4pm. We are very grateful to Khalique, Wendy and the team for hosting this very enjoyable event again this year. There will be cakes, scones and plenty of tea and coffee so please pop along to support them if you are free that day. All proceeds will be shared between Purton Age Concern and the Children's Charity in India that Khalique and the Maharajah team support.

We have decided that we will produce our own calendar this year in time for 2018. We would like to include photos of village scenes. If anyone has a photo they would like to submit for the calendar please send them to Mick Looker at 53 Pavenhill or email him at micklooker@btinternet.com. Photos to be included in the calendar will be chosen by our committee.

Future Events

Mystery Tour – Wednesday 5th April with a 10.30am start. The cost is £13.50 for

pensioners and £15.00 for non-pensioners and those from outside our area. A pub lunch is included. It will be a roast dinner with a choice of pork, beef or chicken. If you would like to go, please book your place with your street warden before Wednesday 29th March and remember to give the street warden your choice of meat for your lunch when you book.

3B's Evening – Friday 7th April at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £6.00 and includes a two course supper, bring your own drinks and glasses. Bingo tickets will be available to buy separately. Admission tickets are selling 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.

Easter Market – This is on Saturday 15th April from 9am-12noon outside the top shops. There will be the usual sausage tasting, cakes, books, bric-a-brac and Easter items for sale and a raffle. Donations of cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Afternoon Tea at The Maharajah Restaurant – This is being held courtesy of Khalique, Wendy and the team at the Maharajah on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May from 12-4pm. All proceeds will be shared between Age Concern and a children's charity in India.

Mystery Tour – Wednesday 3rd May with a 2pm start. The cost is £13.50 for pensioners and £15.00 for non-pensioners and those outside our area. Tea is included. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 24th April.

Past Events

Jumble Sale – Our Jumble Sale was held in February, we had a very successful afternoon and raised £294.80. Thanks to all who donated jumble and everyone who helped on the day. The next jumble sale will be in September, full details nearer the time.

Annual Auction – This was on Saturday 4th March. Far more items were booked in and far more people attended the sale this year. Maria and her team of helpers in the kitchen sold bacon rolls, teas, coffees and cakes. The financial figures will be reported next month. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day, your hard work is much appreciated. We are very grateful to Roderick Wightman for presiding over the auction again this year. Thanks Roderick.

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.

Tai chi – We hold Tai chi sessions each Thursday at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go please contact Louise Tidman on 772558.

Minibuses – Please contact Hazel Woodbridge or minibus co-ordinator on 770862 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 andywhitepadmb@gmail.com we can always do with more volunteers.

Luncheon Club – The luncheon Club have lost quite a few regulars recently due to a variety of reasons and they are struggling to cover their costs. Places are available at the Luncheon Club every Tuesday and Thursday, which is held at the Silver Threads Hall. You get a delicious 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. The Silver Threads committee will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Saturday 1st April from 10-12 in Silver Threads Hall. All proceeds will go to Purton Luncheon Club.

The Friendship Club (which is run by Silver Threads, not Age Concern) continues to run well. The next meeting will be in Silver Threads Hall on Friday 7th April. 2017 from 2-4pm and costs just 50p. STREET WARDENS please can you inform pensioners on your patch about this club, all are welcome to attend, especially lonely, isolated people who may enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. The minibus is available, places on the minibus can be booked by phoning Hazel Woodbridge by 770862.

Fit Steps FAB Dance Class – If you like Ballroom and Latin dancing why not try the Fit steps dance classes held on Fridays in the Village Hall. There are two classes, the first one is for complete beginners who want a slower pace and starts at 3.30pm. The faster paced class is at 4.30pm. A dance partner is not required for either class. For more information please contact Joanne Edwards.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Tea Party at The Maharajah

On Bank Holiday Monday 1 May we will be holding our annual fundraising event in the Maharajah restaurant to raise money for The Special Needs Hostel Udaipur, India, and the local Age Concern.

Come along between the hours of 12 noon and 4pm, eat as much cake and delicious Indian sweet delicacies, accompanied by as many cups of tea and coffee as you would like. All we ask is that you make a donation before you leave and all proceeds will be divided equally between the two charities.

In previous years we have raised enough money to contribute towards the cost of wheelchairs, a freezer, tables and chairs and last year a new roof for the Indian hostel.

Purton Age Concern have also been very appreciative of the donations we have been able to pass on to them which have benefitted people in our own community.

So come along with your friends and family, spread the word, let's see if we can make even more of a difference to the lives of the people we support this year!!

Many thanks, we look forward to seeing you.

KHALIQUE, ASHISH, WENDY and everyone at The Maharajah

Ronald Royston Slade 1923 – 2017

Ron was born in Swindon on 27 December 1923 and was one of five children. He attended school in Swindon and, when old enough, he supplemented his pocket money by working in the family butchers shop in Old Town. A keen sportsman, Ron played football for a team in the local “butchers league”, also playing hockey and cycling with the Swindon Wheelers where they thought nothing to cycling to Weston for a day out.



On leaving school Ron joined Skurrays Garage as an apprentice mechanic and when the Second World war broke out he enlisted in the Home Guard.

Called Up for National Service in 1942, Ron joined the Royal Navy, and after a period of training, he sailed to New York on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth to join his ship. During the ensuing years he saw action in many European theatres of war and on D – Day he was involved with the troop landings on Gold Beach.

Upon leaving the Navy in 1946 with the rank of Chief Petty Officer, Ron returned to Swindon to resume his career in the motor trade, initially at Skurrays and then at Crowdys Garage where he was promoted to General Sales Manager. His final career move took him to GKN where he was employed as a salesman, selling tools to the motor trade. Throughout his career, Ron was much respected for his friendliness and honesty, more often than not, sealing deals with just a handshake.

Ron and Lilian were married in 1944 and had 2 children, Geoff and Lynn, they were married for 68 years until Lilian sadly passed away in 2012.

Having spent many happy holidays in North Devon, Ron and Lilian moved to Bideford when he retired, but they missed their family back in Wiltshire so much, they moved back to the area, settling with Lynn and Ted in Glevum Close where Ron's friendly nature soon led to him joining in with Village life. He quickly became a member of the Bowls Club and the Royal British Legion, taking an active role in both organisations, attending parades and selling poppies for the RBL and serving on the committee and Green maintenance team at the Bowls Club. He also served on the committee of the Red House Social Club. At that time other members of the Greens committee included Don Stephenson, Sid Walker, Tony Smith, Bill Baker and John Barlow, the last two were also “Old Salts” and when they and Ron started recalling their war exploits, it was a wonder the Green ever got cut! When the heavy work became too much for him, Ron continued to attend on working days when, as well as making the coffee, he also maintained the machinery, still immaculately dressed and wearing a collar and tie. At Christmas he insisted on cooking a full english breakfast for all those working on the green to compensate for him not being able to do any heavy work.

A steady and sporting player, Ron continued playing at a high level up to his 90th birthday, really enjoying the camaraderie and banter encountered at a Bowls

match. He was made a Life Member of the Club in 2005 in recognition of his service and dedication, a well-deserved honour.

Ron passed away in hospital on 22 January with his family by his side, and at his funeral, members of the Bowls Club and The British Legion paid their respects by forming a guard of honour outside the Crematorium. A fitting tribute to a fine Gentleman.

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Can you drive?

I love my car! Some of you will know that it has a name and whilst not always in pristine, polished condition, I love it! I've been driving on the road since my 17th birthday; driving around fields long before that too! I cannot imagine how I would feel if I lost that independence, but I know that at some stage, like very many people, I will have to stop driving. The feeling of complete and utter isolation must be horrific, and this is where the LINK schemes are absolutely fantastic. Most of our area is covered by a Link scheme and they are a real success story. Volunteers (like you?) give a few hours per month, either on a regular or ad hoc basis, to offer transport for isolated people to attend various appointments, often health related, but sometimes shopping or social events. The Link scheme gives a mileage allowance to its drivers for motoring costs. Is this something YOU could help with? It is not an onerous task and it's something which can be fitted in around our busy lives, but it makes such a huge difference to the users of the scheme.

Are you an organiser?

LINK schemes are all about putting people in touch with people. As such, a key LINK scheme role is that of the co-ordinator. Taking calls from people needing transport and putting them in touch with LINK scheme drivers is the main thing that's involved so if you like talking to people then this might be the ideal role for you. Could you support this role even for just a few hours per week or month?

Volunteers are wonderful and make the world go around. We all volunteer from time to time, so how about trying something new? Call me for a confidential chat to find out what it's all about. If you wish to take it further, I can put you in touch with your nearest Link Scheme – between us we can make a difference!

Meanwhile (after I have washed my car!), as ever, I am around for general help and support on a wide variety of issues including transport, mobility and safety around the home and reducing the feeling of loneliness. Give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible. Or email me on ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

STOP PRESS...do you have need for an MPV (people carrier) for your group or club. There is one available to use in the area, contact alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk for more details on how to borrow it!

ELLEN BLACKER, Health & Wellbeing Champion

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Your Summary Care Record (SCR) and Additional Information (SCRAI)



The NHS has a 4-year programme to link up the main computer systems across the country so that medication, allergies and adverse reactions to medication can be accessed by health professionals if needed. However, with patient agreement it will also be possible to include further helpful information ... illnesses, health problems, operations, vaccinations, diagnoses and significant procedures. This is known as Additional Information (SCRAI). This Additional Information can obviously be of great benefit if a patient is needing treatment away from their home area.

Having been assured that this information would only be accessible to qualified health professionals when treating a patient, the PPG has agreed to support the surgery in informing patients about this initiative, hence its inclusion in this Newsletter. You will also see information on this on the screen in Purton Surgery. A form needs to be completed in order to opt into SCRAI. These forms can be collected from and returned to the surgery.

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).

Next Information Evening

We are hoping to hold an Information Evening on Respiratory Diseases, however it has not been possible to arrange this for March. We are hoping to hold it in October.

Cream Tea

A Cream Tea is planned for Saturday 10 June – reserve the date!

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.

Receiving the G4P 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 to let us know.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, Purton PPG

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Dogridge, Orchard Gardens, Waterfield, Ringsbury Close and Restrop View.*

News from the Trustees

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

The Bowls Club are working very hard on their facilities to make sure they are in tip top condition for the new season. They must be very proud of their green as I am told it is among the best in Wiltshire and beyond. This is all done on a voluntary basis, whereas other greens are maintained by various Councils. We wish them well for the new season and hope they have some enjoyable games.

The football season is coming to a close with mixed fortunes. I say mixed as they started off with two senior teams but unfortunately the second folded after several weeks. Alan Eastwood is taking a slightly more back seat role after this season so we hope someone will come in with Alan's enthusiasm. Our best wishes go with Alan and we thank him for all that he has done for Purton Football Club.

The Tennis Club have been enjoying a winter season with their floodlights – a great asset to the Club. What I like about them is the way they encourage the younger element of our community or should I say anybody, because they do which is so nice to see. It hasn't been all play and no work with them as they are in the process of renewing part of their fencing in stages. They will soon be starting their summer season so our best wishes go to them for an enjoyable and successful season. Do not forget there is always a public court for hire.

The Red House Club, which these sports clubs revolve around are trying very hard with new members on the committee. They need as much support as we can give them to help turn their fortunes around. I am sure they would welcome any new ideas you might have. Here we wish them every success in their endeavours.

There will be a slight increase in hiring charges this year i.e. -

Millennium Hall

Community rate	£12.50 per hour
Public rate	£15.50 per hour
Function rate	£17.00 per hour
Commercial rate	£23.50 per hour
Special rates i.e. Christening/funeral 4 hours	£61.00
Bowls Pavillion	£10.50 per hour
Tennis Pavillion	£8.50 per hour

Block bookings of ten or more are entitled to a five per cent discount. A minimum charge of £15 applies to a one-off booking.

Any enquiries and bookings please call the Council Office on 771066.

Please let us all remember that this Centre is a living memorial. It was bought by the village for the village in memory of the men who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war. You can see their names just inside the entrance to the Red House Club. What foresight our village had in 1946 to provide us with such facilities.

Parents Warning

Purton Parish Council and Wiltshire Police would like to make Parents aware that we are finding large quantities of Nitrous Oxide Canisters at our play parks, Mainly at the village centre (Red house Play Park) Picture shown.

These canisters (approx 3"/75mm high) are being sniffed/inhaled as a "HIGH" by individuals frequenting the park after dark.

Our staff are working hard to get these canisters cleared away before the younger children (for whom the park was designed for) arrive however, please be vigilant.

From the government website FRANK this is the notice relating to Nitrous Oxide:



What is nitrous oxide?

Nitrous oxide is a gas with several legitimate uses, but when inhaled it can make people feel euphoric and relaxed. This happy feeling has led to it being nicknamed 'laughing gas'. Some people also experience hallucinations.

However, there is a risk of death as a lack of oxygen can occur when using nitrous oxide. This risk is likely to be greater if the gas is consumed in an enclosed space or if a substantial amount is rapidly used."

It is illegal to sell these to anyone under 18 years old. Wiltshire Police will be regularly patrolling the park after dark.

If someone collapses after using nitrous oxide, call an ambulance immediately, turn them on to their side to avoid choking and stay with them until the ambulance arrives.

Purton Parish Council

The Village Hall

As is our usual practice, we are putting up the cost of hiring the Village Hall in line with the cost of living index. Here are the new figures and you can see there is a very slight increase.

Community rate	£12.50 per hour
Public rate	£18.00 per hour
Function rate	£20.00 per hour
Commercial rate	£28.50 per hour
Special rate – Christening/funeral wake etc. 4 hours	£67.

Any enquiries and bookings please call the Council Office on 771066.

We are having trouble with the flat roof between the hall and the Council Offices and Library and also the stone work needs doing on the outside of the Institute. It is a lovely building which we are very lucky to have.

It is nice to see people are observing the notices about parking in the car park. It certainly saved us taking legal action so many thanks for that. It is not fair on the hirers when there are cars in the car park belonging to people who are not involved with what is taking place in the hall.

Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Christian Aid week: May 13-20

Yes... Christian Aid week is almost upon us once again!

And I feel sure that Purton will be as generous as ever...with people offering their time to organise events, their support by attending events, their effort by delivering and collecting up those pesky little red envelopes (!) and their determination, as they think of others in need of our help this year.

We are focussing particularly on the plight of refugees, now stuck in camps, with extremely limited resources, who have travelled there by walking and by rubber dingies, after watching their homes disintegrate and their communities torn apart, through war and conflict.

So far, for the week, we have:

Saturday May 13: Cakes, Plants, Raffle and plenty of Sunshine for sale: Topshops: from 8.30am

Sunday May 14: Christian Aid Breakfast in church : from 9-10am: followed by the Christian Aid United Service at 10.30 . Everyone is very very welcome to either or both!

Saturday May 20: 'Fun Fitsteps, Food and Fundraising' evening event at St Mary's School .

Tuesday June 13: Curry Night at The Maharajah...please save the date; it's bit later than usual.

And there will be the usual infuriating Quiz...and, of course, all those little envelopes coming through the door.

Please give generously: we need every penny and we KNOW that it is very carefully spent on your behalf. If you would like to help with any of these events... especially the envelope collecting.... we would be DELIGHTED! Just let us know.

For more details contact Libbie: 771018 or Mary 770505

A very Happy Easter to everyone from Purton Churches

As I write there are signs of new life all around us with leaves sprouting, birds singing, flowers opening - spring is replacing winter. For many people Easter is just more of the same with its symbols of eggs, chicks and bunnies - all signs of new life.

Yet there is far more to Easter than that. There are other symbols which are signs of a deeper meaning, there is the Cross - not a clean bright piece of jewellery but a dirty dark instrument of death - a reminder that Jesus died not merely as a result of a miscarriage of justice, not even as a good example of sacrifice but rather that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures". He died to carry on His shoulders all the weight and consequences of all our sins, all the wrong we have ever done and all the good we have failed to do. It was not a mistake or an accident but God's plan for the forgiveness of our sins.

Another symbol is the empty tomb, the verses continue, "that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." [1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 3-4] There is no doubt that Jesus died - the Romans were expert executioners. However Christians believe that Jesus did not stay dead. He was buried but on the Sunday morning the tomb was empty, again all part of God's plan, foretold in advance and written in the Bible - the Scriptures. God did this so we can be confident that when we put our trust in God, we can be forgiven so that when we die we too will be raised back to life, to live with Christ in heaven for all eternity.

So this Easter do enjoy the symbols of new life: the eggs, the chicks and the bunnies. But please also rejoice in the symbols of the Cross and the Empty Tomb as the ultimate signs of New Life with a capital "L". You would be most welcome to join us to celebrate this message of Good News, at any of our Easter Services - listed elsewhere in this magazine. Happy Easter.

REVD IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH, Vicar of St Mary's

The Phoenix Players

On Wednesday 26th – Saturday 29th April 7.30.pm the Phoenix Players present 'Ladies of Spirit' a comedy by Georgina Reid.

"Gibraltar School was founded as a school for young ladies by the two dear old Misses Pye, now deceased. The long-suffering teachers now have their lives made miserable not only by their pupils but also by the present headmistress, Miss Rowe, known universally as "Hard Rowe". Since Gibraltar is a private school, they resign themselves to the fact that there is little that they can do about it, but they find help coming from a very unexpected quarter indeed."

Tickets: £10.00 concessions: £9.00. Group bookings one free ticket for every 10 booked. Tickets available from pauline on 07517 698083 or e-mail bookings@phoenix-players.com

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Charlotte Popescu joined us at the February meeting to speak on the subject of 'Keeping hens in the garden', and with over 13 years experience we soon realised that she has a wealth of knowledge.

She described an idyllic childhood spent in Suffolk, where bees, bantams and hens featured greatly. Following her marriage, and a move to Wiltshire, a desire to keep hens swiftly followed and, having prepared a suitable run, her first purchase of 4 hens was made. Early beginnings did not, however, go according to plan when 'Rosie' turned out to be 'Rocky' and had to be returned and the run did not meet the liking of the remaining 3 hens. It was at this point that Charlotte decided to turn them out to 'free range' in her garden and the rest is history as they say.

Numbers have significantly increased to the point that hens have now taken over her life. She is now the author of various books on the subject of keeping hens and also writes regularly for 'Your Chickens' magazine'.

She likes her hens to roam wherever they wish even roosting in her fir trees or just relaxing on a garden fence. We learned that approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ million people in the UK keep hens in their gardens.

Charlotte explained that they divide into a number of categories:

Pure breeds

These include large fowl and bantams. Amongst the most well known are Rhode Island Reds, one of the best egg layers, and French Copper Black Marans renowned for their lovely dark brown eggs. Silver Dorking with their 5 toes, as opposed to regular 4 toed hens, were introduced during the Roman conquest making them one of the oldest English breeds.

Light Breeds

Amongst the many varieties in this category are The White Leghorn, Silver Duckwing and the short legged Scots Dumpy which is a rare breed. Cuckoo Marans lay brown eggs whilst the Araucana bantams from Chile are the only hens to lay a blue egg.

Hybrids

These have been developed to lay lots of eggs although they have a shorter life span.

Cross Breeds

Charlotte explained that ex battery hens fall into this category. If rescued, they need to be de-beaked because they are prone to TB when kept in cages.

For those of us who might be considering keeping hens in the garden Charlotte recommended starting with just 3-4 hens. With the variety of 'chicken houses' on the market, selection is just a matter of personal choice and available space.

Feathers can be clipped to stop the hens flying but she prefers an 'au naturel' look.

As hens have no teeth, they need to have grit in their diet. If they are truly free range they gather this naturally whilst they forage to store in their gizzard, a strong muscle that performs the grinding process required to digest their food.

As most of an egg shell consists of calcium Charlotte advised the addition of Oyster shell grit to their diet to ensure strong egg shells. High production hybrid hens produce a staggering number of eggs per year on very little feed so they are more likely to need the extra calcium to produce eggs of sufficient quality.

She uses cages to protect her vegetables, allowing her hens to free range around them, devouring slugs, snails, ants and wood lice along the way.

When a red comb appears on their heads around 20 weeks, this will denote egg laying, with white ear lobes denoting white egg layers. Hens stop laying in the winter when the days are shorter and there is less light and start laying again in February. However, hybrids will lay throughout the winter.

Carotenoids, naturally found in grass, vegetables and fruit, make the yolks yellow. The greater the quantities of these, the stronger the colour.

Hens are social animals and like to sit together and even share the same nests.

Cockerels look after the flock, they warn of predators and will separate fighting hens. Each cockerel can look after about 12 hens and often has a 'favourite'.

An airy coop will prevent a 'broody' hen from brooding.

Badgers and foxes are the main predators of hens. Charlotte has used all manner of deterrents, including alpacas, but often with little success.

A lively question and answer session followed Charlotte's talk indicating a popular and informative topic.

Andy White proposed a vote of thanks for her passionate and interesting talk.

Congratulations to the winners of the competition- 'A decorated egg'. 1st Maureen Griffin, 2nd Mary Read and 3rd Jill Herbert.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25 April at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall, when Andrew Tolman will be presenting a talk entitled 'Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends'. The competition will be 'A Photo of my Shed'.

If you are interested in gardening we are always happy to welcome new members and visitors. The annual subscription for new members is £15. For visitors on the night there is a £3 charge.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, 770906

Royal Wootton Bassett & District Art Society

We will be holding our annual art exhibition at Hook Village Hall, SN4 8EA from 19 May (Preview evening by invitation only) to 21 May. The exhibition will be open to the public on the Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm and admission is free. There's an opportunity to buy original art and greetings cards. Parking and refreshments available.

Purton Village Diary - April 2017

- | | | | |
|-------|----|---------|---|
| 1 | Sa | 10.00am | Grand re-opening of Purton Museum |
| | | 2.00pm | Purton Silver Threads Coffee Morning |
| | | 7.30pm | Purton Carnival Barn Dance at Purton Village Hall |
| 2 | Su | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Family Service at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong at St Mary's Church |
| 3 | M | 7.00pm | Purton Churches Passover Supper at Silver Threads Hall |
| 5 | W | 10.00am | 'Storytime' the Purton Library for pre-school children |
| | | 10.30am | Purton Age Concern Mystery Tour with pub lunch |
| 6 | Th | 10.30am | Communion at ? |
| 7 | F | 2.00pm | Purton Silver Threads Friendship Group |
| | | 7.30pm | Purton Age Concern 3Bs Evening at Silver Threads Hall |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 9 | Su | | Palm Sunday |
| | | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| 10 | M | 7.30pm | RWB Choral Society 'Crucifixion' concert at RC Church |
| | | | Purton Magazine copy deadline for May edition |
| 11 | Tu | 11.00am | Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House |
| | | 2.00pm | Silver Threads entertainment by Ashgrove Choir, followed by AGM |
| 13 | Th | 10.30am | Songs of Praise at The Cedars |
| | | 7.30pm | Maundy Thursday Communion at ? |
| 14 | F | | Good Friday |
| | | 10.00am | Walk of Witness venue? |
| | | 2.00pm | Hour at the Cross venue? |
| | | 7.30pm | Music/Pop Quiz at Redhouse Club |
| 15 | Sa | 9.00am | Purton Age Concern Easter Market at Pavenhill shops |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 16 | Su | | Easter Sunday |
| | | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Family Communion with choir at St Mary's Church |
| | | 2.00pm | Purton Carnival Easter Egg Hunt at Red House Play Park |
| | | 6.00pm | Choral Evensong at St Mary's Church |
| 17 | M | | Easter Monday |
| 19 | W | 2.00pm | Communion at Ashgrove House |
| 21 | F | 9.00am | Purton Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester |
| 22 | Sa | 8.30pm | Rockers Re-united (50s/60s) at Redhouse Club |
-

23 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
25 Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads talk by Lynda Warren
	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall
26 W	7.30pm	until 29th, Phoenix Players 'Ladies of Spirit'
27 Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society at Purton Village Hall
28 F	2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall

30 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

May

1 M	12 noon	Charity tea party at The Maharajah
3 W	2.00pm	Purton Age Concern Mystery Tour with tea included
13 Sa		Christian Aid Week starts
	7.30pm	St Mary's Church present Chedworth Silver Band and Purton Peartree Peelers Handbell Ringers

Every week

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

Moon Phases

● 3 April ○ 11 April ● 19 April ● 26 April

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, Purton or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Purton Placard



PURTON CARNIVAL

Barn Dance

Saturday 1 April 7.30pm
Purton Village Hall

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday 2pm
The Redhouse Play Park

Purton Carnival Pig Roast

3 June 4pm Play Close
play park

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Easter Market at Pavenhill shops

Saturday 15th April, 9am-12pm
Sausage tasting, cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle and lots more!

Mystery Tour

Wednesday 3rd May
Coach leaves at 2pm
Cost £13.50 (includes tea)
Book your place with your
street warden

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENT

J Stainer's 'Crucifixion'

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

Free admission, refreshments,
retiring collection

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!

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

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS
PRESENT

'Ladies of Spirit'

a comedy by Georgina Reid
26 - 29 April 7.30pm.
£10.00/£9.00
Tickets: 07517 698083
or e-mail bookings@
phoenix-players.com

PURTON SILVER THREADS

Coffee Morning

Silver Threads Hall
Saturday 1 April at 2pm
Cakes, tombola, books,
bric-a-brac,
Admission £1 with proceeds to
the Luncheon Club

ST MARY'S CHURCH PURTON
PRESENT

**Chedworth Silver Band with
Purton Peartree Peelers
Hand Bell Ringers**

13 May, 7.30 pm tickets £7.00
free glass of wine

Proceeds to the roof appeal
Tickets from Church or call Alan
771572 or Brian 771667

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
& DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Annual Art Exhibition

Hook Village Hall SN4 8EA
19 May (Preview evening by
invitation only) to 21 May
Exhibition open to the public on
Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm
Admission free,
refreshments available.

ST MARY'S, PURTON METHODIST
AND ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
METHODIST CHURCH

Passover Supper

Purton Silver Threads Hall
Monday 3 April 2017 at 7.00pm.
Tickets £7.50

For tickets, please sign the list at the
back of each Church or contact Rosie
Harris, tel: 01793 773035 or email:
administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk
To volunteer, please contact Sandra
Horsnall, tel: 01793 770157
email: sandra_horsnall@yahoo.co.uk

THE CRICKLADE BAND

'Housewarming' Concert

Sunday 2 April at the
Town Hall at 7.30pm

A concert of new season music
you'll know and love, with the
up-and-coming musicians of
BandAcademy doing their bit too.
Tickets are available from
Cricklade's Council Office in the
High Street.

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

Email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Post Bag



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, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.



PURTON SURGERY THANKS

I thought it was important to express my appreciation and gratitude for all the services under the NHS. My father is disabled and has many health issues for the last 40 years. He was recently struck down by an awful virus, that caused him great complications and concerns.

Dr Leggett and Dr Richardson (Purton Surgery) were incredible and visited my dad daily and were able to pull the services together so that he could be cared for at home and he is now on the mend.

A massive thank you to Purton Surgery, Occupational Therapists, District Nurses and Physiotherapists who all made it possible for my dad to remain at home and make his life (and mine) much easier.

I am overwhelmed with everyone's kindness and am eternally grateful. We are so lucky to have the NHS and the incredible people that make such a difference to people's lives.

Kerry Ball



KEEPING IN TOUCH

I just wanted to thank everyone who has sent their best wishes to me in my new role at In Touch Design and

Print, I have been overwhelmed by the support of local people after my article in March Purton Magazine. It was also very reassuring that so many people read the Magazine! Thank you to the Purton Magazine Committee for their warm welcome at the recent AGM, I'm looking forward to working on this fantastic publication which, although I'm biased, knocks the spots off many other community magazines – some from much bigger villages and towns. I would also like to thank Rick and Helen Dixon, who saw the potential in me to carry on their hard work, I hope I won't let you down.

As a Guide leader in Royal Wootton Bassett, I encourage girls to aim high and reach their full potential, and not to give up, and I think this promise is probably just as relevant to me now, as it was when I joined the Girlguiding movement. So 'I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the Guide Law'.

*Heather Ponting-Bather,
In Touch Design & Print*



MY FRIEND RON

I would like to endorse the tribute paid by Tony Price to my good friend Ron

Slade. Our friendship goes back many years through Freemasonry and his invaluable work on the Red House committee. I will always remember Ron for his calming influence and logic of thinking things out and maybe that was born out of his many years in the motor trade. If there is such a thing as honest car salesmen then Ron Slade would be its chairman and president all rolled into one. My condolences go out to Lyn and Geoff, for a man sorely missed by not only me, but to the Red House/Bowls Club and RBL.

My apologies to any honest car salesman reading this but if you knew Ron Slade you would appreciate what I mean!

Terry Crumbie



PANCAKE PAT IS FLIPPING BRILLIANT!

May I take this opportunity to offer a huge 'Thankyou' to Pat Willis, for her great effort of making 80 pancakes for us to enjoy at our lunch Club meal on

Tuesday 28th Feb. Pat, who, I gather, used to cook for Lunch Club until health problems occurred, actually made this fantastic effort for the attendees of Lunch Club. As far as I can remember she did the same thing last year. I speak for many when I say that we are all very grateful to Pat for this effort. Pat, you are a 'Real Gem'!
Thankyou from all at Lunch Club.

Chris Gleed



GHOST WRITER WANTED

Are there any Ghost Writers in the Village or surrounding areas? I Realise there is a fee for this service, to get a true life story into a book format. It is a sensitive, painful account of true facts. Some of which have been hand written, but it is a work in progress, and one which I want to move forward. I have no computer or typing skills and good advice would be welcomed. Please call if you think you may be able to help.

Yvonne Tel: 778391

Crib Festival 2017

Although we are now in the season of Lent, preparing for Easter, St Mary's Church is already looking forward to having a Crib Festival in church during the first weekend of Advent. This year Advent Sunday is on 3 December and is the time when we are starting to think about Christmas, again!

So, would you like to be involved with our Crib Festival? If so, do you have a Nativity scene in your house as part of your Christmas decoration at home? We have seen all sorts of cribs, made of clay, glass, paper, even Lego; and we also have a knitted Nativity scene which does the rounds of Purton playgroups each year!

If you or your family or any Purton organisation would like to be involved in this Crib Festival please contact Libbie: 771018 or Jane: 772422 or email janersmith1@gmail.com. We would love to have dozens of cribs...all shape, sizes, colours and descriptions in the church, to be blessed at the Advent Sunday service.

Church Floodlighting

- 7 March The Church was floodlit in memory of Ray Herbert. Loving Husband and Dad. In our hearts always: Jane and Family.
- 19 March The Church was floodlit in memory of Bob Totterdell, who passed away 19 March 2009. Loved and much missed by Jean and family
- 21 March St Mary's was floodlit in memory of Ray Albert Bultitude on his 78th birthday. Missed by all the family.
- 5 April St Mary's will be floodlit for Trevor Maxfield on his special birthday. Love from all the family.
- 16 April St Mary's church wishes everyone in Purton a Very Happy Easter. He is risen! Alleluia!



The Church will be floodlit in memory of my husband John Cook on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary: with treasured memories from Sue.

If you would like the Church floodlit for a special date, occasion, or memorial, please contact Libbie on 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 published in this magazine at no extra cost.

Purton Historical Society

Grand Re-opening of The Purton Museum – Saturday 1st April 2017 - 10.00a.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 who lost their life in the First World War.

Thursday 27th April 2017 – 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall, Historic Wootton Bassett in Pictures – Roger Smith. Roger Smith, Chairman of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Hall Museum, presents a slideshow of old photos of Wootton Bassett showing how the town has changed and developed through the years from the 1860's to present day.

Thursday 25th May 2017 – 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall, Avebury through the Ages – John Farrow (further details to follow)

Saturday 10th June 2017 - Annual Coach Outing to Croome Court For details please see separate article by Helen Dixon.

New Members and visitors always welcome.

TONY & JANET NEATE

email: tjneate57@gmail.com, tel: 01793 770117

About 50 members & guests of the Purton Historical Society gathered at the Village Hall on 23rd February to hear an illustrated talk-"Wreckers Tales" by Paul Burnett, a Maritime Historian. He spoke on the Purton Hulks, that is Purton Gloucestershire, not Wiltshire!

The story of a ships graveyard on the River Severn started in the 19th Century. Ships and barges from all over the world were abandoned there on the curve of the river, before being cut up, and sometimes burnt, scrapped and sold on. At one time there were 3 breakers yards, up to 93 barges, schooners, ships of all sorts and sizes at Sharpness on the Severn.

At the same time the wrecks saved the banks from severe erosion caused by the high tides, up to 30ft high in spring (the Severn Bore). A fascinating talk to be seen the following week in the TV programme "Jeremy Paxman's English Rivers". Enjoyed by all as well as the usual refreshments and chat and sale of books and maps.

JILL WATTS Email: teddington1940@gmail.com

Purton Historical Society Outing

Our Summer outing this year takes us to Croome Court a graceful neo – Palladian mid 18th century mansion once home to the Earls of Coventry. There was a Jacobean building on the site, but it was the 6th Earl of Coventry known as a bit of a trend setter who in 1751 gave 'Capability' Brown his first commission to not only redesign the whole landscape but to remodel Croome Court. Croome was sold in 1948 and saw the fine collection of art and furniture dispersed far and wide. Since then Croome has been a home to a boys school, a Hare Krishna centre and RAF Deffer airbase. The house is now run by the National Trust and is in the process of returning some of the collections with an innovative, imaginative and creative artistic approach with a 21 st century twist!

The church, wonderful parkland and a lake, along with the RAF museum and visitor centre, NT shop and various eateries including a 1940s style canteen means there is something for everyone.

We will travel by coach leaving Purton at 8.45am and returning by 6.30pm.

Cost £16 for NT members and £26 for non NT members including refreshments on arrival and an introductory talk. You do not have to be a member of PHS to join us. A booking form can be downloaded from www.purtonmagazine.co.uk or they will be available at society meetings or ring Helen on 07976 546825 or email: helendixonmail@gmail.com

The Great War Project

Part 45: April 1917

No men with Purton connections are known to have been mobilised in April 1917.

Western Front

By 5 April, the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line was completed but their positions were being attacked by Allied forces. Albert Edward Hayward of Cricklade had sailed from Southampton on 21 June 1916 to join the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. On 9 April 1917, D Company of the Battalion was involved in attacking German positions on the Hindenburg line 2,000 and 2,400 yards away. At 11.38 am the 21st Brigade attacked with the 2nd Wilts on the right, the 18th King's (Liverpool) Regiment on the left, and the 19th Manchester Regiment in support. The Battalion advanced in artillery formation in 2 waves, each of 2 Companies.

With 2 sunken roads to cross and much barbed wire to negotiate, the advance was made under heavy shelling and machine gun fire. After relief from the 16th Manchesters, the remnants of the Battalion retired. The total casualties sustained by the 2nd Wilts in the attack was 2 Captains, 12 Subalterns and 328 other ranks. Albert was among those killed.

Albert has no known grave, and is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

On 9 April 1917, the Battle of Arras began – part of the Allied Spring Offensive. The battle lasted until May. During it, the Canadian Corps captured Vimy Ridge. British forces made long advances to Point du Jour and south of the Scarpe.



Arthur Henry Bridgman (pictured) of Kingston-on-Thames was the husband of Kate E Bridgman (née Selwood). Kate, known as Kit, was born in Purton in 1893, and she and Arthur married in 1914. Arthur was serving with the 9th Battalion Essex Regiment which was in action on 9 and 10 April at Feuchy Chapel near Arras. The casualty list as recorded in the Battalion diary included 33 men dead, 126 men wounded. 9th Essex records state these casualty figures as light! 80 German prisoners were taken over the 2 days. Arthur was recorded in action during this action, later reported

wounded and died of those wounds on 12 April 1917. He was buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun. Arthur's name is remembered on the headstone of John and Elizabeth Kate Selwood in St Mary's Churchyard, Purton.

While the British and Empire forces were succeeding in the north, the French southern part of General Nivelle's Spring Offensive wasn't doing so well. Known as the 2nd Battle of the Aisne and the 3rd Battle of Champagne, it had

a long front. The French offensive ground to a halt by 20 April due to serious casualties, gains well below Nivelle's expectations and a resultant mutiny in the French army. By 29 April, General Nivelle was dismissed and replaced by General Pétain as Chief of the French General Staff.

USA

On 2 April, US President Woodrow Wilson delivered his "War Address" to the United States Congress for a declaration of war on Germany. 2 days later the Senate agreed by a majority of 82 to 6 and the United States of America declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917.

Over the next few days and weeks Cuba and Panama also declared war on Germany, while Brazil, Bolivia and Guatemala, siding with the US, cut off diplomatic relations. Not surprisingly, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria reciprocated by cutting off diplomatic relations with America.

Now at war, fury erupted over an ammunition factory explosion at the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation's artillery shell plant in Pennsylvania, on 10 April, which killed 133 workers and was suspected to be sabotage. Subsequent investigations suggested it was an accident and the plant reopened only two weeks after the explosion. As many as "900 girls" were reported to be ready to go back to work and there were many new applicants. Applicants with German backgrounds were turned away.

The US Government was getting ready for the needs of war with Congress passing the Liberty Loan Act (24 April), so that the Treasury could issue a public subscription for \$2 billion in bonds for the war. They followed that up on 28 April with an Act to raise an extra 500,000 men for the US Army.

Russia – all dates are new calendar

Following the "February" Revolution and the Russian Provisional Government's (RPG) declaration of an independent and united Poland, the British Government informed the RPG on 5 April of their support for that principle. On 8 April in Petrograd, the Russian capital, 40,000 ethnic Estonians demanded to have an autonomous province within Russia. On the 9th, the RPG confirmed to the Allied governments that they were in favour of self-determination of peoples and a durable peace. The Autonomous Governorate of Estonia was set up on 12 April formed from the Governorates of Estonia and northern Livonia.

The power bloc in Russia that formed the RPG was mainly composed of the Mensheviks ("smaller party") from the 1905 revolution. The oppositional Soviet Executive Committee had been set up in March by activists of the Bolsheviks ("larger party") from 1905, among whom was Stalin. On 16 April, another member of the Bolsheviks, one Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known as Lenin, arrived by train at the Finland Station in Petrograd, having travelled across Europe courtesy of the German railways. Lenin issued his radical paper known as the "April Theses" in which he demanded that the workers' committees (soviets) must take power from the RPG.

Middle East

A second attack by British and Egyptian forces in Gaza resulted in 10,000 casualties and led to a period of stalemate in Palestine.

There was better allied success further east into Mesopotamia with Russian forces taking Khanaquin, north east of Baghdad while Anglo-Indian forces took Samarra in Mesopotamia on 24 April.

War at Sea

Anglo-Japanese cooperation in the war led to a Japanese destroyer force being based in Malta in April 1917 to operate as anti-submarine convoy escorts. The force eventually totalled 14 destroyers with cruiser flagships.

British hospital ships and ambulance transports continued to suffer. HMHS Salta was sunk by mine off Le Havre on 10 April with the loss of 79 Medical Corps, nurses and crew. Two transports were torpedoed without warning in the English Channel on 17 April: Lanfanc sank with the loss of 22 British and 18 German wounded on board; Donegal sank with the loss of 41 British wounded and crew.

German destroyer raids were conducted against the Kent coast with Dover targeted on 20 April and Ramsgate on the 24th.

Propaganda

On 17 April, The Times and the Daily Mail, both owned by Lord Northcliffe, published a propaganda story about the supposed existence of a German Corpse Factory. The story, with no basis in fact, was based on the real shortage of fats in Germany due to the British naval blockade. Glycerine from rendered corpses of soldiers was said to be used to manufacture products such as nitro-glycerine (for armaments), candlewax, soap and lubricants.

RICK DIXON

Purton Horticultural Show

Our Potato Challenge for 2017 is now well under way. 25 pots along with “Picasso” seed potatoes, have all been delivered to a variety of schools and clubs in Purton, Lydiard Millicent, and Cricklade. The young people are all really enthused about this challenge. The committee are especially looking forward to seeing how many tons! of potatoes turn up on show day –Saturday August 19th, for weighing. We hope that all the challengers have a productive growing season, and we wish them every success at this event.

We shall continue to highlight each section of our 2017 schedule, through the coming months, so that you the readers and hopefully participants will have advance notice of what is on offer for you to enter.

The schedules will be available towards the end of June/beginning of July, at various locations. If you would like one delivered or emailed, please contact me.

*LORNA ROBINSON-WARDLE, SECRETARY
Tel: 01793 778013 or 3rwardles@gmail.com*

Remount Depot Commemorative Sculpture

The sculpture that I have commissioned to remember the work carried out at Manor Hill during the Great War is progressing nicely. The piece was always going to be made and the £650 grant from the Purton Carnival committee has enabled this sculpture to be made ahead of time. The artist is Daren Greenhow from South Wales who makes individual pieces using metals, often bike parts! Working from a basic brief the sculpture is coming together nicely. The installation date is yet to be decided, but when it is we will make sure as many people as possible are made aware. For those unaware, Mrs Young at The Pear Tree has agreed for this sculpture to be located at the entrance overlooking the fields that formed part of the Depot.

I am biased in my view, but the Depot, so long overlooked is something that the Parish should be proud of and I believe is also something of County and National importance, given the specific re-training of the animals that went there.

Look out around the Village for updates, I continue to post all my research free on Facebook (Purton & the Great War).

*BOB LLOYD, Researching Purton
(Wiltshire) and The Great War*



Purton Open Gardens 2017

Following my article in last month's magazine, a small group has decided to hold this year's event on Sat 8th July, a week after carnival day. If enough gardens are entered this could be extended to Sunday also. Now you know the dates, perhaps you could be persuaded to enter!

The recipients of profits this year will be Brighter Futures, collecting for a new radiotherapy unit in Swindon potentially benefiting many Purton residents, and Jubilee Gardens who provide superb facilities for adults with learning difficulties.

If you have any queries or would like to participate, please contact me on 770552 or the.yerburys@btinternet.com

NICK YERBURY

Passover Supper

You are invited to a Passover Supper at the Silver Threads Hall, Purton on Monday 3 April 2017 at 7.00pm. The cost of the evening will be £7.50. The evening will include a full meal (including Lamb or a vegetarian alternative) and Communion, an explanation of how it all fits together and an opportunity to take part (for those who want to).

This invitation is open to all our Church Families at St Mary's, Purton Methodist Church and Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church. It is an opportunity for us to meet, to enjoy each other's company, to eat and to learn together.

It will also be a good opportunity to find out more about the Jewish Passover and how Jesus transformed it into what we now know as Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper.

If you are interested please sign the list at the back of each Church. If you need more information please contact Rosie Harris, tel: 01793 773035 or email: administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk

If you would like to volunteer to help with the practicalities of this meal whether on the night by setting out tables etc, or in advance by cooking or in other ways, please contact Sandra Horsnall, tel: 01793 770157 email: sandra_horsnall@yahoo.co.uk

Tickets and further information will be available from 19 March. I look forward to seeing you there

REVD IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH

After Eight Christmas dinner

As has become the tradition, After 8 came together to dine in the spirit of Christmas during February – this time, on the evening of Tuesday 21st.

A new venue had been selected – this being the White Hart Inn at Ashton Keynes – and, for most of us, this was a first visit to this ancient public house. With a warm welcome, a cosy log fire and character stone walls decorated with local artwork, fifteen of us settled at our banqueting-style table.

Following the clink of glasses and, rather belatedly and amusingly, wishing each other a "Happy Christmas", a most convivial evening unfolded.

There was much chatter with subject matter both various and diverse. Indeed, Brexit and Donald Trump barely managed a look-in!

Our dining experience is deemed to have been excellent, with the availability of smaller portions proving very popular. That being said, there were a couple amongst us who tucked into large servings of fish and chips!

As the evening closed, liqueurs proved popular – rounding off an evening sharing delicious food in delightful company and most definitely in the spirit of Christmas!

JACQUIE PARKS

Purton and District Probus Club



On 14th February, John Holland, one of our members, presented an autobiographical account of his early life entitled "Paraguay". John's parents met in London in 1939, father, Leslie was from Ealing and his mother, a nurse, Gerty from Liechtenstein. They soon married and for honeymoon walked across England doing casual farming work and gardening. By 1940 they were living in a gipsy caravan, which unfortunately was washed away by a river in flood.

By chance, in Ludlow, they were befriended by two members of a Christian pacifist community, which had a small settlement at Wheathill nearby. The Bruderhof, a Hutterite society, had been founded in Germany in 1936, close to Gerty's homeland, but had since relocated to Shropshire. As the Bruderhof grew, with more international members they established community farms at Ashton Keynes and Oaksey.

At this time, internment of German speakers threatened, and almost the whole community, 300 strong, denied entry by the USA and Canada, sailed for Paraguay which allocated an area 10Km x 10Km of jungle near Asuncion to build a new settlement, an addition to the existing one called Primavera (Spring). The Hollands did not leave at that time, late 1940, but followed in the early 50s with their six young children, to be reunited with friends and relatives in the new development.

The Hutterite philosophy was that of the early Christians, basic, communal but adequate, very similar to the Amish way of life. Everything they needed had to be produced by themselves and money was not needed within the community itself.

Living in a sub-tropical jungle, the buildings did not need walls, only posts to hold up the shingle roofs. Consequently, the wild life was ever present: monkeys, birds and insects attracting attention while lessons or meals were taken. Large families were encouraged in the Bruderhof, hence there were large numbers of children, the younger ones being taught communally, only seeing their hard-working parents for two hours in the evening. The main entertainment was singing and music. John used a series of photographs to bring to life the gradual progress of the settlement. Older boys were given lessons in agriculture, gardening, poultry rearing, dairying and bee keeping, while the girls studied domestic science, nursing and Shakespeare. The group included many artisans and professionals, carpenters and doctors. There were examples of toys, implements, wooden gutters to carry water and wheelwrights at work. One picture showed a Surgery where a series of dried snake skins formed a chart to identify the culprit snake in order to apply the right antidote.

Much was learned from the local natives and John, with his brothers, plaited lassos from cowhide and constructed their own horse saddles. Apart from the snakes and tarantulas, it was an idyllic existence, but in 1960, the difference in ideals between late-comers and the orthodox Elders caused a schism. Hundreds left the colony

and the Holland family returned to England. After some time to resettle, the family took residence in a thatched cottage in Purton.

John has returned several times to Paraguay and tells of an amusing experience when travelling upriver to visit old friends at the site. The hammocks on the lower deck cost about 10p for the journey, but the locals jumped out when the Purser came. Therefore, feeling sorry for them, John paid for all the hammocks on the deck – only a couple of pounds. Gerty, John's mother, had in her time, attended Vienna University, but the education of her children in Paraguay was very different; - initially, that of the Kindergarten and later 'hands-on' apprenticeships in a disciplined Bruderhof. However, it has produced many industrious people. The talk gave a very different concept of life to the one that we are all used to.

On February 28th, Ms Rajal Devshi, a research scientist with The Kingshill Research and Development Team, based at the Victoria Centre of the G W Hospital, gave a talk on Clinical Trials in Dementia. Dementia is a clinical syndrome, which is characterised by the deterioration of mental functioning. The result is the loss of recognition and understanding, which can affect the ability to carry out everyday tasks. There is no known cure for progressive dementias, however, a variety of treatments are available to alleviate the symptoms.

Dementia is a degenerative condition, most prominent among older adults. There are 850,000 patients with dementia in the UK, which could rise to a million by 2025. Of these 40,000 are under 65 years of age.

Dementia has a costly impact on the economy; currently £26 billion to cover health and social care. With life expectancy continually increasing there is a constant need for research and for volunteers to assist in the clinical trials. Because dementia derives from other illnesses; Alzheimer's, vascular problems, an insufficiency or an excess of a certain protein or the abnormal growth of plaques or tangles in the brain, the research has to be on a broad spectrum. The development and licencing of a new drug can take 12-15 years and costs an average of \$2.5 billion dollars. Of 5000 pre-clinical studies, only one makes it onto the market. There are six or more phases in the proving and marketing of a new drug and before release they have to be cost-effective. There are 3 phases in the clinical trials, which need volunteers in ever increasing group sizes of 50, 500 and 5000. Many, but not all, of volunteers taking part have some medical record or a favourable characteristic in their physical make-up. A GP will sometimes recommend that it would safeguard a person's health to join the programme. The trial would require the taking of tablets (or placebos), visiting the clinic for monthly infusions, and perhaps, more regular attendance for monitoring blood or undergoing ECG tests. Those joining the trials would have an initial review with a Consultant.

There are currently three major studies going on at the Kingshill Research Centre, which target different causes of Dementia, and Rajal finished her talk with details of how to contact the Victoria Centre at the Great Western Hospital in order to become involved. In giving a vote of thanks to the speaker, our "host member" commented that because Probus member's ages range from 65-90

plus, we are all lucky to have, so far, 'Got away with it'.

The Purton Probus Club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Red House lounge. April programme: 11th Parish Ministry then and now, 25th The AGM.

BOB STEVENS

Cricklade Country Market



Our next market: Friday 28 April, 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!

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.

We Record ...



Baptisms at St Mary's Church:

12 February Maria Stacey Skinner
Alfie Oliver Viktaravicius
Kanna & Asuka Kawamura

Funeral at St Mary's Church:

15 February Jean Olive Flynn (87)

Committal at South Bristol Crematorium:

23 February David Alan Seviour (63)
Apologies to Bernice and family, this was missed from the March issue of Purton Magazine.

In Memoriam:

9 April 1917 Albert Edward Hayward, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action at the Hindenburg Line - age not recorded. Albert has no known grave, and is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

12 April 1917 Arthur Henry Bridgman, husband of Kate (née Selwood), 9th Battalion Essex Regiment, died aged 27 of wounds sustained at Feuchy Chapel near Arras. Arthur is buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, and remembered on the headstone of John and Elizabeth Kate Selwood in St Mary's Churchyard, Purton.

St Mary's Primary School

The children at St Mary's have been involved in various exciting activities in the past few weeks. As part of the World Book Day celebration, some of our children were given the opportunity to visit the Book Fair in the library at Bradon Forest School. Children and staff embraced the theme of World Book Day with some fantastic costumes depicting all sorts of literary characters.



KS1 Cotswold Forest School Trip

On Monday 27 February and Friday 3 March, our KS1 pupils had a wonderful trip to the Cotswold Forest School. They enjoyed a range of Forest School activities, which began with collecting sticks to become more familiar with the surroundings. They participated in bug hunting, made mud faces on the trees and made mini homes for woodland creatures. This wonderful trip was topped off by sitting around the campfire with a toasted marshmallow.



Please see our "News" page on the school website for more reports and photographs. www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Collective Worship

This term we will be focusing on the value Thankfulness. We will be encouraging the children to be appreciative and have a thankful attitude for things we often take for granted.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Gault who has given birth to a little boy called Oliver Iwan, weighing 8lb 15oz. We wish her and her family well.

We welcome Mrs Pettman, who has joined the Breakfast Club staff, to enhance this popular before school club which continues to grow and is enjoyed by the children who attend.

Congratulations to Miss McDonald who has secured a teaching post in North Carolina, USA; she will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term and we wish her all the best in her new adventures abroad!

Should anyone wish to visit the school, you are warmly welcome. Visits can be

arranged through the school office admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk or by phoning us on (01793) 770239. For more information about our wonderful school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Mrs NAOMI CLARKE, Head Teacher

Do you have any catering experience?

Pips, Purton's Community Café Project is urgently looking for a Catering Manager to help put in place all that is necessary to serve the hungry people of Purton and support the café's Day Managers. The role will involve people management skills, designing a suitable menu and managing the cooks and bakers of the food, ordering catering supplies and taking responsibility for the catering aspects of the Café. If you want to know more, please contact Dave Nettleton: 772298, david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk



Knit-A-Square (KAS) Coffee Morning

I would like to thank everyone who attended my Knit-a-Square fundraising coffee morning today at Silver Threads Hall. It was a busy morning, there was plenty of laughter and chatter and it was great to see everyone having such a good time. The money has been counted and we have raised £1,429.22, which is absolutely wonderful. Thank you to everyone who came along and spent their money and a HUGE thank you to all the helpers. I couldn't manage to host the coffee morning without your support. I will be sending the next shipment to South Africa within the next couple of weeks. Thanks again.

LOUISE TIDMAN, Tel 772558

Good News From The Cricklade Band

In its 130th anniversary year, a new chapter of history opens for the band in Cricklade. After being made homeless in January, the band has a new 'home' in the town. It's taken an immense effort to locate somewhere for the whole band 'family' and their essential equipment. With a huge demonstration of online support, many offers of practical help and a great generosity of spirit it's now announced that the Performance Band, that's the 'big band', and its specially constructed stores will be accommodated at Cricklade Town Hall, with grateful thanks to the immense co-operation of the Town Hall committee.

The BandAcademy rehearsal base will continue to be at Cricklade United Church hall, with many thanks to the Church Council for all their help too. The band will take up occupancy of the Town Hall at the end of March, continuing to use United Church until then. By way of a celebration, the band is having a 'Housewarming' concert on Sunday 2 April at the Town Hall at 7.30pm. It will be a concert of new season music you'll know and love, with the up-and-coming musicians of BandAcademy doing their bit too. Tickets are available from Cricklade's Council Office in the High Street.

Ten Years Ago...

A “blood moon” was the only colour to be found on the front cover of the April 2007 edition of Purton Magazine. It was a photograph taken at 23:37 GMT on 3rd March 2007 by Rick Dixon of the Purton Eclipse. Many were able to see the spectacular show in a wonderfully clear night sky.

The conditions were perfect as the moon started to become obscured shortly after 8.15pm that evening with the phenomena reaching its peak just over an hour before midnight. As the Earth passed directly between the Moon and the Sun, the light that was scattered through the Earth’s atmosphere was reduced to predominantly red wavelengths which reflected off the lunar surface, hence the “blood moon” description from ancient times.

Seeing an unusual red tinge on a nightly friend as reproduced on that front cover 10 years ago, it is easy to appreciate just how our ancestors would have been worried by such a phenomenon.

In the 21st Century, the subject of global warming was added to the lunar eclipse discussions along the lines of whether the earth’s atmosphere might be so reduced as to make future lunar eclipses less spectacular as a visual event. At the same time, Climate Friendly Purton arranged a free showing of Al Gore’s film An Inconvenient Truth upstairs in the Angel which attracted an encouraging turnout 10 years ago.

The film was based on Al Gore’s lecture about global warming which he claimed even then, he had presented over 1000 times – roughly twice a week since his election defeat. With the current political situation in America, it is easy to forget that Al Gore was prevented from becoming the 43rd President of the United States of America only by a few hanging chads in the state of Florida in November 2000.

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

Purton Tennis Club



Well the weather still seems to be against us as I write this, but by the time you read it, it will hopefully have improved. Summer League Tennis starts w/c 24 April with social tennis continuing on Sundays. Here’s to another successful season! We are running coaching programmes for children during the Easter break – see website for details – as well as all our normal programmes. Our regular junior club sessions start on 1st April – new members always welcome. This comes as part of the junior membership package. We have a trip to the Greyhounds on 22nd April as a social. If you wish to come along please do so – we have tickets available at £6.00 each – open to anyone. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or www.purtontennisclub.com

LINDSEY HALL, *Chairman*

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Have you thought about where in the world Girlguiding could take you? All those aged 14 and over are eligible to apply to be part of a County team to experience guiding in another country by joining an international camp. Kirstie, Young Leader with Guides as well as a Ranger, has been selected to attend an international jamboree in Denmark this summer. This will be a life changing experience where she will challenge herself, make new friends and have fun. To support her fundraising, Guides celebrated World Thinking Day by learning about Denmark, making Danish Hearts and eating open sandwiches on rye bread as well as filling Smarties tubes with coins.

2nd Purton Brownies' World Thinking Day celebrations were centred around Mexico. They had a display of souvenirs from Our Cabaña, one of the Guide World Centres; these were borrowed from Daisy (Leader with 1st Purton Brownies) who visited a couple of years ago. The girls made nachos to eat, along with guacamole and salsa. A piñata was of course also compulsory!

Sticking with food, Guides made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and learnt all about Guiding history by playing Who Wants to be a Guiding-Millionaire.

Rangers had an evening of movie watching at Alice's house, complete with popcorn for that real cinema experience. (Food features again – it appears to be a recurring theme)

It was celebration time for Freya, Maia, Jaya, Rebecca and Lillie of 1st Purton Brownie as they made their Brownie promise, with families watching on. Leader, Jo Cook, also renewed her promise as an adult Leader and, not to be outdone by the Brownies, she too had family watching: mum Julia a former Unit Helper with the Rainbow unit and grandmother Jean a former Brownie and Guide Leader. Guiding is obviously in the blood!

1st Purton Brownies have started on a Region badge called 'Boomps-a-Daisy' made up of an eclectic mix of challenges for the girls to select from. One evening was spent working their way round four activities: a blindfold taste test, fireworks pictures using playground chalk, making Eton Mess and a cotton wool ball challenge which involved having blobs of Vaseline on their noses, then 'bobbing' for cotton wool balls and transferring them from one bowl to another. Tayla-Rae was proud to be the Brownie with the stickiest nose!

In 2018 we will have a new programme for all age groups, currently in the planning and trial stages. 2nd Purton Brownies spent an evening trialling an activity as part of this project. It was based around making sure hands are washed properly and First Aid. The Brownies managed to bandage most parts of the body! There was also a sheet to complete at home on "Bites and Stings", completely optional so well done to those who managed to complete it.

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

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



The book which impressed me deeply when I was a child, was one I found in the school library called *The Country Child* by Alison Uttley. I loved the story so much that I asked my parents if I could have a copy for Christmas, and I still have that copy today.

It is a tale of an only child called Susan Garland, who lived on a farm in the Peak District area of Derbyshire, with her parents. It is set during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Susan had to walk three miles to and from school daily, through fields, woods and copses. She was an over-imaginative child, frightened by bogbarts, witches and the like, so that each day became an ordeal during the journey.

Alison Uttley's descriptive power has the ring of truth however, as I suspect that the book is semi-autobiographical.

Each chapter has a theme, be it about certain times of the year or seasonal i.e. Christmas, Easter, Winter, Summer, Trees, School or Harvest, all meticulously detailed.

This book is one which can be read, and re-read – I must have read it a dozen times at least. There is a sequel too called *The Farm on The Hill*, which I also have.

There are wonderful illustrations too by C F Tunnicliffe, published by Faber and Faber, probably out of print now, although could possibly be obtained through a second-hand book seller.

I would recommend it to anyone who has a deep love of the country, with all its ancient lores and sayings, and is lovely in its quiet sincerity.

MARY SMITH, *Lydiard Millicent*

Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very long; 450-500 words. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

Bradon Forest School



Washington and New York Trip, February 2017

In February half term 52 students from Bradon Forest from years 10 and 11 visited the USA.

Mrs Cole, Head of Humanities said: "We flew to Washington DC and immersed ourselves in the nation's capital, first seeing the White House, and taking in the different war memorials in the National Mall area. We visited the Lincoln memorial and had some time for some quiet reflection at the Dr Martin Luther King memorial. We also visited the Smithsonian Air and Space museum, and walked up to Capitol Hill.



From Washington we then took a road trip to New York, via Philadelphia, to see Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, before spending three nights in Manhattan. We were blown away by the views at the Rockefeller Centre, before taking in 5th Avenue, Grand Central Terminal, the Public Library, walking along 42nd Street to Times Square. We spent Valentines evening on the observation deck of the Empire State

Building, seeing New York lit up on a beautiful clear night. Students visited the Statue of Liberty and learned about the experiences of immigrants at Ellis Island, before an emotional visit to Ground Zero. Our final day saw us taking in Central Park before strolling down 5th Avenue and doing some shopping.

The whole week was documented on our twitter feed - @bfsusa2017 - so parents were able to see what we were up to all week. I would like to thank all the students for their enthusiasm and energy over the course of the trip, and parents for supporting them to make it all possible. A huge thank you should go to the team of staff, without whom the trip would not have been the big success it has been. The students really enjoyed themselves, but also learned a lot about American culture and about themselves."

"I enjoyed every minute of it and have made some amazing memories that will stay with me forever. You have shown me that anything is possible and I have been able to experience a trip of a lifetime."

World Book Day Celebrations at Bradon Forest

A variety of events were held at Bradon Forest to celebrate the 20th anniversary World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March.

We were delighted to be able to offer Year 4 and 5 pupils from St Mary's the opportunity to visit our Book Fair in the library. The Book Fair was held as part of the World Book Day celebrations.

Pupils were able to select books to purchase as well as spend time in our dedicated library space.

The English department saw two Gothic heroines, a Lost Boy, a Viking and an enormous crocodile!

Elsewhere in the school, rumour has it that Paddington Bear found his way into Bradon Forest - as did James Bond!

Everyone knows that dressing up can be fun: World Book Day has become an essential anniversary in the school calendar to promote the love of reading. The new GCSE exams require students to read a wider range of texts than ever before. In a world of social media, reading has become lost to many students. We hope that World Book Day inspired our students at Bradon Forest by showing them the range of characters that are just the turn of a page away: many of our students certainly seemed to enjoy tracking down the characters and trying to identify them!



Purton Cricket Club

April cricket fixtures are always arranged with just a little dose of wishful thinking. However, there can be the mildest of sunny days that give false hope for the coming weeks, but often cold showery periods and gusty winds prevail. Any seasoned cricketer worth his salt will happily recall even playing in the snow. It's a time for the second sweater, cold hands and games that seem too long for the suffering umpire.

Nevertheless it is good to see that, weather permitting, at least four games have been arranged for the cruellest month which are appended below. Hopefully these will prepare us for our first league encounters on May 6th. When the fixtures are first published, it is always interesting to see the changes from last season. For the 1st. XI, Malmesbury (relegated) and Westbury (promoted) are absent from our list. They are replaced by longstanding rivals Wootton Bassett and Warminster. For the 2nd. XI there are, once again, big changes. Mysteriously, we find ourselves now playing in Division 5 of the Wiltshire League, retaining only two of last year's opponents. Trips to Bathford, Blunsdon and Melksham will be relatively new experiences while playing at Buscot Park, a time-honoured fixture of earlier years, will bring back happy memories for some.

April fixtures at Purton:

Sat. April 8th. Potterne C.C

Sun. April 23rd. Wiltshire U-17

Sat. April 15th. Swindon C.C

Sun. April 30th. Purton U-15,
opponents to be announced.

All games due to commence at 1.00pm



DAVID BISSET

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