

# Purton. Magazine

April 2018



Spring is in the air at Quarry Farm as it welcomes this year's calves. Pictured is Dinky, she's small and hilarious... but has a big attitude! See page 50. Photo by Alex Thomas

**50p**

---

## Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	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		
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020
<b>Schools &amp; Playgroups</b>		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
<b>Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary</b> <a href="http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk">www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</a>		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk	
	Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com	
	Tel: 770627	
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall:	Jane Smith:
	770157	772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk	Tel: 773035
<b>Methodist Churches</b> <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i> Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
<b>Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett</b>		
<a href="http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk">www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk</a>		
Parish Priest:	Tel: 852366	
Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues		
Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell	Tel: 325681	
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
<b>Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade</b>		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson	Tel: 01285 712586	St Mary's Church
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.0pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

---

## Contents

10 Years Ago .....	52	London Marathon .....	56
A Book I will always Remember.....	48	Methodist Church .....	41
Advertiser Index .....	66	Parish Council News.....	6
After 8 .....	28	Patient Participation Group.....	20
Age Concern.....	14	Post Bag.....	29
An Oscar for Swindon .....	40	Prayer for Purton.....	19
Bowls Club .....	49	Probus Club.....	59
Bradon Forest School .....	32	Profferings.....	44
Christian Aid.....	23	Prospect Hospice.....	64
Church floodlighting.....	52	Purton Amateur Dramatics .....	55
Cricklade Band .....	12	Purton Contacts.....	3
Cricklade Country Market.....	51	Purton Placard .....	46
Diary Pages.....	34	Purton Remembers .....	41
Easter Garden Festival .....	21	Silver Threads.....	19
Flower,Art,Craft and Produce Show.	45	Sing 4/4 Community Choir .....	28
Flowers for Easter.....	21	St Mary's Primary School .....	30
Football Club.....	55	Swingbirds and Roundabouts .....	56
Gardeners' Guild.....	42	Tennis Club.....	24
Girlguiding in Purton.....	63	The Accrington Pals.....	40
Great War Project .....	36	The Other Side of the Gate .....	50
Health & Wellbeing Champion.....	41	We Record .....	53
Historical Society .....	27	Women's Institute.....	44

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

---

**Purton.  
Magazine**

**Purton Magazine committee:**

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey,  
Sheila Fowler, Sandra Horsnall, Francis Sheppard,  
Richard McCarthy.

**Designed by:** Heather Ponting-Bather, In Touch Design & Print

**Advertising enquiries:** Francis Sheppard Email: [advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**Copy & advertising deadline:** 10th of each month, please to: Purton Magazine,  
c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR

Tel: 01793 772954 email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**Distribution & Delivery enquiries:** Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) © 2004-2018

**InTouch  
Design & Print**

## From the Editors

Many in Purton value highly the separation with our younger and larger neighbours in Swindon aided by the different local authorities and a thinning green belt between us. Yet who couldn't be cheered by the news that Maisie Sly, a, six year old girl from Swindon brought home an Oscar for the best Live Action Short Film.

The film, "The Silent Child" will be shown on BBC One television on Good Friday, 30th March. It tells the story of Libby, a profoundly deaf four year old girl who lives a silent life until a social worker teaches her how to communicate through sign language. On page 40 we learn that Maisie, who played Libby in the film, moved with her family to Swindon because they felt that Red Oaks school had the best facilities for Maisie.

There are around 150,000 adults and children living in England and Wales who use British Sign Language (BSL) and there are many thousands more people who also use BSL to communicate with friends and relatives who are deaf. Then, on page 48, we learn that "*A Book I Will Always Remember*" helped to convince a then eight year old that she wanted to teach deaf children.

Purton Guides celebrated Pancake Day by making mini pancakes in foil tins over tea lights with "varying levels of success" although flipping was managed by some girls – see page 63. Keeping the mini link, there will be a mini Easter Garden Festival. All readers are invited on page 28 to bring their own Easter Garden, big or small, on a plate or dish or larger, to St. Mary's church on Saturday 31st March between 10.00am and 2.00pm to be displayed throughout Easter Day.

The last time Easter Day was on 1st April was 62 years ago, in 1956 and on page 36, we learn from part 57 of Rick Dixon's Great War Project that 100 years ago in 1918, on 1st April the Royal Air Force was formed by amalgamating the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

While it is encouraging to learn that Rick is finally hoping to leave hospital after 17 weeks both here and abroad, we confirm with great sadness that Dave Ainscough, husband of another Magazine Committee member, has recently died. In her letter on page 29, Avril thanks everyone in this caring village who made contact during his short illness.

---

30

Volunteers cleaned up  
over 15 bin liners full of  
litter from our streets  
- see page 29

80

WWI Victims shot  
down by Manfred von  
Richthofen aka 'The Red  
Baron' - see page 36

100

Litres of water a day  
needed by milking cows,  
even when the pipes are  
frozen - see page 50

# Purton Parish Council News



## Press Release

Purton Parish Council are pleased to announce that they have secured the purchase of land known as "Long Ground", Church End, Purton for potential burial purposes.

The land will be assessed in the coming months to ascertain its suitability for future burials. The Land, regardless of use, will be an asset to the village with secured open space for years to come. Any questions or queries do not hesitate to speak to the Clerk on 01793 771066 or email [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

## Welcome to a new Councillor

Purton Parish Council welcomes a newly co-opted Councillor Mrs Sue Relfe who joined us on Monday 12th March 2018.

## Councillor Vacancies

Only 1 vacancy left and we will have our full quota. If interested please contact the Clerk.

## Councillors 2017-18

Chairman of Council/Staff Sub/	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Finance & General Purposes/Charities		
Vice Chair of Council	Elizabeth Wilson	01793 771854
Chair of Planning	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Scott Harflett	07920 260222
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Sue Matthews	01793 771091
Chair of Play Areas	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Matt Rogers	01793 771066
Councillor	Jamie Hurwood	01793 771066
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Councillor	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Councillor	Sue Relfe	01793 771066

## Children and learning about dementia

Children are born inquisitive and wish to learn and understand. Dementia sadly affects families and children involved as they may see a change in their loved ones mannerism that cannot often be explained. We are holding a session specifically tailored for children between the age of 5-10 years of age on Thursday 5th April 2018 from 10am-12 noon at the Village Hall, Station Road. All welcome. Please ensure that a responsible adult remains with the child during the session. Snacks and juice will be provided plus Easter Crafts during this session. Please indicate

---

your attendance by calling the offices on 01793 771066 or email [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk) to ensure we are ready for numbers. Please make the difference and allow your children to ask questions, understand and continue to support their loved ones at their level.

### ***Become a Dementia Friend***

A great response to the first two months of the year with regards to Purton becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. New dates and times are as follows: 18th April at 1pm and 4pm, 30th May at 2pm and 7pm and 20th June at 10am and 2pm at the Village Hall, Purton. Everyone is welcome. 45 minutes of your time to change a community.

Do you belong to a Community Group or business in Purton?

Can we come to one of your meetings or premises and run a Dementia Friends Session? Say YES, make a difference and allow us to show that as a community we care. Make Purton Proud say yes to 45 minutes of your time to make a difference to those suffering and caring.

### ***Councillor Surgery***

Do you have concerns or questions regarding Purton that the Parish Council can advise or help with? Come along and have an informal chat on Saturday 12 May, Saturday 8 September and Saturday 3 December 2018 from 10am to 12 noon.

### ***April Meetings***

Mon 9 April	Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30am. (Theme for this year's event is Mental Health and Dementia)
Wed 11 April	Play Area Committee meeting
Mon 16 April	Parish Council meeting
Mon 30 April	Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity meeting

### ***St Mary's Churchyard***

A planning application has now been submitted to carry out tree works in the Church yard. Once agreed a suitable date will be set and we will be working with the church to carry out the extensive works. The aim of the works is to give a safer route to all graves, whilst maintaining the trees that form part of the history of the Church.

### ***Purton Cemetery***

Purton Parish Council has carried out memorial testing in the Cemetery during January 2018.

We have contacted the owners of the graves where details are on file, but sadly several are missing. A notice has been attached to any headstone that requires attention. No headstone is in danger of collapse or falling. If you are aware of the ownership or could help us locate the families please contact our offices on (01793) 771066 or email [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

---

---

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

### **Royal Wootton Bassett And Cricklade Area Board (Rwb&C)**

Through a donation of match funding at the RWB&C Area Board meeting the footpath that links the Old St Marys School site has been resurfaced.

### **Metal Planters**

Purton Parish Council has a supply of old metal planters for sale. If you are interested in purchasing please email or telephone the Clerk for more details (8 oval, 5 oblong).

### **Planning**

#### **Determined applications - approved with conditions**

- 17/12072/FUL Folly Down Farm. Packhorse. Proposed veterinary stocks, records office and WCs.
- 18/00475/TCA 5 High Street. 30% crown thin to 1 apple tree, 30% crown reduction to 1 cherry tree and 2 apple trees and reduce hawthorn to 2 metres. No Objection.
- 17/12487/FUL 80 Mustang Way. Single storey side/rear extension and first floor rear extension.
- 17/12268/FUL Dairy Bungalow. Widham. Extension and alterations to dwelling.

### **Refused Application**

- 17/11180/FUL Cotswold Heights, Greenhill.

- 17/08188/OUT Land at Purton Road.

### **Charities**

The Village Hall Foyer and Kitchen roof has now been replaced. Thank you to the hirers for their patience during this noisy but essential works.

Need an event venue? Why not the Village Hall?? With the help of a Purton Company the Village Hall is going to be transformed to showcase what it has to offer – watch this space for more details...

We have set up a “GIVEASYOULIVE” site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and lets raise some pennies. [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)

### **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

The trained volunteers have been regularly carrying out speed watch sessions at the determined sites and have recently been questioned regarding the speed limit throughout the main road in Purton (Station Road/High Street). Please be advised that although there are stickers on lamp posts, wheelie bins etc stating 20mph the statutory speed limit is in fact 30 mph.

Community Speed Watch (CSV) 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 Grigg on [chezneymb@hotmail.com](mailto:chezneymb@hotmail.com) or Debbie Lawrence on [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk) or call the office on 01793 771066.

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

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

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

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

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

Just one click away will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures, meet the staff, "did you know" photographs and much more. If you have an event in the Parish that you would like us to promote on any of the above media sites please contact the Clerk on [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk) or call 771066. Find us at: Facebook – Purton Parish Council Twitter - @PurtonPC

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

## **The Cricklade Band**

The band funds all it does in a not-for-profit sort of way – so, to help pay our way, please visit us at the Spring Table-Top Sale on Saturday 14 April, it's going to be at Cricklade Town Hall, the main hall, with plenty of space, from 11am to 1pm – a really friendly event and terrific tea and cake too!

If you're a Table-Top seller, it's getting close so don't delay - please give Val a call on 01793 750516 to book your table at just £6. Setting up is from 10am.

If you're a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? Although the band itself will definitely have our now famous home-made cake array, tea, coffee, games of chance and, of course, a raffle.

Go on, take the plunge! If you, or anyone you know, has ever had an interest in playing music come and have a go, or a chat, at Table-Top. You could be the next welcome addition to the band 'family'!

## Purton & District Age Concern



We have been chosen by Waitrose to take part in their green token scheme in March 2018. This is in their Wichenstowe and Malmesbury stores. If you shop at these Waitrose stores please obtain a green token when you pay for your shopping and place it in the Purton Age Concern box.

We have also been chosen for the Asda West Swindon green token scheme for April, May and June. Again, please ask for a green token when paying for your shopping and add to the Purton Age Concern box. Money raised through these schemes will go towards replacing the grey minibus.

Thank you to all Age Concern volunteers who attended the excellent Dementia Friend training sessions hosted by Sue Giles on Tuesday 13 February in the Village Hall. Informative training, approached in a sensitive manner, many thanks Sue. The next Dementia Friend training sessions are on Friday 23 March at either 2pm or 7pm, Wednesday 18 April at 1pm or 4pm, Wednesday 30 May at 2pm or 7pm and Wednesday 20 June at 10am or 2pm. Sessions last just 45 minutes and are held in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

We are looking forward to taking delivery of the new blue minibus very soon. I'm sure it will be instantly recognisable as it drives around the village with our name and logos on it. We have also received a few more donations towards replacing the grey minibus most notably a large donation in lieu of flowers from Joe Ricketts funeral. We are very grateful for all donations whatever the size as every £1 gets us closer to replacing our second vehicle. Thank you.

I'm sorry to say that due to increasing work commitments Mick Looker recently informed the committee he will not be standing for re-election as chairman at our AGM in June. Mick joined Age Concern in 2013 and during that time has encouraged many younger people to join our committee and help at our events. We are very grateful to Mick for this as it means we are set to continue into the future. Fortunately for us Mick will be remaining on our committee and his wife, Maria, along with her group of younger helpers will continue to provide the food at many of our events. Thank you Mick and Maria for all you have done and for your continuing support, it is much appreciated by all the committee. One of our minibus drivers, Peter Berry, is interested in becoming our new chairman, he will be joining us at our monthly committee meetings from April and if all goes to plan, will be nominated for election at the AGM.

Heather Harris has also decided the time is right for her to resign from our general committee. Heather has been a stalwart on the Age Concern committee for many years. Heather and her late husband Ron were part of the fundraising team that came up with the ideas for our Burns night celebration and 3B's evening, both events are well attended and raise large sums of money for our charity. Heather, the

---

committee thank you for your dedication and support during your time with Age Concern and wish you well in the future.

Coming up we have our first Mystery Tour on Wednesday 4 April, 3Bs evening on Friday 6 April and an outing to Hereford on Wednesday 2 May. Please read my future events section for more details.

### **Future Events**

**Mystery Tour** - Wednesday 4 April with a 10am start. The cost is £15 for pensioners in our area and £17.00 for non-pensioners and those from outside our area. A pub lunch is included. If you would like to go, please book and pay for your place with your street warden before Monday 26th March

**3Bs Evening** - Friday 6 April at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £7.00 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. Transport is available, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book a seat on the minibus.

**Minibus Shopping Trips** - Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator has informed me the Friday shopping trips on the minibus in April will be as follows;

Friday 13 April to Stroud, leaving Purton at 8.45am, cost £6 and

Friday 27 April to Cirencester, leaving Purton at 9am, cost £3. Please contact Hazel on 770862 to book your place.

**Outing to Hereford** - Wednesday 2 May with a 10am start. The cost is £11 for pensioners in our area and £13 for non- pensioners and those outside our area. Food is not included on this outing. Please book and pay for your place with your street warden before Friday 20th April.

**Boat Trip** - Friday 8 June. The maximum number of 40 people are booked onto the boat and Louise has 12 people on a waiting list. The cost is £20 and includes lunch on board. We will leave the village at 9am. Can everyone who has booked their place on the boat please contact Louise on 772558 to make their payment. Thank you.

**Severn Valley Railway Trip** - Wednesday 4 July - Fifty people are booked onto this outing and Louise has 8 people on a waiting list. The cost is £20. We will be leaving the Village at 11.30am. We have to be at Kidderminster station at least 45 minutes prior to departure. We are travelling on the 2.15pm steam train from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth. Please have a mid-morning snack at home to sustain yourselves until lunchtime. Please bring a packed lunch, which you will be able to eat on the train as we will be in a private carriage with 4 seats to every table. Drinks are available on the train. The coach will pick us up in Bridgnorth and there will be a comfort/ refreshment stop on the journey home. Can everyone who has booked their place please contact Louise on 772558 to make their payment. Thank you.

---

---

## **Past Events**

**Jumble Sale** - We had a very successful afternoon at our jumble sale in February and raised £344. Thank you to everyone who donated jumble and everyone who helped on the day. The next jumble sale will be on 1st September, full details nearer the time.

**Annual Auction** - Due to the appalling weather we had to cancel our auction that was due to take place on 3 March. Following a discussion at our recent committee meeting we are hoping to re-schedule the event in October. I will have more details next month.

## **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 01380 861155

**Tai chi** - We hold Tai chi sessions on Thursday's at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. If you would like to join the classes please contact Steve Rouse the instructor on 07956359924 or email him at [wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com](mailto:wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com).

**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 [andywhitepacmb@gmail.com](mailto:andywhitepacmb@gmail.com) we can always do with more volunteers.

**Luncheon Club** - 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 Friendship Club** - (which is run by Silver Threads, not Age Concern) is well attended. Last month 24 people enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Bell at Purton Stoke. Our thanks go to Vicki and Greg for being superb hosts and to Hazel Woodbridge and Peter and Sue Berry for organising and driving the minibus for our monthly club meetings, your support is much appreciated.

The next two Friendship Club meetings will be in Silver Threads Hall on Friday 6th April and Friday 4th May from 2pm-4pm and cost just 50p. The next quarterly lunch at The Bell will be on Friday 1st June. The minibus is available to attend the friendship Club, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place.

**easyfundraising.org.uk** - If you shop online for groceries or any other purchases would you please consider registering with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and nominate Purton and District Age Concern as your Good Cause. Once registered, each time you make a purchase by accessing the online shop of your choice through [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) we will receive a donation. All major supermarkets and High

---

Street shops have signed up to this donating service, so each time you shop online you will be helping our charity. Thank you.

At the time of writing this report Tony received a telephone call from Mike Bell advising his wife Jenny has passed away. Jenny was well known to all in Age Concern, she was a very community minded person and an excellent street warden for us for many years. She will be sadly missed by many people in Purton.

*Louise Tidman*

## Purton Silver Threads

Members and friends have participated and enjoyed several meetings this year. January included a poetry afternoon, Bingo and Nursery Rhymes. The poetry afternoon, led by Carole, provided a variety of old and new, some with unusual lyrics!

Bingo with John and Brenda, another great time. You can hear a pin drop, the concentration is so intense! We always enjoy John's sense on humour and the quizzes he incorporates with the bingo.

The origins and content of some of nursery rhymes was quite disturbing and grotesque, still we all remembered and sang along with the recordings – a real journey down memory lane.

Laura came along in February from the café at the Red House to share her delicious recipes with us. We all hope to visit when the weather is warmer.

Great friends John, Margaret, Jenny and David, from Devizes, came to play and sing songs from the shows. We enjoyed their programme of memorable pieces and humorous sketches.

The Friendship Club continues to attract new members and we were pleased to welcome Nicola and Alexa from the Arts Council, who brought collections from Devizes Museum, and Marion and Jan with artefacts from Purton Museum. All the items were handled and discussed at great length, again bringing back memories of the way we used to live and work – very thought provoking at times!

We shall have visited the Bell in March and the next meeting is April 6th.

On Saturday 21st April we shall be holding a coffee morning, it will be the 92nd birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, long may she reign! We send her our good wishes. There will be the usual stalls and maybe a few surprises.

There's always a warm welcome at our meetings, just come along one Tuesday, see dates and times in the diary.

*Jenny Barnes, 770339*

## 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*

---

## **Information Evening - Breast Cancer - re-arranged for 16 May**

Having had to postpone the planned talk on Breast Cancer owing to the weather this has now been rearranged for Wednesday 16 May, 7.30-9pm in Purton Surgery. Tickets will be available from Purton Surgery from the beginning of April. If you had a ticket for the talk last week you will need to pick up a new one.

## **Repeat prescriptions**

There are several ways of ordering repeat prescriptions:

- a) drop your paper request into the surgery,
- b) use the online Patient Access system which you can also use to book appointments,
- c) sign up to your pharmacy and authorise them to reorder for you.

If you choose to use this latter method then you will need to tell the pharmacy exactly which medicines you need, otherwise there is the possibility of them dispensing items that you no longer require or for which you already have adequate supplies.

## **Reducing wastage**

Purton Surgery is dedicated to ensuring that patients have the right medication at the right time to help them stay well, however there are ways in which you can help:

1. Only order what you need. Although it can be comforting to keep a stock of medication in the cupboard for when you need it, medicines have expiry dates and your stock may be out of date by the time you get to it. In addition, your prescription or dosage may have changed. So please when ordering your repeat prescription double check what items you already have and then only order what you need.
2. Check your prescription before you leave the pharmacy. When picking up your prescription from the pharmacy check it before you leave the premises. Once you leave the pharmacy any unwanted medicines you return have to be destroyed, even if unopened, so quickly checking your prescription could literally save many thousands of pounds.

## **Receive PPG information by email**

This Newsletter and other PPG information is sent to five local magazines for inclusion and also to Purton Parish Council and to Cricklade Town Council (see their websites and the Noticeboard in Cricklade Town Council Office window). In addition you can receive PPG information by email; simply email your request to: [groupforpatients@gmail.com](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com) and you will be added to the group list. In accordance with our email protocol all emails are sent blind copy.

*Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities  
Sheila Fowler, Secretary, Purton PPG*

## Mini Easter Garden Festival

As it is now Lent we have an opportunity to make an Easter Garden to be displayed for people to view in St Mary's Church from Saturday 31st March to Sunday 1st April, Easter Day. Please bring your Easter Garden... big or small, on a plate or dish or in a larger container on Saturday 31st March between 10am and 2pm. They will be on display throughout Easter Day. Then the Gardens can be collected on Monday 2nd April by 4pm, if you want them back after the Easter weekend.

## Flowers for Easter

If you would like to help decorate St Mary's Church for Easter please come and join us on Saturday March 31st from 10am. We want to make the church look even more beautiful, by filling it with joyous yellow Spring flowers ,or if you would like to donate some flowers or money for flowers please let us know.

*All donations are very welcome. Libbie: 771018*

We welcome submissions for publication in the next edition of *Purton Magazine* from the local community and from readers further afield. Copy deadline is the 10th of each month. Please email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**PURTON  
VETS**

A partnership of lifelong care



**77 High Street,  
Purton, SN5 4AB  
01793 771869  
[purtonvets.co.uk](http://purtonvets.co.uk)**



*Jon's  
Changes*

Specialist in PVCU windows, doors,  
patio doors, bi-folding doors  
and conservatories.

White, Woodgrain, Woodgrain on white  
or Coloured.



For a free quotation please call:  
**Jon Usher 01793 770596**  
**Email: [jonschanges@btinternet.com](mailto:jonschanges@btinternet.com)**  
Over 25 years experience  
10 College Road, Purton, Swindon SN5 4AR

## Christian Aid week is coming!

Purton is an amazing village with a huge commitment to Christian Aid Week, which, this year is from May 13-20th. The focus this year is Haiti, an island that is devastated by poverty, by earthquake and by hurricanes.



After the earthquake in 2010, which affected over two million people, Christian Aid support was used to build extra strong houses, which withstood the hurricane that devastated much of the country a few years later. The people of Haiti are affected by poverty, climate change, de-forestation as well as by these horrendous natural disasters. It is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. So what can we in Purton do to help?

During Christian Aid Week we shall be arranging a variety of events and you are all welcome. Some are for information sharing: some are for fundraising and fun!

So far we have:

### **Fri May 11: at Silver Threads Hall ‘Murder at Hillcrest House’.**

This performance will be put on by PADS. Doors will open at 7pm and the performance will begin at 7.30pm. Supper is included in the price of the ticket which is £10 and will be served during the interval. Please come along if you are on your own or in a couple as you will be able to work through the clues with your fellow diners in teams of 4 or 6. If you want to come as a team please say when you buy your tickets so we can seat you together.

The play is set in 1936 so if you want to get in the mood of the evening why not come along dressed in the fashion of that era? Tickets will be on sale by the beginning of April, look out for the posters around the village! If you are interested in coming contact; Libbie on 771018, Mary on 770505 or Wendy on 771749.

### **Sun May 13: Christian Aid Café Service at the Methodist Church, at 10.30am:**

Come and enjoy breakfast first from 9am, and then hear the Christian Aid speaker during the service.

**Wed May 16: Christian Aid Lunch with many thanks to Methodist Church for hosting.** The lunch is from 12 noon and tickets are £6 each. Tickets are limited so make sure you buy yours in plenty of time from Libbie: 771018: or Sylvia 770686

All proceeds will go towards the work of Christian Aid in Haiti where thousands of families are trying to put their lives back together after the devastating earthquake of 2010 followed by the appalling Hurricane Matthew.

**Sat May 19: Cakes & Plants Sale with a raffle: Top Shops from 8.30am**

**Sun May 20: Birthday Bring & Share Lunch at St Mary’s Church from 12 noon to 2.30pm.** See posters for more details

---

**Tues June 19: Our annual Curry Evening, kindly hosted once again by Khalique at the Maharajah in Purton.**

This will be held on 2 sittings, the first at 6.30pm and the second at 8pm. More details to follow nearer the time, look out for future articles in the Purton magazine and posters around the village. All profit from the two events will be donated to Christian Aid.

As well as all of these activities we shall be trying to distribute and collect up the little red envelopes that drop through almost every letterbox in the village, thanks to amazing volunteers, including the Guides. And there will be the usual Quiz which infuriates and intrigues, hopefully in equal measure! We also have a competition with a winning prize of a superbly crafted quilt made by a gifted Purtonian.

Please give as generously as you can. We KNOW the money is carefully spent on your behalf: we know that families in Haiti will benefit from your generosity. If you would like to help us with these Christian Aid activities in any way please contact us. We shall be so grateful for any offer of support.

*To find out more please phone Libbie: 771018 or Mary: 770505*

## Purton Tennis Club



Coaching is going well under new Head Coach Ben Langley. Look out for details of our Easter Camps at Purton.

Our Club Junior Sessions will start on Saturday 7 April run by Nicola Gardner – please attend the same session as last year – 10 to 11 Primary Children, 11 to 12 for Secondary School Children. We should have finished Winter League now with all teams staying in their respective Divisions. Summer League will be commencing 15th April – come up and watch on a sunny evening!

We are repairing the fencing on the Cemetery Courts so please bear with us for any disruption.

Purton will be holding the Khalique Cup on Sunday 20th May – this is a mixed open tournament and anyone can enter. Partners will be found if you want to enter on your own – see website for details.



25 of us went Bowling on Saturday 10 March and had a great time – we are as competitive off court as we are on. Follow us on facebook and twitter or for information visit: [www.purtontennisclub.com](http://www.purtontennisclub.com)

*Lindsey Hall*

# Purton Historical Society



## **Thursday 26 April 2018 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall 'Villages in the Vale of the White Horse' – Mr Paul Williams**

The talk is based on Alfred Williams's 6th book "Villages of the vale of the White Horse" published in 1913, recording what he saw and heard during his travels around the villages & towns of the Vale of the White Horse. The show initially takes the audience on an overview of Alfred Williams's life, followed by a tour unfolded with illustrations of postcards/photographs of locations written in the order of the book published.

## **Thursday 24 May at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall 'Droitwich and it's Canals' – John Farrow**

Droitwich is a small town south of Birmingham which began life in Roman times when salt was extracted there. John will describe its fascinating history including the restoration of salt recovery by Richard of Chichester and development as a spa town. Amongst the interesting buildings are a French chateau and a remarkable Roman Catholic Church with Italian mosaics. To export the salt, two canals were constructed and have been recently restored which, together with the Severn, create a triangle with Worcester at its southern end. John will also provide a brief introduction to Worcester which was key at the start and end of the British Civil War.

## **Sunday 24 June 2018 - Visit to the Severn Ship Wrecks - From Purton Wiltshire to Purton Gloucestershire!**



In February 2017 Paul Barnett talked to the Society about the region's shipping fortunes and its ultimate demise at the hands of determined wreckers along the Severn foreshore at Sharpness. The visit is a follow up to this talk and will include a guided tour through the remains of the Purton Hulks. A fascinating look into Gloucestershire's long gone maritime past – an opportunity not to be missed. Coach leaves Purton at 8.30am to travel to Purton, Gloucestershire. Guided tour through the remains of Purton Hulks. In the company of L P Barnett, Marine Historian. Carvery lunch at The Malthouse Hotel, Berkeley. Then returning to Purton, Wiltshire all inclusive £25. Booking form will be available at Society meetings.

New Members and visitors always welcome

Tony & Janet Neate, E mail: [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com) Tel: 01793 770117

## **Saturday 12 May 2018 – Purton Historical Society Annual Outing**

Our summer outing this year takes us to Old Sarum, Salisbury Cathedral Close and Salisbury Cathedral leaving Purton at approximately 9am and returning from Salisbury at 5 pm. The Iron Age Hill fort of Old Sarum rising up from the Salisbury plains is hard to miss and has a history dating back to around 400BC. The guided

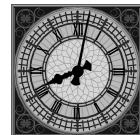
---

tour of this ancient monument will give us an insight into the hill fort, the Norman Castle and Salisbury's first Cathedral. From Old Sarum we travel to Cathedral Close in Salisbury where members can enjoy the historical houses the Close has to offer and refresh themselves with lunch. Then we proceed to Salisbury Cathedral for a guided tour of this magnificent building with time at the end to visit the Cathedral shop and partake of refreshments before returning home.

Cost: English Heritage members - £21.00/non-English Heritage members - £25.00

*Further information available from Clive and Liz Rushen, 6 Jubilee Estate, Purton, SNS 4EU, email: cliverushen@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 770933 or from monthly meetings.*

## After 8



Our February After 8 meeting was our usual late Christmas meal. The weather for the evening was suitably festive, being cold and frosty. The venue was the Swindon College training restaurant in North Star Avenue, Swindon (opposite the Oasis Leisure Centre). Parking is available on the college site.

The training restaurant gives the students a realistic experience of the catering environment when preparing, cooking and serving food, and bartending. There is a live feed from a camera in the kitchen, so that customers can watch their food being cooked.

The restaurant is open for evening meals on Thursdays only (seating 6:30pm - 7:00pm for service at 7:00pm), but is also open for lunches from Tuesday to Friday. Booking is necessary so that they know the numbers they are catering for. This can be done by either calling 01793 498244 or emailing to: [faithmarles@swindon.ac.uk](mailto:faithmarles@swindon.ac.uk)

We had a really enjoyable evening catching up on news and gossip whilst appreciating the food prepared by the students.

The restaurant does have a web page with further information and a sample of the menus - <https://www.swindon.ac.uk/Other-services/The-Restaurant.aspx>. For the latest menus and any dietary requirements, contact the above telephone number or email address. Current prices for the Thursday evening meal is £10.00 for 2 courses and £13.50 for 3 courses.

## Can you help?

Sing 4/4 Community Choir is looking for a leading bass voice to strengthen the men's section (5 tenors and 3 basses) of our 4 part choir. Could it be you? We are a friendly group of 45 voices who meet on Thursday evenings at the Jenner Hall, Cricklade and perform three concerts a year. If you can help please contact MD Mary New on 01793 770630. We would be delighted to hear from you.

---

# 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.



## **David Ainscough**

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contacted Dave and I to offer their best wishes during his short illness. Sadly he passed away on Wednesday 7th March, but I know he found comfort in your kind words and he wanted me to say a big thank you. Living in such a caring village has made a big difference at this difficult time. David's funeral is on 10th April at Kingsdown Crematorium at 2.15pm, followed by a wake at the Village Hall from 3.30pm onwards. All welcome at either or both.

Avril Ainscough and family

## **Pick of the bunch!**

Thank you to the fantastic 30 volunteers who turned out to clean up more than 15 big bin liners-full of litter from the streets of Purton on Saturday 10 March.

John Cuthbert

## **Mary Woolford**

Sue Cook and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of support, cards of condolence and flowers following the passing of Sue's dear Mum, Mary Woolford.

Sue Cook

## **Caring Hands (Wiltshire)**

On 15th February 2018 we were inspected by CCQ. Again I am pleased to say we have an overall rating of GOOD! I would like to say a very BIG thank you to all my staff for the consistent care and support you all give my residents and families, without you I would not be able to provide an excellent service. We all strive for continuous improvement, well done to you all!

Vicky Fowler

## **Joan Hammond**

A long term resident of Purton village community Joan Hammond unexpectedly passed away on 2nd March 2018, age 81. She had lived in Purton from 1961 having moved here from central London. She lived with her husband Henry (Lofty) Hammond until he passed away in 2005 age 72 and her son Peter until he moved down to Bognor Regis in 1991 who still lives there today. Notwithstanding Joan's time as a Telephonist working for the GPO while living in central London, just about all of her working life was spent as a Nurse looking after Mentally handicapped women here in Purton at North View Hospital until it closed in 1989 and then

at North View House until it was also closed and she retired in the 1990s. Joan leaves behind her son and his wife, Peter & Sue, her 3 Grandchildren, Jayne, Sarah

and Kate and three great grandchildren Noah, Luca, Louie and her friends she has known for many, many years.

Pete Hammond

## St Mary's Primary School

Term 3 was a short but busy term! As we now enter Term 4 having faced the challenges of the recent snow and snow closures, I can report that children have celebrated World Thinking Day and World Book Day and have been very successful in our sporting fixtures and local competitions (see reports below).

### **Staff News:**

Congratulations to Miss Richardson, Class 9's teacher, who has welcomed a new baby boy into her family! Mrs Gault, Class 10's teacher, has returned following her recent maternity leave. We also said farewell to Sherrie Hall, our cleaning supervisor, who has left St Mary's after several years of invaluable service. We wish her well for the future.

We are pleased to announce that the elected new parent governor is Mr Amey. We look forward to welcoming him to the Governing Body.

### **Rotary Junior Youth Speaks Competition 2018**

On Monday 29th January four local junior schools competed for the Rotary Youth Speaks trophy.

In front of an audience of 100 at the Memorial Hall in Royal Wootton Bassett, three members from each school were asked to speak for two minutes on a subject of their choice. The teams' choice of topics for their speeches ranged from "The Tiguar" (Longleaze Primary School); through "Charities" (Lydiard Millicent Primary School); to "Coco Chanel" (Noremarsch Junior School); and "How Attitudes Have Changed in the Western World" (St Mary's Primary School).

The standard of all the presentations was exceptionally high and the teams had clearly prepared well and researched their subjects. The judges were impressed by the eloquence and the confident delivery of all the speakers. However, after much deliberation, head judge Philip Porter (a public speaking coach) announced St Mary's Primary School as the 2018 winners. The Rotary trophy and £20 in book tokens were presented to the winning team of Kate, Oz and Jemma.



Youth Speaks is one of the competitions organised annually by Rotary Clubs across the country aimed at promoting the development of leadership skills in young people. Public speaking is not easy and it requires bravery to stand up at a microphone on a stage in front of so many people so well done to all those who took part!



### **World Thinking Day - 22nd February 2018**

Our St Mary's Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows came into school in their uniforms on Thinking Day and talked to their peers about this special day of international friendship. Two of our older pupils presented in Key Stage 2 assembly.

### **World Book Day - 1st March 2018**

Children and teachers came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Mrs Fudge ran a story time assembly first thing and then the older and younger classes all mixed and matched for a whole school buddy reading session.

The school recognises that there is an on-going issue with traffic congestion along College Road. Our rule is that parents should not drive up College Road to drop off and pick up their children and we continue to reiterate this message. We therefore also urge any visitors who are coming to the school to drive very carefully, adhering to the speed limit at all times and to be aware of the many pedestrians that use this road to come to school. We are continuing to liaise with residents and the local Council in solving these issues.

We do currently have spaces in some year groups, so should you be thinking of coming to join us, you are warmly welcome to look round the school prior to submitting an application. 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 school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website <http://www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk>



*Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher*

# Bradon Forest School



## Drama Extravaganza!

On Wednesday 7 March, the Drama Department played host to a day of workshops and performances for our GCSE and keen Year 9 Drama students.

### **Comedy with Sam Pamphilon - GCSE Year 10 and 11**

Actor/comedian Sam Pamphilon worked with our students on a 'Comedy Masterclass'. Sam is co-founder and co-host of the comedy programme 'Go8bit' with Dara O Briain, currently showing on the Dave Channel.



### **Theatre in Education - Selected Year 9 plus Year 10 & 11 GCSE**

Raw Alchemy Theatre performed the award winning play by Enda Walsh looking at the affects of social media on mental health in teens.

### **GCSE Cultural Art Exhibition**

Make sure you get yourself down to the West Swindon Link Centre Library over the next two weeks. Our Year 10 GCSE Artists are on display! The work exhibited includes a wide range of media and is the result of an extended project by Year 10 students, looking at Art from around the world and comparing old styles with new. Thank you to Mrs Holmes for organising this opportunity.

## **World Book Day 2018 - What a RAZZTWIZZLER!**



Many students and staff enjoyed dressing up a literary characters to celebrate World Book Day 2018. Lots of students clearly went to a huge deal of effort to ensure that they looked the part - student costumes included The Mad Hatter, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Little Red Riding Hood and Geek

Girl. Some of the staff characters included Gangsta Granny, Harry Potter and Dennis the Menace to name but a few.

The English Faculty reported, "It has been fantastic to see so many students and staff embrace the day. We hope this helps to encourage a love of reading which is so important across the whole curriculum. We are glad for the support of the many students and staff - especially the library staff who have been running a book fair in order to encourage our students to further their love of reading. It has been a great success." In the words of Roald Dahl's BFG, it has been 'gloriumptious'!

### **House Charity Day**

Mr Heathcote reports: The House Charity day on Friday 9 February 2018 was a huge success and a great deal of fun. The students were fantastic and came up with a huge range of fundraising activities. We had plenty of cake and sweet sales, decorating biscuits, sponsored silences, car washing, slime making, nail painting, football competitions, henna, popcorn sales, pancakes, plant sales, tombolas, music performances and how could I forget 'sponge the teacher' - I still feel cold thinking about it now.

It is impossible to list all the activities as the hall, gym and many tutor bases were full at lunchtime!! The total raised so far is £1020 which is tremendous. This amount will now be split between the three house charities.

Ringsbury - Wiltshire Mind

Pear Tree - MacMillan Cancer Research

Battlewell - Cancer Research UK

A huge thank you once again to all the students involved and also to the parents and staff who helped to run events or purchased materials for sales. Please go to the school website to see just a few photographs of the fundraising fun: <http://www.bradonforest.org.uk/News/Fundraising-Day/>

### **Congratulations to Year 6 Pupils**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming those families who were successfully awarded a place at Bradon Forest for September 2018!



---

## Purton Village Diary - April 2018

31	Sa	9.00am	Age Concern Easter Market at Pavenhill Shops
		10.00am to 2.00pm	Bring your miniature Easter Garden to St Mary's Church
		10.00am	Help decorate St Mary's Church with flowers for Easter
1	Su	8.00am	Easter Sunday Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Easter Day service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion with choir at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour with Pub lunch
5	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Live and Let Live
6	F	2.00pm	Friendship Club at Purton Silver Threads
		7.30pm	Age Concern 3Bs Evening at Silver Threads Hall
7	Sa	various	Purton Tennis Club new season junior coaching sessions start
8	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
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Purton Silver Threads AGM
12	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
13	F	8.45am	Age Concern Minibus to Stroud £6
14	Sa	11.00am	Cricklade Band spring table top sale at Cricklade Town Hall
15	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
16	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk about Paraguay from John Holland
18	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
21	Sa	10.00am	Coffee Morning at Purton Silver Threads
		7.30pm	RWB Choral Society spring concert at Sacred Heart RC Church
22	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
24	Tu	2.00pm	The Co-Op Choir sing at Purton Silver Threads
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild welcome Dr Lee Hayward, who will talk about 'Fungi: the forgotten kingdom'

---

---

25 W	7.30pm	until 28th The Phoenix Players perform 'The Accrington Pals' at Swindon Arts Centre
26 Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Village Hall for a talk on Villages in the Vale of the White Horse with Paul Williams
27 F	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester £3
	2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall
28 Sa	7.30pm	Chedworth Silver Band play at Purton Village Hall
29 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School

### ***Every month***

1st Wednesday	Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children
2nd & 4th Tuesday	Purton Probus at Red House lounge
3rd Monday	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday	Royal British Legion meet at the Red House

### ***May***

2 W	10.00am	Age Concern outing to Hereford
11 F	7.00pm	PADS Murder Mystery Evening for Christian Aid at Silver Threads Hall
12 Sa	9.00am	Purton Historical Society annual outing to Old Sarum and Salisbury
13 Su	9.00am	Christian Aid breakfast and café service from 10.30am at Purton Methodist Church
	7.30am	The Swing Birds perform 'Swing Birds and Roundabouts' at the Wyvern Theatre
16 W	12 noon	Christian Aid lunch at Purton Methodist Church
	7.30pm	re-arranged Purton Surgery information evening on Breast Cancer
18 F	7.30pm	World Challenge quiz night at Purton Village Hall
19 Sa	8.30am	Cake and Plant Sale for Christian Aid at Pavenhill Shops
20 Su	12 noon	Libbie and Sandra's birthday bring and share lunch at St Mary's Church
27 Su	tbc	Purton Bowls Club open day

### ***Moon Phases***

○ 24 March    ○ 31 March    ○ 8 April    ● 16 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](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

---

# The Great War Project

## Part 57: April 1918

Only one man with a Purton connection was mobilised in April 1918.

To France: George Arthur Smith, Royal Engineers, transferred to BEF.

### **Western Front**

It was a heavy month for Purton losses - 7 deaths, of which 2 were in one family.

French and British forces repelled the German attack on Amiens (Battle of the Avre, 4 April). But this was followed by the Battle of the Ancre on the 5th. Frederick Charles Lane, son of Frederick and Sarah Lane, of Bagbury Farm, Purton, was serving with the 5th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment at Albert - the River Ancre runs through the town. The 5th Royal Berks was in trenches with the 36th Brigade in front of Albert and was heavily shelled for 2½ hours. The Germans attacked the entire front but were repulsed with help from the 9th Royal Fusiliers. A second attack got into the trenches and reinforcements were sent in over open ground - half the reinforcements were killed by machine gun fire. Frederick was reported missing in action, aged 28, on 5 April 1918. His body was found and he is buried in Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert. The first phase of the German Spring Offensive (Kaiserschlacht) was halted at Bouzincourt Ridge. Frederick is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorial book in St Mary's Church.

John Reginald Lane, younger brother of Frederick Lane (entry above) had been reported missing in action at Béthune on 23 March 1918 serving with the 6th Wilts. He was taken Prisoner of War and died of wounds in a German field hospital, aged 23, on 13 April. Perhaps his wounds were from the 23 March conflict or maybe in forced POW labour behind German lines and ironically wounded by British fire. (This is discussed in greater depth in Bob Lloyd's book.) John was buried at Marquion Grove German Cemetery, France and later moved to the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) Cemetery, Ecoust-St-Mein. He is also remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorial book in St Mary's Church. The Lane family had lost two sons within 8 days.

The German "Operation Georgette", phase 2 of the Spring Offensive, was launched on the 9th, against British and Portuguese forces of the 2nd Army between Armentières and Givenchy - the Battle of the Lys. German forces took Neuve-Chapelle, then widened the offensive almost to Ypres and took Messines on the 10th, Armentières and Merville next day. William Charles Eveleigh, serving with the 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, was taken Prisoner of War on the 10th at Wytschaete, while the Battalion was holding trenches east of the Messines-Wytschaete ridge.

---

The same day, Frederick Walter Sutton, son of Frederick and Emily Sutton, of Packhorse Farm, Purton, was also with the 6th Wilts at Wytschaete. During the 10 April attack, he was reported missing in action, aged 26. Frederick has no known grave but is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial and on the Purton War Memorial as well as the memorials in St Mary's Church. There is also a memorial stone placed on top of his parents' grave in St Mary's Churchyard.

Mervyn Howard Tom Green, son of George and Hannah Green, New Road, Purton, was also with the 6th Wilts. He was severely wounded and had a leg amputated. His condition worsened and he died on 16 April 1918 of heart failure, aged 22, at Pendleton Hospital, Manchester, to which he had been transferred. Mervyn is buried in St Mary's churchyard, Purton, in a family plot so not marked by a CWGC headstone. He is also remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the memorials in St Mary's Church.

On 12 April, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig commanding the British forces issued a Special Order of the Day known as "Backs to the Wall" announcing the seriousness of the situation and ordering his forces to stand fast and fight it out. Meanwhile German actions started against Hazebrouck and Bailleul (taken by the Germans on the 15th). William James Sainsbury, born in Wootton Bassett but resident in Purton, was serving with the 15th (Service) Battalion (1st Birmingham), Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Morbecque, just south of Hazebrouk. William died of wounds received on 14 April 1918, aged 34. He is buried in Morbecque British Cemetery and remembered on the War Memorial in Wootton Bassett.

General Foch was appointed Commander-in-Chief of Allied Armies on the Western Front on the 14th, though Belgian forces were not placed under his command. The British Secretary of State for War, Lord Derby, was against inter-Allied command and Lloyd George replaced him with Viscount Milner on 20 April.

Under pressure of the Georgette Offensive, the British 2nd Army withdrew in the Ypres salient on 16 April to release reserves for use at the Lys, and so German forces were able to retake Passchendaele. The German offensive against Kemmel Ridge, 17 to 19 April, was followed by actions against Béthune. German forces attacked Villers-Bretonneux on the 24th but were forced back by a British and Anzac forces counter attack.

Charles Christopher Lander was serving with the 1/6th North Staffordshire Regiment. He was the husband of Susan Lander, 61 Regent Place, New Swindon, though when called up they had lived in High Street, Purton. He had 5 living children. Charles had been wounded in France in 1914 but was re-enlisted in 1917 when he re-joined the Battalion. On 21 April 1918 he received a gunshot wound to the upper right arm and was transferred back to hospital in Newhaven, Sussex, where his arm was amputated. He was transferred to the City of London Hospital but septicaemia set in and he died on 18 May 1918, aged 33. Charles is buried in Swindon (Radnor Street) Cemetery and is listed on Swindon's Roll of honour.

---

---

German troops again stormed Kemmel Ridge on the 24th (2nd Battle of Kemmel) capturing the high ground. George Edward Butcher (pictured), son of Sarah Butcher, Battlewell, Purton, was serving with the 2nd Wilts on an outpost line near Kemmel Ridge east of Wytschate. After heavy bombardment, German forces attacked at dawn driving the outpost line back. The Germans took Kemmel Hill and 2nd Wilts withdrew to a defensive flank by the Ypres-Comines Canal then to rear positions. George was reported "died", aged 28, on 26 April. He has no known grave, but is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial and on Swindon's Roll of Honour.



An attempt by the Germans to advance from Kemmel was held back and marked the end of the Battle of the Lys.

April's actions in the German Spring Offensive had been disastrous for the 2nd Wilts who had lost so many dead and wounded that they were down to 2 Companies in strength. The 2nd Berkshires were in a similar position and the two battalions were merged into a single command under 2nd Berks direction. However, the Germans had also suffered 330,000 casualties in the Michael and Georgette offensives and had almost no reserve troops left.

The first contingent of Italian troops arrived on the French front on 27 April.

During the Battle of the Lys, the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps was slaughtered and the Portuguese government couldn't arrange reinforcements. Even at the end of the war, Portugal couldn't transport its troops back to the country and social conflict at home increased.

### ***Britain & Ireland***

The 3rd Military Service Act was passed by Parliament on 10 April, raising the upper age limit for conscription to 51 and extending conscription provisions to Ireland. The Act came into effect on 18 April. The result of this in Ireland was a one-day general strike on 23 April in protest and affecting railways, ports, industry, transport, public services and even shipyards and Government munitions factories. It also further fuelled the calls for Irish Home Rule.

### ***The Air War***

On 1 April, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service were amalgamated into a new and separate service - the Royal Air Force. The aviation industry supporting the air force was itself the world leader, by now.

The 12th saw the last German airship raid on England to cause casualties (27).

The German air ace, Manfred von Richthofen, known as The Red Baron, shot down his 79th and 80th victims on 20 April. The most successful fighter pilot of the war, he was himself shot down and killed over Morlancourt Ridge near the River Somme on the 21st. A Canadian pilot, Arthur Roy Brown, was credited with shooting him down.

---

## **The War at Sea**

In response to Liberia's declaration of war in January 1918, a German submarine bombarded the capital, Monrovia, on 10 April. This didn't deter Guatemala, with a coast on the other side of the Atlantic, from declaring war on Germany on the 23rd. Royal Navy activity included a raid by naval light forces on the Kattegat which was followed by blockading raids on Zeebrugge and Ostend in unsuccessful attempts to seal off German U-boat bases at both locations.

## **Russia**

On 10 April, a Settlement Treaty between Germany and Turkey was ratified in Berlin, agreeing their spheres of influence over the defeated Russian state. During the month, German forces captured Ekaterinoslav and Kharkov in Southern Russia, and the Crimea.

To protect Allied interests in the east from potential German actions, British and Japanese marines landed at Vladivostock in the Russian far east on 5 April.

## **Rumania**

Bessarabia (modern Moldova) passed an Act of Union with Rumania on 9 April. The territory had been part of Russian Ukraine, so the new Ukraine Government protested against the union on the 16th, as did Russia on the 23rd.

## **The New Republics**

In Finland, the government had been taken over by the Bolshevik party backed by the Red Guards. A German Expeditionary Force left Danzig on the 1st arriving in Finland on 3 April and capturing Helsinki on the 13th. The Finnish government now announced that all German troops in Finland had landed at their request. Vyborg in Finland, but close to the Russian border by Petrograd, was captured by German forces with Finnish White Guards on the 30th. Several British submarines had been at Helsinki and were destroyed by their crews to avoid capture by Germany.

Latvia proclaimed independence from Russia on 9 April and joined the other Baltic Provinces in agreeing to form themselves into a confederated state within the German Empire.

The Trans-Caucasian Council (Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia) declared independence from Russia on the 22nd and hoped Turkey would stay away. Turkish forces had taken over Van in Armenia, and Sarikamish, Batum and Kars in Georgia, under the Settlement Treaty with Germany.

Meanwhile Germany established a military dictatorship in Ukraine on the 29th.

## **Palestine, Mesopotamia & Persia**

On the 30th, the British Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) made a 2nd attack across the Jordan towards Ottoman-held Shunet Nimrin and Es Salt. Again, the action was unsuccessful and the EEF withdrew to the Jordan Valley on 4 May.

---

## **Other News**

Gavrilo Princip who assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in June 1914, and sparked the Great War, died of tuberculosis on 28 April after 3 years in prison in Theresienstadt in the Austro-Hungarian province of Bohemia (now Terezín in the Czech Republic).

Rick Dixon

### **The Accrington Pals**

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the 1914-18 Great War, Phoenix players are staging this lyrical play, set in Accrington and at the front during 1915. At one level it tells the tragic story of the town of Accrington which raised its own battalion for Kitchener's New Army and lost almost all its young men in the first battle of the Somme. But, there is also a strong sense of the community of Accrington, of a northern mill town, of the wives and sweethearts left behind, the naivety of the young men who went off gladly to fight for king and country, and the anger of the townspeople driven desperate by rumours and over-optimistic reports of the press and the politicians. The play embraces northern humour, romance, love stories, social and political issues and above all, the tragedy of war with so many wasted lives.

The Accrington Pals may initially seem like a play about a time in history played out long ago. Dig deeper and you find many issues which still face us today. We hope you come and see for yourself and help to commemorate the centenary of a war which shaped the lives of all of us here today. The Accrington Pals is a play of then and also of now.

### **An Oscar for Swindon**

Many readers will already know about Maisie Sly, a six year old girl in Swindon who has brought home an Oscar and isn't it lovely to have something exciting for Swindon to celebrate!

Maisie and her family moved to Swindon because they felt the school, Red Oaks, had the best facilities for their daughter who is Deaf and uses British Sign Language (BSL). As a retired Teacher of Deaf children, I am delighted for Maisie, her family and for all the staff and pupils at Red Oaks, at Redhouse Way, North Swindon.

It would also be a huge accolade if, as a result of this film, BSL is introduced in all schools, so that Deaf children no longer feel so isolated. If Deaf children are given the correct support they can achieve and fulfil their true potential. And learning to sign can be great fun...hearing children love learning to sign.

I wanted to teach Deaf children as a result of reading about Helen Keller, who was deafblind (see page 48); and also by watching the film 'Mandy', about a Deaf girl learning to speak...does anyone remember that film? I wonder how many children will want to work with Deaf children and learn to sign thanks to Maisie Sly.

*Libbie Sheppard*

## Purton Remembers

Since 2014 I have been remembering the Parish fallen with my project PURTON REMEMBERS. This involves lists posted throughout the Village, postings on my facebook page (Purton & the Great War) as well as a candle being lit on the 100th anniversary of each death connected with the Parish at the War Memorial. The ceramic poppies that I commissioned through Sally Cooke are another aspect of the project, these have been created as individual pieces bearing the names of the fallen & coloured to reflect the poppy colours found where they died.

This is an appeal for living relatives or close connections to the Parish links remembered to get in touch regards some plans I have for the ceramics.



This year on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice will see the last mass laying up of ceramics on Sunday 11th November at 11am. The project itself will continue to run until 2020 as we continue to remember in real time the Great War. Please contact me at bobmech03@talktalk.net

*Bob Lloyd, Researching Purton (Wiltshire) & the Great War.*

## Purton Methodist Church

Our Coffee Morning held in February was our most successful yet. We raised £729.20. Thank you!!

Our next event is to be a concert in the Village Hall given by the Chedworth Silver Band on Saturday 28th April at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at a cost of £5.00. This will include light refreshments. Initially tickets can be purchased from Bernice on 771210 or Sylvia on 770686. Other members will be selling them in due course. In June, Geoff Walters and Encore will be entertaining us in the Methodist Church. More details nearer the time.

This year on 13th May the United Christian Aid Service will be at the Methodist Church. It will start with a breakfast and continue on to a "Café Sunday" service. A new venture for us, so we hope you will join us for the experience.

## Health & Wellbeing Champion

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

*Ellen Blacker Tel: 07557 922020 or email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk*

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Despite a bitterly cold February evening a hardy number of members turned out to hear our speaker Gill Hazell extol the virtues of Gladiolus with her talk entitled 'So you think you know Gladiolus'.

To explain how she had first become interested in the subject she took us back over 50 years to the village of Clutton, near Bristol, where she and her late husband John had settled following their marriage.

It was here that they developed a shared interest in gardening, John with vegetables and Gill with flowers.

The local flower show, the Gladiolus class in particular, triggered a passion that resulted in Gill and her husband buying the 'Great Western Gladiolus' business when they heard on the grapevine that it was up for sale. She explained that it was essentially a 'mailing list' but had always been their port of call over the years whenever they need to purchase quality corms for growing.

Believing they knew all about growing Gladiolus, they soon realised this was not the case, hence the title attributed to this talk. With their unique long pointed leaves it's easy to see how they derive their name from the Latin 'gladius' meaning sword. When it comes to propagation, Gladioli usually flower towards the end of July/beginning of August although weather can affect the timing. Corms should be planted in Spring, about the beginning of May, once the danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed. They like a well drained soil in full sun and depending on the size of the corm can take between 70-120 days to flower.

Gill advised us to start propagation one month before planting.

- Peel off the outside of the corms and remove any extra eyes, leaving just one as near to the centre as possible.
- Store in a box to sprout whilst restricting root growth at this stage.
- Plant corms about 4" deep with the pointed end facing up, adding 2-4" of mulch and fertiliser.
- Space 3-6" apart.
- Water in well.
- Stake as appropriate as stems are produced.

If growing for exhibiting, flower stems should be tied to a cane as they emerge, ensuring that the cane is placed between the flowers and the stem and ensuring that the flowers face in one direction.

For maximum effect, when exhibiting, flowers should be presented with 1/3 fully out, 1/3 just out and 1/3 just green. Wet newspaper in a vase acts like papier-mache to hold exhibits in place, a cheaper alternative to 'Oasis'.

An application of an organic spray can deter Flower Thrip. These are slender insects that feed on the plants, implanting a virus that prevents the flowers from opening. A

---

small white marking on the leaves is indicative of their presence.

Of the many Gladioli varieties, Gill gave particular mention to *Cardinalis* or the waterfall Gladioli. This species is quite challenging as they grow on ledges behind waterfalls, making it difficult to mirror the conditions.

Other species of note are *Papilio Ruby* with its gorgeous crimson flowers on tall arching stems and at the opposite end of the spectrum, '*Tenellus*', with its freesia-like flowers, just 9" tall.

Having stayed in touch with the gentleman who had sold them the business, Gill and her husband were quick to accept an offer to join him on a visit to the amazingly colourful trial fields in Holland where gladioli are grown, for the cut flower market, on sandy reclaimed land which is very free draining.

Flowers are cut by hand first thing in the morning and packed into containers for the markets in London so that 36 hours from picking we can displaying them in our homes.

Moira thanked Gill for her beautifully illustrated talk giving us all a hint of the delights to come.

Congratulations to the winners of our first competition of 2018, 'A hint of Spring':  
1st Mary Read, 2nd Thelma Venn and 3rd Jo Le Blond.

We meet again at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall on Tuesday, 24 April, when Dr Lee Hayward will be joining us to present a talk entitled 'Fungi, The Forgotten Kingdom'. The competition will be '3 Tulips'.

Hopefully Spring will have sprung by then! We can but hope. Note for the diary: The Gardeners' Guild Plant and Cake stall will be held at Pavenhill shops 9am-12 noon on 26 May 2018.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

## Purton Annual Flower Show-Arts-Craft-Produce

The Potatoes and Pots have now been distributed to this year's Challengers. Picasso is the variety we have given them, a main crop potato ideal for growing in containers. Hopefully the climate will gradually become warmer in the coming weeks, so that they can be planted.

Photography will have its own individual section this year and to give all you budding photographers plenty of time, these are this year's categories.

Anything Red, A Garden Pest, A local landmark, A Black & White Image, and Rivers and Streams.

Don't forget it would be lovely to see the under 18's entering this section along with any of the others. For any further information please contact me.

Lorna Robinson-Wardle, Secretary.Tel: 01793 778013 or 3rwardles@gmail.com

## Purton Evening WI.



Our meeting in January was really interesting. We invited John Holland from Purton to talk about his early Life

John gave a very interesting and enthusiastic account of his life, living and growing up in a commune in Paraguay. It is clear that he still has a great love for the country and still visits regularly. John explained that the German speaking 'Brotherhood' started when they lived in the foothills of Switzerland. However, due to the unrest in Europe, in 1935 they moved to Holland and then to England, settling near Ashton Keynes to set up the Cotswold Community. Due to the pending internment rules during the war, the family of mum, dad and 6 children, together with other members of the community decided to leave for Paraguay as opposed to internment on the Isle of Man.

Paraguay turned out to be hot, (but with regular rain showers), very hard work for everyone, but also an ideal place to live. The commune had 20,000 hectares and was very self-sufficient. Wood working, engineering, medicine, laundry, cooking, tanning and farming were some of the skills they perfected, so that the 1000 strong community could work and thrive.

John and his family stayed in Paraguay for 10 years before returning the UK. He has very fond memories of the people he grew up with in Paraguay, and now has friends all over the world.

This talk was very well received, and we thanked John for speaking to us. After coffee and the evening's business was completed, we organised a quiz; all about the news and events of 2017. Some of the questions were fairly easy – but everyone seemed to have forgotten that we had a General Election only last June!

Looking forward to our next meeting, which will be our AGM on Wednesday 21st March. A new committee will be formed and new plans made for the coming year. As we speak the current committee are working on a new and varied programme for 2018 which hopefully will appeal to everyone. We would love to see new members at Purton Evening WI, or if you would just like to come along as a visitor, you would be most welcome.

*For more information call Barbara 01793 770818 or Janet 01793 772146  
we will be pleased to hear from you.*

### Purton Profferings

- Metal Patio set consisting of three foot diameter table and 4 chairs. £15.00 phone 770681
- Electric sewing machine for sale, made by New Home complete with carrying case and can be seen working. £15.00. If interested please ring 770808.

# We Record ...



## **Baptism at St Mary's Church**

11 February 2018 Freddie Andrew Price

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

06 March 2018 Mary Kathleen Woolford (95)

## **Funeral at Kingsdown Crematorium**

28 February 2018 Elsie Joyce Canning (94)

## **In Memoriam:**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 5 April 1918  | <b>Frederick Charles Lane</b> , 5th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, killed in action at the Battle of Ancre, aged 28. He is buried in Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, and remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorial book in St Mary's Church.  |
| 10 April 1918 | <b>Frederick Walter Sutton</b> , 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action at Wytschaete, aged 26. Frederick has no known grave but is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial and on the Purton War Memorial, the memorials in St Mary's Church and a memorial stone on top of his parents' grave in St Mary's Churchyard. |
| 13 April 1918 | <b>John Reginald Lane</b> , 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died of wounds as POW, aged 23. He is buried at H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust-St-Mein. He is also remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorial book in St Mary's Church.  |
| 16 April 1918 | <b>Mervyn Howard Tom Green</b> , 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died of wounds, aged 22, at Pendleton Hospital, Manchester. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard and remembered on the Purton War Memorial and memorials in St Mary's Church.   |
| 14 April 1918 | <b>William James Sainsbury</b> , 15th (Service) Battalion (1st Birmingham), Royal Warwickshire Regiment, died of wounds, aged 34. He is buried in Morbecque British Cemetery and remembered on the War Memorial in Wootton Bassett.  |
| 26 April 1918 | <b>George Edward Butcher</b> , 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died in action, aged 28, near Kemmel Ridge. George has no known grave, but is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial and on Swindon's Roll of Honour.  |

# Purton Placard

 PURTON SILVER  
THREADS

## Coffee Morning

Saturday 21 April,  
10am-12noon  
at Silver Threads Hall

 CHRISTIAN AID

## Lunch

Wednesday 16 May from 12 noon  
at Purton Methodist Church.  
There are limited tickets available  
at £6 each from Libbie 771018 or  
Sylvia 770686.  
All proceeds go to Christian Aid's  
work in Haiti., rebuilding lives after  
the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane  
Matthew.



## QUIZ NIGHT

NIBBLES AND  
LICENSED  
BAR!

CASH PRIZES  
AND  
RAFFLE

PURTON VILLAGE HALL 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 7.30PM START  
£2 PER PERSON UP TO 6 IN A TEAM  
BEN AND SAMANTHA'S WORLD CHALLENGE  
TO TANZANIA IN 2019  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
LORRAINE HOWSE: 07729 906916  
RACHEL WOODS: 07585 323141



PURTON AGE CONCERN

## Easter Market

Saturday 31 March from 9am-12pm, outside  
the Pavenhill shops. Lots of bargains, cakes,  
sausage tasting & raffle.

## Mystery Tour with pub lunch

Wednesday 4 April, coach leaves at 10am  
Come and join us for the first tour of 2018!

## 3Bs Evening

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

## Outing to Hereford

Wednesday 2 May, leaving at 10am. Cost is  
£11 per person (£13 for non-pensioners and  
those from outside our area.) Please book  
with your street warden.



THE CAST OF STAGESTRUCK  
PRESENT

## Fun, fun, fun!

Saturday 19 May, 3pm & 7.30pm  
at Immanuel Church, Upham Road,  
Swindon. Tickets £10 for adults &  
£5 for children, available on 07596  
151051. 50% of tickets sales will go to  
Swindon Children's Cancer  
charity, CALM.



# Murder Mystery Evening



for Christian Aid  
in conjunction with PADS

**'Murder at  
Hill Crest House'  
set in 1936**



will take place on  
**Friday 11 May at 7pm**  
**at Purton Silver Threads Hall**

**Supper included, drinks for a  
donation. Fancy dress optional.**

**Tickets £10 available from:  
Libbie 771018, Mary 770505, Wendy 771749**



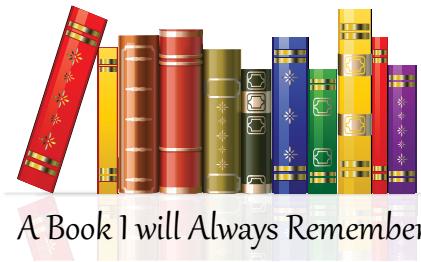
RWB CHORAL SOCIETY  
**Spring concert**  
Saturday 21 April, 7.30pm  
at Sacred Heart Catholic  
Church, RWB. String  
orchestra, keyboard, The  
Corsham Singers and  
soloists. Free admission  
with retiring collection  
& refreshments

Groups are invited to submit forthcoming events in, for, and  
on behalf of the community Email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

PURTON METHODIST  
CHURCH PRESENT

**Chedworth  
Silver Band**

Saturday 28 April at 7.30pm at  
Purton Village Hall.  
Tickets £5, include light  
refreshments and available from  
Bernice 771210 or Sylvia 770686



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.

## The Story of my Life by Helen Keller

When I was about 8 years old I decided that I wanted to teach deaf children when I grew up. So I set about getting the necessary qualifications from then on and have never wavered. One of the possible reasons for this unusual decision was that I had heard about Helen Keller, an American lady who had lost both her sight and her hearing as a result of a childhood illness, when she was about 18 months old. At my young age I had never considered that there were people who could not see or hear: I had always taken my sight and hearing for granted.

Helen Keller was an unbelievably determined child, who was wild with frustration when she was unable to communicate. Her family found a teacher to come and live with Helen, Annie Sullivan, who gradually broke through the fury and angst. Annie finger-spelt every word for Helen all day, for days and weeks on end. Her first word was D-O-L-L spelt out on her hand in deafblind fingerspelling. But, although Helen copied this it had no meaning to her. Then one day there was a breakthrough. Annie took Helen to the water pump in the garden and, as she splashed the water onto Helen's face and hands, she spelt out W-A-T-E-R and suddenly Helen realised that these strange hand movements were the names of things that she was experiencing. It was a miraculous moment.

Helen then wanted to know the name of every item she encountered throughout the day. She gradually built up her vocabulary, a hundred new words in the first month and she hardly ever forgot them.

Once she was given the necessary skills...finger spelling and then braille, she even managed to learn to speak and she wrote several books. One book, 'The Story of my Life' is her early autobiography and I have a treasured copy. The book was dedicated to Alexander Graham Bell, who, as well as developing the telephone, also had a Deaf wife and mother. The book includes transcripts of Helen's letters, written on a braille machine and her early attempts at hand writing...with a pencil and a board that had grooves for guidance. It also includes an account of Helen's life written by Annie Sullivan, known by Helen as Teacher.

Helen was determined to go to university, but first she wanted to learn to speak.

---

This she achieved by putting her hand on the face of the speaker and feeling the lip movements and the breath coming from the mouth. She used fingertip vibration to help her communicate. She graduated, with Honours, from Radcliffe in 1904, when she was 24 years old, with the help of Annie, who finger-spelt every word of the lectures into Helen's hand.

Helen decided to dedicate her life to helping other blind and deaf people. She went on lecture tours and became involved with politics. She visited USA Presidents: she fought for the right for women to vote: she was angry when she found out that children were being forced to work instead of going to school. She visited soldiers, blinded by warfare and she encouraged them to persevere in spite of losing their sight.

Helen Keller was an inspiration to me. The film, *The Miracle Worker*, based on 'The story of My Life' guided me to take up my career for life, working with and for Deaf people....a decision I have never regretted.

Libbie Sheppard

## Purton Bowls Club



It won't be long now before the green is open, normally the second week in April, so we are hoping the weather will allow all the work needed to prepare the green can be done. Our green keeping staff have been busy all winter as the grass has continued to grow and needs cutting at least once a week.

This year we will once again be hoping to increase our membership by promoting the Club as much as we can. We will be having an Open Day on the 27th May with an opportunity for everybody to try bowling. We really would like to see some youngsters getting involved.

We will be starting our Coaching evenings and I will publicise these as soon as they are confirmed. Anybody can come along to these evenings and just join in with what is going on. Equipment for all ages is available.

So many people this winter have been poorly in some form or other and there has been a lot of flu-like symptoms, if you have been unwell I hope that you will all soon feel better as the weather improves. The Bowlers will soon be the envy of everybody else as the sun has its effect and we all look suntanned and fit!

Sad news has to follow as I report the death of one of our members, namely Mary Robinson. Mary had suffered over the last few years and succumbed towards the end of February. She was a lovely lady who enjoyed life so much, she was a very keen bowler and along with her husband Bill, was involved with the Bowls Club in all areas. She will be sadly missed and our condolences go to Bill and the rest of the family at this sad time.

Peter Berry



## The other side of the gate

Thursday is our day off (it doesn't ever happen!) so our relief milker, Laura Ogilvie, milks the cows and Alex Thomas (Rally) does the yard work, which theoretically allows us a few extra hours in bed.

On the morning of Thursday 1st March, I was lying in bed waiting to hear the milking machine's vacuum pump start – even on our day off, I cannot sleep until I know the cows are being milked, so after the pleasant hum started, I soon fell asleep. That didn't last long: at 06:15 Laura rang to say the milk pump, which pumps milk into the tank from the parlour, wasn't working. So, out of bed I get with a multitude of reasons and solutions going through my head and people I could ring for help, whilst muttering my annoyance for it happening on a Thursday! A quick glance at the outside temperature display read -6°C with the wind chill making it -10°C – this was going to be fun!

The milk pump was indeed not working – it just really didn't like the cold weather! After resetting the capacitor several times, it sprang into life – disaster averted. I was mentally discarding the back-up plans and feeling pleased with myself that it was such a quick fix and that I could return to my warm bed! My bed, unfortunately, wasn't visited again until 01:30 on Friday morning! The biting East wind had frozen the water into the parlour; it was so cold it had even frozen the water in the lagged pipes! Defrosting the parlour was a priority: water is needed to cool the milk through the plate coolers, for sanitising the milking machine and for feeding warm water to the cows – I think they'd suck it from the pipe, they like it that much! Cows can drink well over 100 litres a day, so I needed to get water flowing in the tanks quickly. The rest of Thursday was spent fetching and carrying water, defrosting pipes, making sure our newest arrival, Dinky, was warm in her jacket and was drinking enough milk, chopping straw for the cow beds and feeding hay to the cows still in the fields.

By Thursday evening, the county was covered in snow. Sarah and Rally delivered milk to snowed in customers in his trusty, but extremely cold Land Rover. By Friday, the snow was drifting and we started to wonder if the milk tanker was ever going to make it. People had started to panic buy milk and bread and very quickly, the shops had sold out. Our tanker company phoned to say there was no chance of getting to us so we decided, via Facebook, to help locate customers for 950 litres of milk. The response was incredible: customers arrived on foot and in 4x4s to collect milk and bread. Some of the drivers helped deliver milk on their way home and for some it was quite a detour! Rally also set up camp near the top shops, distributing to people that could walk to him.



The farm was mayhem! Laura came to milk the cows whilst Sarah, Aaron Read, Lucy (my sister) and her husband Peter Lewis bottled up and served people. I was busy doing yards and getting our old emergency tank out with Harry (Sarah's eldest) and Craige Kinchin, whilst answering enquiries on Facebook. Four milkings is all we're allowed to put in the main bulk tank for freshness reasons, so this needed to be emptied before Laura could start milking. By 19:30, the vacuum pump had started, much to the delight of the cows and relief of the farmer and farmHer!

The last customer left around 22:00 with a fresh batch of customers arriving at 07:00 the following day. It seems we'd reached a vast audience with our request being shared on Facebook and word of mouth and in the end, we only had to dispose of about 250 litres; luckily, we managed to salvage the cream from that milk! Consequently, Sarah has been making her own butter mountain and Ali Norrish, ice cream of various flavours. It was a remarkable amount of milk to have sold in such a short amount of time – Thank you everyone for responding so positively, this demonstrates the power of social media and a supportive community.

Jonathan Cook

## Cricklade Country Market

Our next market will be on Friday 27 April, 2-4pm At The Jenner Hall Cricklade



All our produce is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown. Come and find delicious pies and cakes, scones and cookies, jams and pickles and all manner of original gifts. Pop along for a delicious afternoon tea or come in for after school refreshments too! Future MARKET DATE: May 25th

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

# Ten Years Ago...

Every month we look back at the magazine of 10 years previously. However, in April 2008 the magazine had many articles which themselves looked back.

One article recollected the various types of carts used. It was alarming that, although the lighter wagons could be considered roadworthy, “heavier trolleys and wagons were not usually fitted with a brake”. When parked, a chain would be passed through the spokes of a wheel to steady the vehicle.

Purton Museum contributed a piece about a 1930’s washing machine which appears so labour-intensive that it might have been easier to go to the riverbank and beat the clothes on a stone.

There was an affectionate obituary of Win Griffin from Church Path. When her husband and she were married, they bought their house for £200! “When you thought of St. Mary’s, you thought of her”. And a photo shows her with the Maundy Money she received from the Queen.

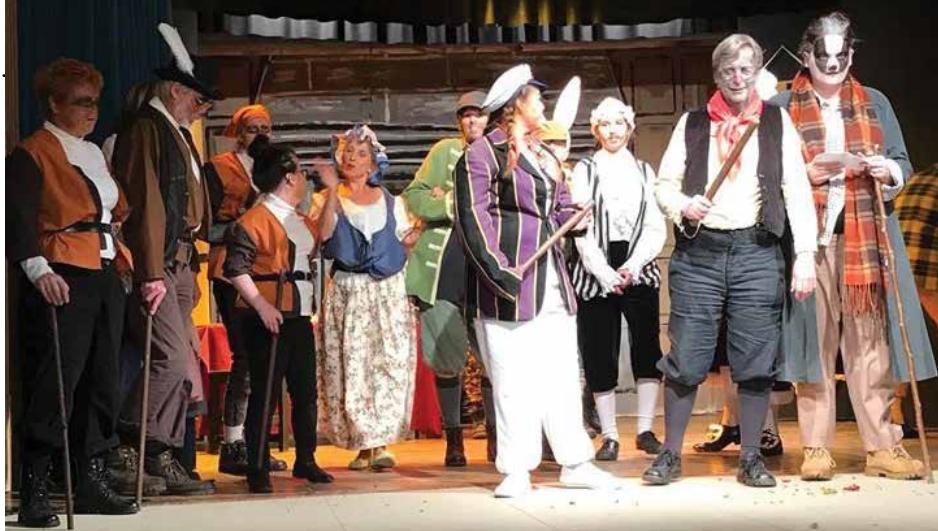
Finally, there was the life story of Myrtle Gardiner. Born in 1914, she lost her mother at the age of two and thus started many years of being passed around institutions. After long periods of ill-treatment (“many of the people there died of pneumonia, some committed suicide”) she arrived at Northview Hospital in Purton when about 25. Here she was put to work for long hours with little pay, all very tightly disciplined, leading to two nervous breakdowns. The story does have a happier ending, but when we see today people trafficking and slave labour, we should stop and remember what happened in Purton in living memory and persuade rather than condemn.

## Church Floodlighting

- March 7 St Mary’s was floodlit in loving memory of **Raymond Herbert (Ray)**. You’re never far away Jane and family.
- April 10 St Mary’s will be floodlit in memory of **David Ainscough** whose funeral was held today. Much loved and missed by Avril, Kate, Claire, James and their families.
- April 19 St Mary’s will be floodlit in memory of **John Cotton** on what would have been his birthday. Sadly missed by Miriam, Stephen, Cheryl and family.

*If you would like the Church floodlit for a special date, occasion, or memorial, please contact Libbie on 771018. The cost is £20 for one evening and it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a month before the chosen night. A short announcement can also be published in this magazine at no extra cost.*





## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Thank you to everyone who came and watched “Wind in the Willows” or helped in any way. We have had excellent reports and each performance had a great audience. See our facebook page for photos.

We are now looking forward to our Spring play “Mirandolina” directed by Kira Sawford. This will be performed on Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd June – tickets available on the night and a bar applied for – see posters nearer the time for further details. We have a Murder Night coming up in May for Christian Aid Week so look out for details of this.

Kate Bath 771442

## Purton Football Club

Sadly because of all the recent, snow, frost and rain our club has been starved of any football with only a couple of matches for our Saturday Wilts Senior League, and our Sunday sides in the Swindon Sunday league having just played a few games. Home and away games have suffered due to the poor weather with the players just getting in a mid-week training session to save of rustiness.

Manager's Neil Lee and Liam Lewis and all concerned are disappointed by their players lack of matches that sees them many games behind, particularly away in both the Wilts Senior League and Swindon Sunday League which will mean that in April going into May a lot of mid-week games will be needed to complete the teams seasons fixtures.

On a personal note I would like to thank all those who have rung me or popped in to see me at home due to my recent illness and subsequent need to have to use oxygen at home due to my condition which has kept me away from games since before Christmas. Hopefully as the weather improves my presence will be at the home games and some away if distances not to many miles away. In conclusion, hopefully will have more club news data in future issues of the magazine.

Alan Eastwood, President/Hon sec

## Swing Birds and Roundabouts

Sunday 13th May sees the fourth annual outing for Swindon's only all-female big band – Swing Birds. This year, due to popular demand, they are migrating to the Wyvern Theatre, in Swindon, to allow even more music lovers to flock to the spectacle that is "Swing Birds and Roundabouts".



Swing Birds was hatched in 2014 by Bird in Chief, Mo Squires, with an aspiration to bring together local musicians and fulfil a lifetime ambition of playing in an all-female line-up, inspired by bands such as Ivy Benson's. What was only ever supposed to be a "one off" performance proved to be so popular, with both band and audience, that they sold out the Swindon Arts Centre two years running and have amassed a loyal and enthusiastic following. The Birds come from all walks of life; many are involved with music in a professional capacity, some just for fun, but all show great commitment to making every performance a success.

As well as tried and tested big band classics, Swing Birds also feature exceptional arrangements by talented local musicians. Blues and wartime-era swing are blended effortlessly with current hits from the likes of Taylor Swift, many featuring their fabulous vocalists. What will they surprise the audience with this time?!

Our special guest will, once again, be the immensely talented drummer, Crissy Lee. Crissy has been drumming all her life and is widely acclaimed as being Europe's finest female drummer. A distinguished career has seen her travel the globe, appearing on numerous TV shows and sharing the stage with some of the world's greatest celebrities, even touring with the Beatles.

Swing Birds are delighted to be supporting Swindon Cares at this event, to help raise money for The Nelson Trust and Swindon Women's Aid via a collection on the night.

So come and experience the joy of live music, delivered as only Swing Birds can – with style, panache and more than a little humour!

*For further information contact: Mo Squires - Bird in Chief  
Tel: 01793 539353 Email: themower54@gmail.com*

### Good luck Purtonians running the London Marathon!

*My Marathon Poem by Philippa Cates, based on 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson*

A runner took a jog on a cold wet day. Hunger saw the runner and stepped into his way. "Where are you running to, oh running one? Come to the café for some tea and a bun." "That's terribly kind, but those days are foregone – I'm training right now for a marathon." "A marathon, what's a marathon?" "A marathon? Why, listen on: It's as long as death and as hot as hell, And all through the training you'll never feel well."

"Where are you running it?" "Right here, in this town, And there are still some spaces, I'll put your name down." "Spare spaces! I'm off!" Hunger said. "Good luck, running one," and away Hunger sped. "Silly old Hunger! But my training goes on, I'm going to train hard for this marathon."

---

**On jogged the runner through the cold wet day.** Doubt saw the runner and stepped into his way. "Where are you running to, oh running one? Come to the pub for a pint and some fun." "That's terribly kind, but those days are foregone – I'm training right now for a marathon." "A marathon, what's a marathon?" "A marathon? Why, listen on: It will ruin your knees and blister your toes, And leave you with leg ache that just never goes."

"Why are you running it?" "Well, this may sound funny, But I'm running for charity and need sponsor money." "Sponsor money? I'm skint right now! "Good luck running one," and Doubt left with a bow. "Tight old Doubt, but my training goes on, I'm going to train hard for this marathon."

**On jogged the runner through the cold wet day.** Tiredness saw the runner and stepped into his way. "Where are you running to, oh running one? Let's sit on this park bench and wait for the sun." "That's terribly kind, but those days are foregone – I'm training right now for a marathon." "A marathon, what's a marathon?" "A marathon? Why, listen on: "It will leave you lightheaded, your tongue dry with thirst, And that pain in your back will make you feel cursed."

"When are you doing it?" "22 April, Why don't you watch me, it's fun to observe." "Watch exercise! That wears me out! Good luck, running one," and he left with pout. "Lazy old Tiredness, but my training goes on, I'm going to train hard for this marathon."

**But when the day comes it's as hot as hell,** And right at the start runner doesn't feel well. His knees are now broken, he's lost one big toe. That ache in his leg? Well it never did go. He's already lightheaded and his tongue's dry with thirst – Though his bladder feels full and likely to burst. "It's now! It's on! It's a marathon!"

"A novice runner!" the marathon said. "I'm going to really mess with your head!" "Mess?" said runner. "With my head? I may be slow and have legs like lead, But I've trained for this and soon you'll see, There are even some runners who are slower than me." "All right," said the marathon, bursting with laughter. "You run ahead and I'll follow after."

They ran and ran 'til the marathon said, "I see a café in the street ahead." "There's cake," said the runner. "And freshly brewed tea, But if I stop for a cup I will then need a wee. I'm going to run past and sip water instead, Go now please Hunger, and get out of my head."

"You see?" said the runner. "I've run on." "Amazing!" said the marathon.

On they ran til the marathon said, "I see a pub in the street ahead." "There's snacks," said the runner. "And ice-cold beer, But I don't need to stop I have all the sports gear. Wine gums and dextrose and gels packs instead, Go now please Doubt, and get out of my head".

"You see?" said the runner. "I've run on." "Astounding!" said the marathon.

They ran and ran til the marathon said, "I see a bench in the street ahead." "A rest" said the runner. "Right there in the sun. But despite all my pain I will finish this run. The finish is close, just round that bend, Where my marathon challenge will finally end."

"Well, marathon," said the runner. "You see? You may be a long way but you didn't beat me! And now I'm a champion, at least for today, I'm off to that pub so don't stand in my way."

"You beat me," said marathon. "That wasn't the plan. Maybe next year I'll send Ironman." The runner found a pub as s/he knew s/he would. The runner drank a beer and the beer was good.

---

## Purton and District Probus Club



On Tuesday 13 February, Michael Gamble, a keen photographer from Trowbridge presented "Wiltshire through the eyes of a Moon Raker".

The programme was an hour-long slide show of photographs illustrating the joys of the County of Wiltshire, groups of images, each under an appropriate headings and suitably accompanied by a musical score. The first group, with the title Archaeology and accompanied by "Rock of Ages" showed us Stonehenge, Avebury, Woodhenge, the East and West Kennet long barrows, Old Sarum and the great Chalk Downs of Salisbury Plane together with earthworks, strip lynchets, dykes, modern tanks and 'ancient' Druids.

Next came "Flowers", appropriately with the tune "In an English Country Garden", colourful displays; tulips at Bowood, poppies on Salisbury Plain, roses at Stourhead and Abbey Gardens, Malmesbury, fritillaries in the North Meadow, cowslips and bluebells in Savernake Forest, and finally the bright Spring beds of Swindon Town Gardens.

The next set of pictures were of the Great Country Houses of Wiltshire; Dauntsey Park, Avebury Manor, Longleat House, Wilton House, Corsham Court, Mompesson, Lydiard Park, the remnants of Fonthill Abbey and Arundells in Salisbury Cathedral Close, once the home of Sir Edward Heath.

Following this, shots of the famous White Horses of Wiltshire; Hackpen, Marlborough, Devizes, Pewsey, Alton Barnes, Cherhill, Broadtown and Westbury.

Under the heading Wildlife we saw a great selection of the animals and birds of the Longleat Safari Park, but also native foxes, badgers, hares and rabbits. Native birds included the lapwing, curlew and the great bustard which now features on the flag of the county registered only in 2009, after a recent successful programme to reintroduce the birds to Salisbury plain.

Next came "Scenes from Wiltshire towns and villages". Of these Lacock featured large with views for the TV series Poldark. Next we had "Places of Worship". This group began with Salisbury Cathedral and its Chapter House together with a reproduction of the John Constable painting. Then followed many other places of worship, Malmesbury Abbey, St Sampson's, St Mary's, Sandy Lane thatched Chapel, the Monk's Chapel at Gastard, Corsham, Bulford Garrison Chapel, the Sikh Temple at Swindon and many more.

Another set of photos was that of "The Military and Parades". Here we saw Military Bands in a number of towns and a Procession of Repatriation through Royal Wootton Bassett. An interesting set of pictures was "Waterways of the County", which included shots along the Kennet and Avon Canal at Great Bedwyn, Crofton, Honey Street, Devizes and the Caen Hill flight of locks. There were also scenes along the Thames and at Coate water.

"Memorials to Famous People" included Athelstan's tomb, Peter Fleming's grave at

---

Sevenhampton and Diana Dors Statue in West Swindon, but there were others. The final group were “Oddities”. Under this heading we saw the hedge maze at Longleat, the Murray John building, the Magic Roundabout in Swindon, and an intriguing building, the Hobbit’s House at Chedglove near Crudwell, a folly built over eleven years by a farmer who liked to practice the art of Dry Stone Walling.

Michael Gamble’s programme was a very comprehensive illustration of Wiltshire and I have only been able to identify a fraction of the total content. However, it stirred nostalgia and made us feel proud of the county where we live.

On Tuesday 27 February, George Oram, a Senior Design Engineer who joined the Dyson Engineering Development Team five years ago, addressed the meeting on The Dyson Design Process. George began by outlining the “James Dyson Foundation”, a charity set up by James Dyson to promote engineering in schools and in the media. The Foundation supplies, free of charge, boxes of simple equipment and a challenge to recipients, to engineer alternative products to those already available on the market. The aim is to stimulate interest in Engineering with lateral thinking and the amalgamation of different production disciplines, e.g. The Dyson bladeless fan combines a High Speed Brushless Motor with an Aerodynamic Technique.

The Speaker then gave us a brief history of Mr Dyson’s career. Dyson’s first innovation was the Ball-Barrow, but his first commercial break-through was the total redesign of the Vacuum Cleaner. While visiting a Sawmill near Bath, he observed the operating of a Cyclone Machine which was cleaning the air by separating out the sawdust produced by the mill. He was researching ways to improve on the vacuum cleaner at the time and had already concluded that their biggest disadvantage was loss of suction as the bag filled. By introducing the cyclone, he could eliminate the bag, but established companies were not interested. They could only see profit in the sale of bags. Dyson developed a small cyclone vacuum cleaner, which he manufactured and sold in Japan where homes are small. It was an immediate success and gave him the finance to establish further research. The core activity of the James Dyson Company has been the production of Bagless Cyclone Vacuum Cleaners. Home production began in 1991 in Wrexham and moved to Chippenham in 1993. The DC01 became the biggest selling vacuum cleaner in the UK over the first 18 months of its appearance. By 2001, Dyson had taken 47% of the UK vacuum cleaner market. Today, the V7 and V8 models, cordless, lightweight, hand-held cleaners are sold world-wide. The Airblade Hand-Dryer is another popular innovation, as is the Bladeless Fan. These products stimulated the development of the Brushless Digital Motor and the total redesign of an Air impellor Turbine.

The Dyson Company in Singapore were recently producing 4 million Brushless Digital Motors per year. In 2016 a cash injection raised this to 11 million per year. BDMs can run at 120,000 RPM and have been measured to give 84% efficiency, i.e. double that of conventional motors. Mr Oram’s development team are currently focussed on Supersonics. The most recent product to go into production is a Dyson

---

---

Hairdryer, for which the aim was to create a hairdryer quiet enough for the user to hold a normal conversation. It also required the design of a miniaturised Brushless Digital Motor and impellor. Running at 104,000 RPM it is now the smallest and most powerful motor on the market. The Dryer has required ten prototypes, each of which has to be subjected to months of repetitive and rigorous testing. It uses a similar aerodynamic principle to the Airblade and the Ring-Fan to amplify the air by drawing in static air behind the high speed flow.

The company is now working on Robot Cleaners which will use a 360 degree single-lens camera to navigate around a room. A new factory, to produce an electric car, is being planned and will be built on Hullavington airfield. In 2014 the Dyson Chair at Cambridge was introduced to specialise in the training of quality Engineers. By his talk, George Oram confirmed that engineering in this country has never been so exciting.

The Probus Club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month in the Red House lounge at 10am. Visitors and prospective members welcome. Programme for April: 10th Chedworth Villa, 24th A.G.M.

Bob Stevens

## Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers

The two prevailing themes this month are international and special events.



First there was Pancake Day when the Guides made mini pancakes in foil tins over tea lights with varying levels of success and tastiness. Some Guides even managed some flipping. Next came World Thinking Day which fits into both the special event and international categories. This is marked annually on 22nd February by Girl Scouts and Guides all over the world celebrating their "sisters" in all the countries of the world, the meaning of guiding and its global impact. Both 1st Purton Brownies and the Guides had world cheese tasting and games from other countries as part of their unit celebrations. We also had a large Purton contingent at the Division World Thinking Day event where the focus was on countries in colder climates, linking also to the Winter Olympics. Such events are a great opportunity for girls to have a glimpse of the enormous scale of the organisation we are proud to belong to.

St David's Day was the next event, marked by 1st Purton Brownies with a quiz, the making of sheep mobiles and sampling Welsh cakes. Then came Mother's Day; 1st Purton Rainbows decorated plant pots and planted polyanthus. 1st Purton Brownies also went down the gardening route by planting sweet peas for their mums. 2nd Purton Brownies made cards and gifts for their mums whilst Guides made very colourful bath salts for mothers and grandmothers.

Back to the international theme, 2nd Purton Brownies have been continuing work on the World Traveller badge, learning to count in a foreign language, choosing from

---

French, German or Spanish. They also had an Indian themed evening, as one of their leaders has recently been on holiday to India. The Brownies enjoyed seeing the photos she had taken, including the Taj Mahal and tigers from a tiger reserve. Taking inspiration from her travels they made 3D elephants.

Finally some welcomes: firstly to Phoebe, Amy and Heather who have made their Rainbow Promise and to Rebecca who has joined 1st Purton Rainbows as a Young Leader, having been a Rainbow with the unit herself 8 years ago. We also welcome Alice Hart who has joined Purton Guides as a leader in training. If the brilliant Mother's Day evening she ran is anything to go by, the unit is very lucky to have her.

We love having new volunteers, who often find they make friends for life within the guiding family. If you too would like to be a part of it, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at [braydondc@wncounty.org.uk](mailto:braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/).

## Prospect Hospice

### **Pappadams Curry and Quiz Night!**

Friday 27 April – 7pm, Pappadams Swindon, Empire House, Groundwell Road, Swindon SN1 2LT

Join us for a night of delicious traditional Indian Cuisine and team up to challenge yourselves on a general knowledge quiz all in aid of Prospect Hospice. Whether you're with family, with friends or with your colleagues looking for an after work team builder, we would love for you to join us!

Tickets are £20.00 per person, which includes a curry buffet and entry to the quiz. There will also be some wonderful raffle prizes up for grabs, with tickets available of the night.

If you would like to book a table or find out some more information, please visit: [www.prospect-hospice.net/events/pappadams-curry-and-quiz-night.aspx](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/events/pappadams-curry-and-quiz-night.aspx)

### **Avebury Coffee Afternoon organised by Prospect Hospice**

Thursday 5 April, 11:30am-2:30pm

### **Help Prospect Hospice Light up the Night!**

Take part in Prospect's annual 10 or 15km night walk on the 30th June and help them Light up the Night to support their specialist nursing care in your local community. This year's walk starts and finishes at Swindon Town Football Club and all walkers will be treated to some special illuminated surprises along the route. Dressing in your brightest colours or anything which glows or lights up is encouraged and if you register before the end of March you can take advantage of their early bird offer of just £12 including an event T-shirt.

For more information or to book please visit [www.prospect-hospice.net/starlight](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/starlight)

Hollie Ricketts, Community Fundraiser