

Purton. Magazine

December 2017



'The Shepherds' by Purton Artist, Alex Crump.

50p

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Sugery	770207
Dental Sugery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, bethaney23@icloud.com	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020

Schools & Playgroups

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Pear Drops Pre-School	Sarah Grigg	978536
<i>(formerly Under 5s')</i>		
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239

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

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

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk	
	Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com	
	Tel: 770627	

Wardens	Sandra Horsnall:	Jane Smith:
	770157	772422

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

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

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

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Parish Priest: Tel: 852366

Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues

Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell Tel: 325681

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

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

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

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

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Wishing all our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, from the Purton Magazine production and distribution team.

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton.
Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

Please ensure that your contributions for the January issue of *Purton Magazine* are received no later than Sunday 10th December, as there are then only 10 working days to prepare, produce and print before the Christmas holidays. Thank you.

From the Editors

It's easily said but, in recent times, the proverb "Christmas comes but once a year" has sometimes taken on a rather tired resignation along the lines that we should be grateful that it only does come once a year. But that is the complete opposite of the original meaning that people should spend this special time of year focusing more on giving than receiving.

It is thought that the phrase might have come from an animated short film that was released in 1936. The setting of the film is at an orphanage on Christmas Day and the orphans are understandably excited to play with their new toys, only to find that they are broken and damaged. Seeing how distressed the orphans were, Professor Grampy decided to make some new toys out of various household items as well as making a Christmas tree out of a few old, green umbrellas. Then he dressed up as Santa Claus and rushed out to give the orphans their new presents, much to their surprise and delight.

The overall message of the film is that it doesn't take much to help those less fortunate during the holidays – all it takes is a little effort and some compassion. Often that little effort involves a good bit of fun as well – just look at our front cover and imagine how much fun Alex Crump had thinking about what sheep might do when their shepherds slumbered. There is also a report on a talk by a retired shepherd on page 40 where we learn that some sheep farmers and merchants were some of the richest men in England endowing churches, monasteries and even cathedrals.

Inside this issue of your magazine you will find numerous fun events and activities with a Christmas theme which are held for our enjoyment. We are also pleased to confirm that copies of Purton Magazine can now be purchased each month along with lots of other fresh and local produce at Purton Farm Shop, just around the corner from St Mary's church.

2/3 December
for St. Mary's church
Crib Festival
– see page 24

12 December
is the last day for the
Scouts' Christmas Post
– see page 39

15 December
is Christmas Jumper
day for wearing naff
knitwear – see page 45

Purton Parish Council News



Christmas Celebrations

On behalf of Purton Parish Council and staff I would like to wish every resident and their families a healthy, happy joyous Christmas period and a positive New Year. Purton is renowned for its generosity, community spirit and kindness and we pray for its continuance as we give thoughts to those around us less fortunate in their times of need. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Office Closure

The Council office will be closed on Friday 22nd December 2017 from 12 noon until Tuesday 2nd January 2018. In the event of an emergency please call our Chairman of Council Ray Thomas on 01793 951520 or the Clerk of the Council Deborah Lawrence on 07812 346936.

CCTV Installation

The Parish Council are installing a CCTV system with Vehicle Recognition Cameras at the Village Centre covering the Millennium Hall area and associated buildings, car park and the Red House site to enhance the security of users of this Centre and also deter anti social behaviour.

Welcome A New Councillor

Purton Parish Council is pleased to welcome a newly co-opted Councillor, Mr Paul Grigg effective from Monday 13th November 2017. We still have 2 vacancies if anyone wishes to join the Council.

COUNCILLORS 2017-18

Chairman of Council/Staff Sub/ Finance & General Purposes/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
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

Become a Dementia Friend and make Purton a Dementia-Friendly Community

Purton Parish Council is working with various agencies including the Purton

Doctors Surgery, Alzheimer's Society and the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board to bring awareness and support to Dementia sufferers and their carers in the local Community. Dates for 2018 will be circulated shortly to become a Dementia Friend.

Councillor Surgery

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2017 10am – 12 noon at Purton Village Hall, Station Road – Councillors will be available to talk to residents regarding issues that matter. Come along have a coffee and slice of cake and meet your Councillors. We still have vacancies for new councillors. Come along and find out what its all about.

Website Queries

Have you registered to receive notification from our website on areas of interest? Are you receiving them? If not there maybe an issue with your details. Contact us direct to gain more information and keep-in-touch.

Footpaths

What better way to remember a loved one than donating a gate in their memory for inclusion in one of the many designated footpaths around the village. For more information contact the Parish Council offices, or email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

St Marys Churchyard

As part of ongoing maintenance the Church and Parish Council are reviewing the maintenance schedule for the trees within the Churchyard. If you have a grave that you regularly attend and feel that neighbouring trees or shrubbery is causing issue please contact the Parish Council so we can include your comments in the proposed works.

Churchyard Volunteers

Do you have some spare time? Would you like to work with the Church wardens in ensuring the basic upkeep of the Churchyard? For more information please contact Paul Dempsey on paul.dempsey@live.co.uk or the Clerk.

Cemetery Memorial Testing

Please be advised that under the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Purton Parish Council will be testing memorials for safety in Purton Cemetery week commencing Monday 29th January 2018 for one week. There will be no interruptions to normal access or service. Any questions or queries during this period please speak to the Clerk.

Charities

Don't forget now that Christmas is around the corner, you can support the Village Hall charity by registering as below – every penny counts.

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/

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

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

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

Planning – Granted with conditions

17/07291/FUL Hurstead Farm, Cricklade Road. Retrospective extension to existing agricultural livestock housing.

17/06872/FUL Co-operative Food, Harford House. 1 Station Road. Partial demolition of existing building. Construction of new extension. Creation of external platform to support external cold rooms and storage. Refurbishment of external elements of existing building inc. New shop front.

17/08070/FUL The Glen, Wood Lane. Braydon. Replace existing timber shed with detached garage. Approve with Conditions.

17/08326/FUL 6 The Fox. Single storey rear extension.

17/09377/FUL 37 Stone Lane. Lydiard Millicent. Erection of swimming pool extension.

How to contact the Parish Council

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website 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 or call 771066. Find us at: Facebook - Purton Parish Council Twitter - @PurtonPC

On our website you can join up to receive regular updates which will keep you informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc.

Please have a look at the site www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

For our October meeting we were joined by Graham Nicholls, whose talk was entitled “Penstemons in the wild and in cultivation”. Our members were keen to hear more about these popular garden plants and how we could get them to thrive in our gardens.



Penstemons are native to Mexico and the Northern States of America with over 270 different species, often growing in harsh, dry conditions. They come in many colours – red, pink, white, blue, yellow, orange and purple, and in many forms – tiny rock garden plants, herbaceous, and low shrubs, and can grow from a few inches to 6 foot tall.

Numerous hybrids have been bred to enable them to survive colder winters, which has contributed to their popularity in our gardens.

With the use of slides, Graham took us on a tour of the States and showed us numerous species that he had searched for and identified with the help of his wife, (who often preferred to sit in their car, reference books to hand for when Graham returned with a specimen).

Penstemons are easy to grow in any fertile, reasonably moist, free-draining soil. They prefer full sun, and can become leggy if not pruned correctly. In spring, look out for new growth at the base, and trim back the old growth close to the new shoots. They take easily from cuttings or can be grown from seed. They decline after a few years, so replace with fresh stock every 3-5 years.

Graham was clearly very knowledgeable and answered many questions from our members at the end of an enjoyable and informative evening.

Our new year begins with our AGM, followed by a speaker, on Tuesday 23rd January at the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm. If you are interested in gardening, why not join us? We are a very friendly group, and you would be most welcome.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Gardening Year to all of our members!

MOIRA WHITE (CHAIR)

Purton & District Age Concern



You will probably all be aware by now that we have launched a Fundraising Appeal to raise money to purchase a new minibus. We need to replace our old blue minibus, it's past its sell by date and needing too much costly repair work! We have applied for grants and written to various local groups, clubs and societies asking for donations as the new vehicle is going to cost just under £40,000 as it needs specialised equipment such as a tail lift for wheelchairs.

For those who use the internet we have started a Crowdfunding account at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/pdacminibusappeal all donations to our crowdfunding account will be gratefully received

If anyone reading this article hasn't got access to the internet and would like to make a donation please contact Louise on 772558 or Tony on 770696 or Graham on 771058. All donations will be much appreciated. Thank you for your support. Another way we are hoping to raise funds is through Easyfundraising – This company operate a website at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/

The website is a donation platform enabling members of the public who are registered with the website to raise money for their nominated Good Cause each time they purchase items from the 3200 shops registered with easyfundraising.org.uk. By the time you read this Purton and District Age Concern should be registered as a Good Cause with easyfundraising.org.uk. Then all you need to do is join 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 shops through Easyfundraising.org.uk, Purton and District Age Concern will receive a donation. All the major supermarkets and High Street shops are signed up to easyfundraising.org.uk, All you have to remember is to log into www.easyfundraising.org.uk and access the online shop of your choice through their website and NOT direct with the shops own website, then every three months we will receive the donations. The amount of money donated to us will be available to see on our Good Cause profile page on easyfundraising.org.uk.

We are sorry to report that this year we will not be putting the Christmas tree and lights on the outside of the Institute Building or decorating the inside of the Village Hall due to the increase in Health and Safety regulations and insurance cover needed for our volunteers to do this task.. Our thanks go to Mick and his friends for all the time and effort they have spent on our behalf over the past few years making the Village look so festive. Mick your support and the support of your friends has always been much appreciated by the committee and the local community. We have decorated the inside of Silver Threads Hall, it looked lovely for our Christmas party at the end of November, thanks to all involved with doing this.

By the beginning of December all pensioners in our area should have received their £10 Age Concern Christmas voucher, a Christmas newsletter and a “No Uninvited Callers” notice to stick on the outside of your front door to deter cold callers.

Below is the list of local shops and businesses who have agreed to accept our vouchers, which must be spent between 1st - 31st December 2017. Vouchers will not be accepted after 31st December 2017. Please treat yourself to a little something extra for Christmas courtesy of Purton Age Concern, it's our gift to you during the festive season. If you think you may be eligible for a voucher please contact Louise on 772558.

Thank you to all street wardens for delivering the Christmas vouchers and newsletters on our behalf, your help is much appreciated.

Shops willing to accept are vouchers are;

Andrew Hiscock Family Butcher	The Angel
The Royal George	The Bell Inn – Purton Stoke
Purton Farm shop	Hair by Val
Flowers by Sue	New Road Garage
The Peartree	Shear Success – hairdressers
Cyclecare	Greatfield Nurseries & Garden Centre
Toomers Garden Centre	Lloyds Pharmacy
Maharajah Restaurant	One Stop Shop.
Four Seasons – Chip shop & Chinese takeaway.	

If there are any other local businesses who would like to be added to this list next year please contact Louise on 772558.

Our Christmas raffle tickets are on now on sale for £1 for 5 tickets. Please contact your street warden or Tony on 770696 if you would like to purchase some tickets. Remember the final chance to buy our Christmas raffle tickets will be at our Christmas market on Saturday 9th December outside the Pavenhill shops. The prize draw takes place on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm at the Silver Threads Hall at the start of our committee meeting. DONATIONS OF RAFFLE PRIZES WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. Thank you in advance for your support.

Our Burns' Night Celebration is on Saturday 20th January from 6.30pm at the Village Hall. The haggis will be piped in before the start of the three course meal, there will be a licensed bar and a band with a caller for the dancing. This is always a very popular evening. Tickets cost £20 and are already selling fast. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 to buy a ticket, don't leave it too late or you may be disappointed. Please read my future events section for more details of all our events, especially the change of venue for our carol singing this year..

Finally, I would like to welcome Joan and Brian Frost to Age Concern, they have agreed to be street wardens following the resignation of Christine & Tim Handy. Our grateful thanks go to Christine and Tim for the support they have given Age

Concern during their time as street wardens and grateful thanks go to Joan & Brian for agreeing to take over the "patch" that covers Packhorse, Cricklade Road, Hayes Knoll, The Pry to Cross Lanes & Collins Lane.

Future Events

Christmas Party - Our main Christmas party this year is on Saturday 2nd December from 5pm-8.30pm at the Village Hall. The cost is £6.00. Due to popular demand Tony M will be providing the entertainment again this year, so get your dancing shoes on! Please contact your street warden to see if any places are still available. To book the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Minibus Shopping Trips in December - One of our minibuses will be going to Marlborough on Friday 8th December at 9am and to Cirencester on Friday 22nd December at 9am. To book your place please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Christmas Market - Our Christmas market will be held on Saturday 9th December from 9am-12noon outside the Pavenhill shops. There will be sausage tasting, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, mistletoe and other festive items; also it's your last chance to buy our Christmas raffle tickets. Donations of cakes, bric-a-brac, books & festive items will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Carol singing on Christmas Eve - CHANGE OF VENUE - This will now take place at 7pm on Christmas Eve at the Red House. Mark Blackwell and his musicians will provide the music, so come along and join in the carol singing. Mince pies and punch will be served during the interval. All are welcome to attend.

Burns' Night Celebration - This will take place on Saturday 20th January 2018 at the Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm. The evening includes a three course meal, dancing with a live band and caller and drinks available at the bar. The cost is £20 per person and tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. We have already sold lots of tickets so please contact Jenny before Christmas to be sure of getting your ticket.

Past Events

October Mystery Tour - Over 40 people went on this mystery tour. Tony said everyone seemed to enjoy the carvery, the majority of people were too full up to have a dessert!

3Bs x 2 - This event was sold out again, it certainly is a popular evening. Everyone had a great time, enjoyed the bingo and the lovely meal. Our grateful thanks go to John Lilley and his young assistant who organised the bingo so expertly as usual and to Maria and her team in the kitchen who prepared all the food, also thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes. We made a profit of £655.25, which is amazing. Thanks for your support.

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.

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

Tai Chi - We hold gentle Tai chi exercise classes at 2pm on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall. The final class of 2017 will be on Thursday 14th December, where mince pies/teas/coffees will be served. The classes will resume on Thursday 4th January 2018. The New Year is a great time to start exercising so if you would like more information about the Tai chi classes please contact Louise Tidman on 772558.

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

Friendship Club - The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 1st December when the group will be having their Christmas lunch at The Bell Inn at Purton Stoke. The first meeting in 2018 at Silver Threads Hall will be on Friday 5th January from 2pm-4pm, the cost is just 50p and includes tea/coffee/biscuits. If transport is needed please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Season's Greetings to you all, I'll be back in 2018.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Purton Age Concern minibuses

There will be some extra shopping trips to new places over the next couple of months, if you would like to come then please phone me - an early call could avoid disappointment. We usually aim to return about 12ish.

1 December - Malmesbury (Market Day) Pick up from 9am return via Waitrose. £4

8 December - Marlborough Pick up from 8.45am. £5

22 December - Cirencester. You can also be dropped off and picked up from Dobbies Garden Centre Pick up from 9am. £3

12 January - Devizes Pick up from 8.45 am. £5

19 January - Malmesbury (Market Day) Pick up from 9am return via Waitrose. £4

26 January - Cirencester. You can also be dropped off and picked up from Dobbies Garden Centre. Pick up from 9am. £3

HAZEL WOODBRIDGE, MINIBUS COORDINATOR 770862

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Hello! December again – where has the year gone? With winter clearly on the horizon, our thoughts turn to colder weather and how to keep warm. Many health problems are triggered or worsened by cold weather: dry skin and cold hands and feet are annoying, aching joints, colds and sore throats are almost expected, but serious, life threatening conditions such as asthma, norovirus and heart attacks are also exacerbated by the cold weather. The advice, of course, is to wrap up warmly and keep the heating going at home, which can be expensive. There is much that can be done to help with the costs of heating – switching supplier for electricity and gas or joining an oil purchasing consortium. Prevention is better than cure, so could your home use better insulation? For those who are really struggling with costs, small grants are available. Applications start mid November and the criteria are:

To be eligible for a grant someone must;

- be considered to live in fuel poverty (spend more than 10% of their annual household income on fuel to keep their home warm and in a ‘satisfactory’ condition) or
- be in receipt of eligible means-tested benefits
- And fall into one of the categories below;
- be pensionable age and affected by fuel poverty
- be of working age with a disability or a long-term health condition which affects their ability to keep warm
- be in receipt of Better 2gether childcare funding for their 2 year old

Please get in touch if I can help with any of the above.

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

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

Purton Peartree Pealers

Purton Peartree Pealers, the handbell team, will be busy during the Christmas season, raising money for Prospect Hospice.

If you want to hear us do come along to John Lewis on Friday morning December 15th.

Also we shall be playing at the Outlet Village on Sunday December 3rd and in St Mary’s Church on Sunday evening December 3rd.

Other gigs include Royal Wootton Bassett Late Night Shopping on 1 December.

For a full list of dates contact Libbie: 771018

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Information Evening - Organ Donation

Our talk on Organ Donation was well attended with very interesting and informative speakers. If you carry an Organ Donation card then you are encouraged to renew it online regularly.

Carers' Award for Purton Surgery

For its support to carers Purton surgery has just achieved 'GOLD' accreditation award for Carers! This is the highest level. Well done to all involved in achieving this and in particular to Jess Knotts who is the Carers' Lead.

'Flu Vaccinations - Raffle for Hampers



Over £730 was raised from the sale of Raffle tickets during the 'flu vaccinations on 14 October, this will go towards a new, more up-to-date ECG machine for the surgery. Many thanks to all who bought tickets, also to those who helped fold all those tickets for the draw. The lucky winner of the Hamper was Mrs Rita Gater.

Vintage Tea Party, Saturday 27 January 2018

We will be holding another Vintage Tea Party on Saturday 27 January 2018 when Breeze will once again be playing for us. Tickets (cost £8) will be available from Purton Surgery after Christmas. Reserve the date in your diary!

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, Purton PPG

We Record ...

Funeral at Kingsdown Crematorium

11 October 2017 Violet Mary Ann Brown (71)

Baptism at St Mary's Church

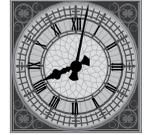
29 October 2017 Victoria Louise Furze

In Memoriam:

10 December 1917 William James Haines, "B" Section, Tank Corps, killed in action at Cambrai, aged 31. William is buried in Rocquigny-Equancourt Road Cemetery, Manancourt, and remembered in the Memorials in St Mary's Church, Purton.



After 8



Our October meeting was primarily to plan our activities over the forthcoming year. Suggestions? said Avril – and possibly wished she hadn't as so many members had good ideas she couldn't write fast enough! Agreeing on dates was another loud debate, but eventually all settled down and Avril went home hoping she could decipher her notes, promising to send out the printed calendar for 2018 shortly.

Then to the activity of the evening, an art quiz devised by Barbara. The first selection gave us all hope as many of the questions seemed fairly easy – who was the sculptor of the Angel of the North? What is the complementary colour of blue? Then they got harder! We were asked where various artistic objects could be found near here and further away. The locations ranged from St Mary's Church in Purton (the 1655 painting of the last supper) to the Musee D'Orsay, Paris (formerly a railway station). And did you know that the statue of Diana Dors now resided near the Shaw Ridge cinema?

In the Who said What round we had to match various sayings to a list of artists, which for most of us was pure guess work!

But by far the most hilarious round was of prints of pictures by modern artists and we had to guess the titles. One which looked like squiggles of ink worked over and over each other was a work by Jason Pollock entitled 'Cathedral'. Our title was 'I wish my pen would run out of ink!' Another entitled 'August' by Bridget Riley looked like the horizontal hold on the TV had gone wrong and as a tribute to the quiz setter we called it 'I could see better before I had my cataracts done'!

The next meeting is entitled Canals which sounds very interesting.

CHRISTINE GILL

Crib Festival 2017

Do you have a family Christmas crib or Nativity scene at home? Or would you like an excuse to make one? We are asking families in Purton to bring their Cribs to St Mary's... on Friday Dec 1 or Saturday morning Dec 2... so that they can be put on display for everyone to see. We have already been offered a knitted Nativity scene; one made of drinking cups and another from clay. One is from Peru and another from Kenya. There's even one so small it is in an egg!

If you don't have a crib but would like to come and see what Purton people have in their Christmas decoration box, please come and look and enjoy the cribs on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3. There will be refreshments available and any donations will be welcome for the Church Roof fund. On Sunday evening Dec 3 at 6pm there will be a special Evensong, with handbells and a Blessing of the Cribs... before families can take them home again.

*More details: Libbie 771018 or libbie@sheppard.org
or Jane.janersmith1@gmail.com*

St Mary's Primary School

The children are continuing to work hard in their classes and as we start the run up to Christmas, they will be busy preparing for all the Christmas Activities in school. We are concentrating on the value of friendship and tolerance this term, with emphasis on our stay safe/anti bullying fortnight in November. We had Richard from Stay Safe Workshops presenting assemblies, running workshops with the children, meeting parents and training our Year 6 mentors; invaluable learning for life.



Staff News:

We welcome Miss Heal who joins us to teach Class 6 and we also congratulate Miss Richardson, Class 9 teacher, who is expecting her second child; she will start her maternity leave in February.

Date for your Diary: Friday 8 December - PTA Christmas Fayre from 3.30pm til 5pm at school. Please do come along with friends and family to support this event if you can.

Please note that the Primary School Admissions application process for Sept 2018 is now underway. Applications can be made on line via www.wiltshire.gov.uk or by obtaining a paper copy from the School Admissions Team in County Hall Trowbridge. Deadline for all applications is 15 January 2018.

Should anyone wish to visit the school prior to submitting their application, you are warmly welcome. Visits can be arranged through the school office admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

For more information about our wonderful school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Purton Artists Exhibition

Thank you to everyone who came to support the Purton Artists at their recent exhibition. We had another successful show and many of the paintings and artworks were sold. For those who missed it, here's some of the highlights in photographs.

CHRISTINE GILL, Purton Artists



Purton Evening W.I.



Our October meeting started with a minutes silence for one of our own members. We were all thoroughly shocked and deeply saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sue Duck from Purton Stoke. Sue was a lovely lady and will be missed by all who knew her.

The talk for the October meeting was on Venetian Masks. Karen Johnston gave a brief history lesson on the masked carnivals of Venice, and then members were given the chance to make a mask for themselves. Authentic Venetian masks are made out of porcelain or leather – but we used old cereal boxes!

In September we welcomed Linda Buckland and her lovely Golden Labrador Fidgey to our meeting. Fidgey is a Hearing Dog and we learned about the charity 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' and the benefits that a dog can give to anyone with a hearing impairment.

Our collection of old tools and accessories for Tool Aid on 30th September was very successful. We completely filled the trailer and also raised £63 by selling cakes and receiving donations. This money will go towards the charity's transport costs. Thank you to everyone who donated money or items or helped on the day. Several of our members attended the Annual Council Meeting in Salisbury. They listened to a wonderful speaker, who talked about her career – Mandy Hickson who was a fighter pilot!

We are now all looking forward to celebrating Christmas; so Happy Christmas from all the lovely ladies at Purton Evening WI.

For any further information call: Barbara 01793 770818 or Janet 01793 772146

St Mary's Flowers for Christmas

If you would like to come and help decorate St Mary's Church for Christmas you would be very welcome. We are hoping to do the flowers on Friday 22nd December from 10am onwards. Please come and join us....or bring us some flowers to use on your behalf.

All colours are welcome, but we usually enjoy red, white, yellow and gold especially for this Christmas Festival.

More Details: Libbie: 771018

Purton Guide Dogs

Sponsored Puppy 'PURDIE'

Good news, I have just received a message from Guide Dogs, to say that the Puppy Walker will be able to bring 'PURDIE' to the village for a 'Meet and Greet' on Friday the 1st of December. I will be booking the SILVER THREADS HALL from 3-5pm for the occasion. We will have tea, coffee and biscuits available.

BRIAN DAVIES, for Purton Guide Dogs Support Group



Purton Churches Christmas 2017



Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

What are you hoping for this Christmas? Perhaps for a particular toy or video game or mobile phone; or maybe for peaceful relationships or healing of illness or change of circumstances. Many become so fixed upon their hopes that they believe God must step into line and give them what they hope for because they really “need” it.

The people of Bethlehem 2,000 years ago believed they really did “need” the Messiah to come to get rid of the Roman oppressors, the invading power and to reestablish them as a great nation once again. They too became so fixed upon their hopes that surely God must give them what they hoped for. Otherwise perhaps He was not God at all! So when Jesus was born, God proclaimed His message to the outcasts of local society, to a group of shepherds outside Bethlehem.

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” [Luke chapter 2 verses 10-12 - The Bible] Many people could not accept this as “Good News”, they did not have “Great Joy”, because God had not given them what they hoped for but what they really needed - a Saviour.

This Christmas it is my hope and prayer that we will enjoy what presents we do receive; that we will find some resolution to the challenges we may be facing right now; but above all that we will have the eyes to see that God the Father’s present to us is what we really “need” above everything else - a Saviour. Jesus truly is “Good News” and a cause for “Great Joy”. We would welcome you to join with us to thank God for His present to us, at our Christmas Services (see overleaf). Happy Christmas.

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Vicar of St Mary’s)

If you or any of your family or friends need our prayers please contact:

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077 email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk
or Revd Judith Wells 01793 770627 for St Mary’s Church or Revd David Perkins 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

Please ensure that your contributions for the January issue of *Purton Magazine* are received no later than Sunday 10th December, as there are then only 10 working days to prepare, produce and print before the Christmas holidays. Thank you.



Purton Churches Christmas 2017



Nativity Crib Festival Saturday 2nd - Sunday 3rd December 2017

Come and enjoy the Cribs - Saturday 2nd 10.00am-4.00pm Sunday 3rd 9.00am-5.30pm. Also if you have your own Christmas Crib Scene, please loan it to St Mary's to display that weekend. Please bring it on Friday 1st from 12.00-4.30pm or Saturday 2nd from 9.00-10.00am. Refreshments will be available with all donations going to St Mary's Church Roof Fund

Sunday 3rd December

6.00pm Advent Evensong by Candlelight at St Mary's Church with Blessing of the Cribs and Handbell ringing

Sunday 10th December

6.00pm Classic Christmas Carols with Bradon Forest Musicians, St Mary's School Choir, Ridgeway Farm School Choir, St Mary's Church Music Group, followed by Pies & Punch at St Mary's Church

Saturday 16th December

4.00pm Village and Messy Church Christingle Service for children of all ages at St Mary's Church (Children please bring an Adult and an Orange!)

Sunday 17th December

10.30am Carol Service at the Methodist Church

6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church
Candlelight Service with St Mary's Church Choir and a Brass Ensemble followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Wednesday 20th December

10.00am Christmas Carols at "Coffee & Chat" at Purton Silver Threads Hall

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

4.00pm United Village Carol and Nativity Service with the Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church

11.30pm Traditional Choral 'Midnight' Communion. Candlelight Service at St Mary's Church

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

10.30am Christmas Day Informal Service at the Methodist Church

10.30am Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

Purton Village Diary - December 2017

- | | | | |
|----|----|---------|--|
| 1 | F | 9.00am | Age Concern minibus to Malmesbury for market day. Return via Waitrose. |
| | | 12 noon | to 4.00pm & Sat 9.00am-10.00am bring your nativity scene to St Mary's Church for Advent Sunday Crib Festival and blessing |
| | | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Christmas Social at Silver Threads Hall |
| 2 | Sa | 10.00am | Jubilee Gardens Open Day and Christmas fair |
| | | 10.00am | Parish Councillors surgery at Purton Village Hall |
| | | 10.00am | Purton Farm Shop Christmas Market |
| | | 5.00pm | Age Concern Christmas Party at the Village Hall |
| | | 8.00pm | Race Night for Purton Football Club at the Red House |
| 3 | Su | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | United Family Service at Purton Methodist Church, celebrating the Junior Church anniversary |
| | | 6.00pm | Festive candle-lit Evensong for advent at St Mary's Church with Purton Peartree Pealers handbell ringers and crib blessing |
| 5 | Tu | 2.00pm | Carols at Silver Threads Hall |
| 7 | Th | 10.30am | Communion at The Vicarage |
| | | 7.00pm | Bradon Forest School music department Christmas concert |
| 8 | F | 8.45am | Age Concern minibus to Marlborough |
| | | 3.30pm | St Mary's Primary School PTA Christmas Fayre |
| 9 | Sa | 9.00am | Age Concern Christmas Market at Pavenhill shops |
| 10 | 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 |
| | | 6.00pm | Classic Christmas Carols with school musicians at St Mary's Church |
| | | 7.30pm | Sing 4/4 Community Choir Christmas Concert at Cricklade United Church |
| 11 | M | 11.00am | Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House |
| | | 7.30pm | St Mary's Fellowship of Women devotional evening, carols and Christmas party led by Celia Tweedie-Smith at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 7.30pm | Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society Christmas concert at RWB Methodist Church |
| 12 | Tu | 4.00pm | Last collection of Scout Christmas Post before deliveries start |
| | | 8.00pm | After 8 Christmas sing-along at Mary S' |
| 13 | W | 7.00pm | Bradon Forest School Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church |
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14	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
15	F	10.00am	Purton Peartree Peelers handbell ringers entertain shoppers at John Lewis, Mannington
		2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall
		7.30pm	Purton Twinning Association annual quiz at Silver Threads Hall
16	Sa	4.00pm	Messy Christingle at St Mary's Church

17	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
		6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church
19	Tu	2.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church
21	Th	12 noon	Purton Parish Council Office closes for Christmas, re-opening on 2 January
22	F	9.00am	Age Concern minibus to Cirencester, with drop off/pick up also from Dobbies Garden Centre
		10.00am	Help decorate St Mary's Church with flowers for Christmas
23	Sa	2.00pm	to 4.00pm Children's Christmas Party at the Red House
		7.00pm	to 8.00pm Christmas Choir at the Red House
		8.00pm	to 9.30pm Christmas Disco at the Red Houes
		9.30pm	Auto B Band at the Red House

24	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		4.00pm	United village carol and crib service with Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Brass band and carols at the Red House
		9.00pm	Christmas draw at the Red House
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St Mary's Church
25	M	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
26	Tu	12 noon	Tony M plays at the Red House

31	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
		8.00pm	NiteLife Duo play at the Red House New Year's Eve party

Every week

Tu	9.00am	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	to 5.00pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church

Continued overleaf

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|----|---------|-------------|---|
| Th | 9.00am | to 11am: | Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time) |
| | 12 noon | | Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s |
| | 2.00pm | to 3pm: | Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall |
| | 2.20pm | | Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time) |
| F | 10.00am | to 11.30am: | Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars |
| Sa | 10.00am | to 12.30pm: | Purton Museum open, free of charge |

Every month

1st Wednesday Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children

January

- | | | | |
|----|----|--------|--|
| Tu | 2 | 2-4pm | Poetry afternoon with Carol Glead at Silver Threads Hall |
| F | 12 | 8.45am | Age Concern Minibus to Devizes |
| F | 19 | 9.00am | Age Concern minibus to Malmesbury for market day. Return via Waitrose. |
| Sa | 20 | 6.30pm | Burn's Night celebration at the Village Hall |
| F | 26 | 9.00am | Age Concern minibus to Cirencester |

Moon Phases

☉ 26 November ○ 3 December ☾ 10 December ● 18 December

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

RUNvember

You may have noticed some of the 450 runners around Swindon who have taken up the Runvember challenge 2017.

Some of them live in Purton!

So if you have seen people jogging around with a green number pinned to their front, they are trying to support rough sleepers in Swindon this Christmas. They have all pledged to run every day of the month... not far, but the distance agreed is their choice.

At the same time, they need to fill a box with essential items for people who will be sleeping out in all weathers: items such as hats, sleeping bags, soap, socks, a torch, chocolate, washing kits etc

So...30 days...30 runs. Please do check www.runvember.co.uk if you want to know more or contact libbie 771018

Please remember that every night, while the runners are out doing a mile or so, in drizzle or frost, there are up to 47 people in Swindon sleeping rough; so whatever we can all do to help will be appreciated and gratefully accepted.

Church Floodlighting



- Nov 13 The Church was floodlit in memory of our lovely Mother and Grandmother **Barbara Wicks** who would have been 90 on the 13th. Love you always. From Pearl and Jamie; Neil and Deb and all your loving Grandchildren.
- Nov 14 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of my husband **John Bentley** on his 75th birthday. John passed away on 14 December 2016. Loved and remembered for ever by Alison, Sharon, Nigel, Scott, Gemma and Snowball.
- Nov 10 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Duncan Bamford** on his birthday. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey and Howard and family.
- Dec 3 St Mary's will be floodlit to welcome the village to **Evensong** at 6pm, when family Christmas cribs/Nativity scenes will be blessed and the Purton Peartree Pealers will be ringing handbells during the service
- Dec 19 The church will be floodlit for my wife **Elsie Goodings** on what would have been her birthday. Pete Goodings.
- Dec 24 St Mary's will be floodlit on **Christmas Eve** for the United Village Carol and Crib Service, starting at 4pm. Also there will be floodlights to welcome people attending Midnight Communion which starts at 11.30pm
- Dec 25 St Mary's will be floodlit on **Christmas Day** to wish all Purtonians, their families and friends, a Very Happy Christmas
- Dec 31 **New Year's Eve:** St Mary's Church will be floodlit on 31st December to welcome in the **New Year**.
A Very Happy New Year to you all.

If you would like the Church floodlit for a special date, occasion, or memorial, please contact Libbie on 771018. The cost is £18 for one evening and it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a month before the chosen night. A short announcement can also be published in this magazine at no extra cost.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *The Fox, The Pry and Collins Lane*

Bradon Forest School



Remembrance Jigsaw



On Thursday 9 November, History teachers Miss Mazelin and Mrs Loxton, delivered an assembly with the help of a team of Key Stage 3 students to “rethink remembrance” through poetry.

Students read iconic poems such as “In Flanders fields” and “Dulce et Decorum est”, reflecting on the messages of them before hearing more modern poetry from a retired Army officer and a current Year 8 student.

The key theme for the assembly was “You cannot change the beginning, but starting now you can change the ending.” and students were given examples of different ways in which they could help each other and in doing so honour those that gave their lives for our freedom today.

Tutor groups were asked to submit artwork for our ‘Remembrance jigsaw’. These have been placed in to a collage of a soldier which is on display in the Humanities Department.



Annual Grandparents Coffee Morning

Grandparents of our new Year 7 students were invited to see the Celebration Assembly at the end of Term 1. After hearing about how well Year 7 had settled into life at secondary school students proudly lead their grandparents of a tour of the school. Refreshments were served in the hall. We welcomed well over 100 relatives on site!

The Big Sing 2017

Over 120 new Year 7 students took part in their first Music Concert at Bradon Forest. Each tutor group chose a song which they rehearsed in lessons. They were then offered the opportunity to perform in their tutor groups as part of The Big Sing in front of an audience of over 260 people.



Songs included Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Happy, No Money, Can't Stop the Feeling, Hold Back the River, Play That Song, What Do I Know? and Fireflies.

For the first time at our Year 7 Big Sing event ALL the Year 7s taking part sang a

song together which was... Grease is the Word!

Joint Head of Music, Mrs Fry, said: "The excitement and enjoyment was notable from all the participants. Well done everyone!"

Parent, Laura Golding, said: "Well done Bradon. Excellent concert today. Really enjoyable. Great to see the kids gaining confidence and plenty of toes tapping. Year 11 band were amazing."

Banking, business and football for Year 11!



Business Studies students from Year 11 visited London for a packed two day trip during the October half term break. The purpose of the trip was to focus on marketing, finance and macro-economics.

The group had extended spectacular views from the London Eye due to a technical difficulty that left them suspended quite high up for 15 minutes! The visit to Nike Town developed students' understanding of sponsorship which is a focus for their controlled assessment. The show, Kinky

Boots, at the Adelphi Theatre in the Strand, taught the group how businesses need to constantly reinvent themselves in order to meet the demands of consumer needs.

Day two started with a visit to the Bank of England museum in all its splendour. The visit to Chelsea Football club included their Business of Football tour. There was a chance to sit in the dugout as well as the hot seat in the press room. No trip to London could be complete without some time for shopping on Oxford Street too!

Business Studies teacher, Mrs Hawley, reported "Our students were wonderful ambassadors for Bradon Forest. They were polite, responsible and lots of fun to be with. The appreciation they all showed at the end of the trip was overwhelming and was a reminder of the reason we busy teachers came into the profession in the first place. Thanks Year 11 for being so fab!"

Aisha Jeng said, "I loved learning about the history of the Bank of England. The hotel accommodation was nice and the teachers treated us like adults."

Tom Keen shared, "The opportunity to learn about the Bank of England and putting finance into perspective at Chelsea Football Club. The show was amazing and the shopping great. We packed a lot in."



Inter-house Cross Country

Students were lucky and managed to avoid Hurricane Ophelia during their Inter-House Cross Country Competition on 16th October. Year 7 completed the 1.8 mile course with Year 8, 9 and GCSE PE students from Year 10 completing the 2.3 mile course.

Secondary Singing Day

On Tuesday 17th October, 18 Bradon Forest Musicians took part in a Secondary Singing Day organised by the Swindon Music Service held at Commonweal Sixth Form. They were invited to participate in the 'This Is A Voice' workshop with a

number of vocal coaches including some that worked on The Voice 2017!

The day included learning about how the voice works and techniques used in singing to create different sounds. There were 100 students there from different schools and we were very happy to have two of our students take part in a mini-masterclass with the vocal coaches in front of everyone. Tom Keen and Emily Musty sang brilliantly and the coaches were very complimentary about their performances. They also gave them tips on how to improve. Students said that they found the whole day 'really interesting' and 'a great opportunity to find out more about the voice'.



Pitt Rivers Art Trip

The Art department have been out and about again!. On the Wednesday 4 October 60 Year 10 students visited the Pitt Rivers museum in Oxford. The purpose of the trip was to observe the fantastic collection of cultural artefacts, take photographs and use these to develop their GCSE coursework projects. Students then spent the afternoon drawing from their photos in their sketchbook.

Head of Art, Mr Martch-Harry, said "Students were amazed at some of the items from the collection such as the shrunken heads, Samurai swords and huge Totem Pole."

Ten Years Ago...

The front cover of the December 2007 issue of Purton Magazine was an early adventure into colour covers with a close up photograph of some holly berries. That prompted the thoughts about why holly and even pine trees have become such traditional symbols of Christmas whereas other plants have not.

Researching the subject identified that the Egyptians were only one in a long line of cultures that treasured evergreens, bringing green date palm leaves into their dwellings during their winter time as a symbol of life's triumph over death. Centuries ago in our country, evergreens are said to have been used by Druids during their mysterious rituals with holly and mistletoe as symbols of eternal life. However, it seems that it was not until the Middle Ages that trees became part of the Christmas tradition.

Initially it seems an evergreen tree was decorated with apples and called the Paradise tree as a symbol of the feast of Adam and Eve on 24th December. The modern Christmas trees are said to have appeared in the middle 1500s and set up in homes without any ornaments in Alsace, then part of Germany. A diary found in Strasbourg dated 1605 is apparently the oldest record of a decorated Christmas tree with paper roses, apples and candies as adornments.

Historians believe that the evolution of Christmas tree adornments is mainly about light as more and more items with reflective surfaces were used such as shiny ornaments, tinsel, metallic surfaces, lights and, of course, a star on top. In this country, the Illustrated London News in 1846 carried an illustration of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their children around a Christmas tree immediately making the tree fashionable throughout the Empire.

During the Second World War it was forbidden to cut down trees for decoration in this country. Instead home-made decorations were made for small table-top trees which could be taken down into the air raid shelters for a little Christmas cheer.

But when all is said and done, perhaps the simplest and best Christmas decoration is for us to be wreathed in smiles for each other.

Scouts Christmas Post

1st Purton and Lydiard Scouts participate in the Swindon Scout Christmas Card Delivery Service. Stamps cost 30p each for delivery in the Swindon area (including Highworth and Royal Wootton Bassett).

Stamps are for sale from Shear Success Hairdressing, Toomers (Stone Lane), Cycle Care, and Flawless Floors.

Special Scout Post Collection boxes will be in place from 24th November, with the last collection on 12th December at 4:00pm.

Purton Historical Society



Friday 1 December 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall - Annual Christmas Social

Tickets for the Social will cost £12.00 - Musical entertainment by Whitehorse Folk Group, a buffet supper, quiz and lucky ticket draw will be included in the ticket price. Bring your own drinks – we will supply the glasses. A raffle will be organised. Special dietary requirements catered for upon request. Visitors and guests warmly welcomed.

Tickets available from Jim Mosley, Telephone: 01793 778395 and Flawless Floors UK 115 Pavenhill, Telephone 01793 771720

Monthly Meetings

Due to unforeseen circumstances the subject of the January meeting will be 'The Great Trek' By Mrs Jacky Parker. 'From Enclosures To Captain Swing' By Mr Paul Booy will now take place following the AGM – see below.

Thursday 25 January 2018 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall - The Great Trek and the Growth of Afrikaner Nationalism - Jacky Parker

The official guide to the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria describes the Afrikaners as 'A Nation of Heroes'. In many ways the Voortrekkers were a nation of heroes in that five thousand Trek-Boers braved a new world and dramatically influenced the course of history in South Africa. In constant peril in their movement away from the British sphere of influence, they clung to their faith and a belief in their destiny. Could a spirit of independence have grown into a spirit of nationalism which was so strong that by 1960 two and a half million Afrikaners 'imposed their will upon ten times that number of other South Africans'?

Thursday 22 February 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall - Restoration of the Cotswold Canals – Clive Field

Thursday 22 March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall - Annual General Meeting followed by – From Enclosures to Captain Swing - Mr. Paul Booy

Purton Museum

The last day the museum opens, prior to the winter break, is Wednesday 29 November 2017.

New Members and visitors always welcome

*TONY & JANET NEATE,
e-mail: tjneate57@gmail.com Tel: 01793 770117*

Information Board For Ringsbury Camp

Wiltshire Council, Area Board have awarded us a grant for this purpose. At present we are researching the information that is to be recorded on the board covering Ringsbury Camp, Brockhurst Wood and Meadow.

Young Visitors to the Museum

Last June we welcomed 2 year 5 classes from St. Mary's Primary School, who were doing a project on WW1. Bob Lloyd gave the children an insight into the importance of horses and mules including the training the animals received at Manor Hill. He gave each child a Horse Tag to remind them of the horses and mules in the "Great War" especially on Remembrance Sunday. They also viewed the relevant exhibits in the museum.

On the wettest day last summer a group from Activity Week went on an adventure. They visited the Remount Memorial at the Peartree Hotel, the War Memorial in St Mary's Church and finally the Museum where they enjoyed dressing up with a helmet and gas mask from WW2. They had great excitement exploring the Museum. In October we welcomed even younger visitors from Peardrops Pre-school and Peardrops Playclose. The Museum came alive with interactive experiences relating to life in Victorian times and searching for the jaunty mice dotted around the Museum. The children finished their visit sitting on the stairs, viewing old photographs of Canon Brian Fessey with the Playgroup children - he loved to entertain the children with his puppet and playing the guitar. The children ended their visit singing "If you are happy and you know it, clap your hands".

We look forward to further visits from St. Mary's Primary School, Peardrops Pre-school, Peardrops Playclose and Activity Week adventurers.

The Museum is now closed for the winter and will re-open in the spring.

MARION HOBBS, CHAIRMAN

On 26 October the Purton Historical Society enjoyed a fascinating talk by Martin Way- Retired shepherd- on the wool trade and shepherding in the Cotswold area. Since the Romans and through medieval England to the 1950s, it has been one of the richest areas in the country because of our native sheep, their meat and fleeces. The meat would be cured in salt streams to eat through winter the fleeces washed in fresh streams, spun, woven and made into blankets and cloaks. (natural wool is waterproof) These were exported all over Europe

Sheep farmers and merchants were some of the richest men in England endowing churches and monasteries and Cathedrals (Salisbury and Gloucester) Bronze brasses were in churches in their memory-locally in Northleach church (sounds worth a visit).

Dick Whittington was a wool merchant from Stroud, later became Lord Mayor of London. The Lord Chancellor sits on a woosack in the Houses of Parliament (weighing 364lbs.) a sign of wealth and power. Martin also brought a splendid display of shepherds crooks, bells, lanterns and a beautiful shepherds smock. He also answered many questions and there were refreshments.

A really entertaining talk earned a warm vote of thanks from Tony Neate.

Jill Watts, teddington1940@gmail.com

Purton Placard

Purton Surgery
Vintage Tea Party

Saturday 27 January 2018
Village Hall, Purton, 3 - 5pm
Entertainment from Breeze
Tickets £8 available in
January from Purton Surgery,
tel: 01793 770207

Jubilee Gardens Project,
Christmas Open Day

Saturday 2 December,
10am - 2pm

Pickled shallots/onions,
pickled eggs, pickled cabbage
chutney, cakes, bulbs,
cyclamen, christmas wreaths,
refreshments, raffle, tombola,
free admission.

**New Year's Eve Party at
The Red House**

Sunday 31 December
live music from 'nitelife duo'
Fancy dress - black & white theme
free glass of bubbly.
£100 of beer vouchers to win +
other prizes. Buffet, free entry
to members
£2 non-members

Purton Age Concern
Christmas Party

Saturday 2 December 5pm - 8.30pm at the
Village Hall, cost £6.00. Book your place
with your street warden by Wednesday 22
November.

Christmas Market

Saturday 9 December 9am - 12noon
Outside Pavenhill Shops. Lots of Christmas
bargains and the last chance to buy one of
our Christmas raffle tickets!

Carol singing at the Red House

Sunday 24 December at 7pm. All your
favourite carols with mince pies and punch!

Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 20 January 2018,
Purton Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm.
Tickets cost £20 and include a 3 course
meal. Tickets available from Jenny Barnes
on 770339

Royal Wootton Bassett
Choral Society

Christmas Concert

Monday 11 December 2017
at RWB Methodist Church
starts 7.30pm
works by Chilcott-Shaw-Thomas
Arne, Wilberg, Faure, Handel
(Zadok the priest), traditional
Carols and readings.
Retiring collection & Refreshments

Purton Twinning Association

Annual Quiz

Silver Treads Hall,

Friday 15 December at 7.30pm

Teams of up to six, £6 per person including ploughman's supper.

Licensed bar.

To book a place or team telephone Len or Barbara on 01793 770160

Cricklade Revealed For Christmas

There are now 13 books in the series – 10 main books and 3 EXTRA books with indexes, all at £3.60 each. Don't forget that a set of any 10 or more books can be bought at the discount price of £3 each, but **ONLY** by contacting Marion Parsons directly, so why not buy a set for Christmas while stocks last?

Contact Marion on 01793 750542 or email: mfparsons071@btinternet.com

Profits to Cricklade Open Door

Christingle

for all children in Purton, Ridgeway Farm and Mouldon View

Please come and join us at St Mary's Church for Christingles, to start your Christmas off with fun.

4pm on Saturday 16 December at St Mary's Church

It's not only for children who attend Messy Church, it's for ALL children and families!

Please bring your own orange... yes, really!... you'll find out why during the service!

...and bring a grown up and some money to go into the collection

...watch the magic unfurl!

Sing 4/4 Community Choir Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday 10 December, Cricklade United Church at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £6.50 (including light refreshments) are available from: Choir members, Mary New (01793 770630, or from Margaret Roberts (01793 751063).

Concert proceeds will be donated to local charities.

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



A Book I will Always Remember

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.

Utopia by Thomas More

Utopia was written by Thomas More over a four-year period before being published in Latin in 1517. It was originally written in Greek and from which Utopia translates into No Place. It is a satirical fiction depicting an island nation with a perfect social and political system in the new world. When he wrote Utopia, Thomas More was a privy councillor to King Henry VIII and later rose to become Lord Chancellor before falling from favour and being beheaded in 1535.

I first read Utopia when I was in my early teens and many of the ideas from the book have stuck with me, two topics in particular often came back to me. Firstly, economics, the nations wealth was measured in its gold reserves but, rather than storing its gold in vaults or banks, it distributed it everywhere in the land, every bedroom had a chamber pot made of solid gold, slaves and convicts were restrained with gold chains. It was thought that nobody would want to steal something that was so easily available and had such basic and low class connotations. Secondly, healthcare, free healthcare was available to everyone and if somebody became so ill or old that they were in great pain or had poor quality of life then their life could be humanely terminated.

Over fifty years after first reading the book, I downloaded it for free and read it whilst on holiday. I was surprised to find that the book was in two parts and I had no recollection what so ever of book one, which basically reflects the correspondence regarding the writing of the book between Thomas More and the intellectuals of the day. However, book 2 was everything I had remembered and could recall some sections almost word for word. Possibly our school library edition only consisted of book 2. I reread the book whilst we were on holiday in Kos, a Greek island where both the first hospital was opened and the Hypocratic oath was written, which made the book more poignant, as it showed how little, man has progressed since it was published five hundred years previously.

Utopia was seen at the time it was published as the basis of humanism, which to me, is the only ideology that has ever made sense. In later years, Engel and Marx were said to have cited Utopia as a justification for communism, which is unfortunate as it demeans a great piece of fiction and is well worth reading, particularly book 2.

JEFF DIGGLE

Cricklade Country Market



**Our Christmas market: Friday December 15th
2-4pm, at The Jenner Hall Cricklade**

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

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

Future MARKET DATE: 26 January 2018

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

We welcome cooks and growers to join our small and happy team!

Get Festive with Prospect this December!

If you'd like to support your local hospice this December why not take part in one of their two fun dress down days. You can sign up for the Santa Dress Down day on Friday 8th, and a Santa suit will be provided, or don your best naff knitwear on Friday 15th for Christmas Jumper day.

Don't worry if dressing up isn't really your thing Prospect's Easy Christmas Card is a great way of getting your company, school or club involved and you saves you having to write out lots of Christmas cards. Request a free A3 festive card to display in a public place, then ask everyone to write their own Christmas message on it and donate the money they would have spent on cards.

To take part in any of the above activities please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/festive or call 01793 816161.

Ho ho ho...

Santa Fun Run

Sunday 17 December in Marlborough
www.prospect-hospice.net/santafunrun
Sign up now!

Prospect Hospice

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR
Registered Charity No. 280091

Supported by STJOHN'S MARLBOROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Marlborough Santa Run, Sunday 17 December

Registration now live! Join Prospect Hospice this December for their first ever festive, family fun run! With Christmas-themed costumes provided for both adults and children, this is the perfect winter run to get the whole family into the festive spirit! www.prospect-hospice.net/santafunrun

The Great War Project

Part 53: December 1917

Rationing

Germany increased its use of submarines, in January 1917, to sink all ships headed to Britain in an attempt to starve the country into submission. Voluntary rationing of food was introduced in February 1917 and bread was subsidised from September 1917. Some local authorities took rationing into their own hands, but the government introduced a compulsory rationing scheme in stages between December 1917 and February 1918. By December 1917, Britain's supply of wheat had fallen to just six weeks' worth. To make rationing work, ration books were later introduced in July 1918 for butter, margarine, lard, meat, and sugar. For the most part, rationing benefited the health of the country and during the war, average energy intake decreased by only 3%, but protein intake by 6%.

Western Front

The 1st Battle of Cambrai ended on 3 December. William James Haines was born in Purton in 1886, the son of Henry and Mary Jane Haines. By the time he enlisted, before 1915, he was married to Renee Haines, giving his address as Jasmines Cottage, The Packhorse, Purton. Originally with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, he was serving with "B" Section, Tank Corps at Cambrai in November 1917 and was killed in action on 10 December 1917*, aged 31. William is buried in Rocquigny-Equancourt Road Cemetery, Manancourt. This Cemetery was used for the period of the Battle of Cambrai that took place 10 miles away to the north-east. William is remembered on the Memorial Board in St Mary's Church, (recorded as Haynes) and in the in the Memorial book in the church.

*This is the date given on the CWGC memorial at Manancourt and the Tanks Museum confirms he was killed in action. We can only assume he died in a follow-up action a full week after the battle. RD.

On 7 December, the American 42nd 'Rainbow' Division arrived in France. Among its ranks was one Colonel Douglas MacArthur later to become famous in the Japan campaigns of the Second World War. The Division's distinctive shoulder patch is pictured.



On 22 December, the Flanders Council (Raad van Vlaanderen - RVV) led by Pieter Tack declared independence from the rest of Belgium for the Flemish region - nominally the northern half of the country with the division being a line east to west from a position on the French border some miles south of Ypres to the Dutch Limburg border near Maastricht. Brussels was and is a French speaking "island" within the Flemish-speaking area. The Council hoped for (victorious) German support after the war to implement their independence. The armistice

in November 1918 led to the end of the Council and many of its members were arrested and imprisoned as collaborators.

Russia

Following the “October” Revolution in Russia and the agreement to hold talks, hostilities between Russia and the Central Powers nominally ceased on 2 December. In actual fact, fighting ended on dates agreed between local commanders in anticipation of a truce. The first session of peace talks started on 3 December at Brest-Litovsk, in German-held former Russian territory in modern day Poland. Romania, in alliance with Russia, was isolated and agreed a ceasefire on 6 December in line with the overall Brest-Litovsk truce.

The talks were briefly adjourned with the truce in place (confirmed to last until 14 January 1918), and resumed on 13 December in advance of an Armistice being signed between Russia and the Central Powers. A Secret Convention was signed on the 22nd concerning the future of an independent Poland.

As a result of the loss of authority in Russia, Finland, German-occupied Lithuania and Bessarabia (modern Moldavia) declared their independence. A local plebiscite voted to transfer some western areas of the Petrograd region into Estonia.

The new Russian Constituent Assembly (parliament) met in Petrograd on 11 December. Unfortunately, the elections that created it had not given the Bolsheviks the majority they had expected and so the Assembly was broken up by Bolshevik forces two days later. On 20 December, a decree by Lenin set up the Cheka, a Soviet state security force and forerunner to the KGB, under Felix Dzerzhinsky.

Palestine & Mesopotamia

On 9 December, the British Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) accepted the surrender of Jerusalem by the mayor, Hussein al-Husayni and General Edmund Allenby formally entered the city on the 11th leading units of the EEF on foot through the Jaffa Gate. On the 26th, Turkish forces made a counter-attack but by the 30th the British defence was successful.

The British government gave a written assurance on 11 December to the King of the Hejaz of independence after the war.

War at Sea

The United States Battleship Division, under Rear-Admiral Rodman, joined the British Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow on 6 December. On the 12th, German destroyers raided a British convoy in the North Sea and sank one of its destroyer escorts, HMS Partridge. 97 of the crew were killed and 24 rescued. A French troop ship (cruiser) Château-Renault was sunk by submarine on 14 December. Most of the troops and ship's complement were rescued by accompanying ships and local trawlers.

On 6 December, at Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada, two freighters including a French munition ship Mont Blanc collided in the harbour. The resulting explosion killed at least 1,963 people, injured 9,000 and destroyed part of the city. It was the biggest non-natural explosion in recorded history until the Trinity nuclear test in 1945.

Admiral Sir John Jellicoe resigned as First Sea Lord on 26 December to be replaced by Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss.

Portugal & Portuguese Territories

While the war in Europe had continued to flare, so had the war in Africa, the home to many Portuguese overseas territories. In the war against German East Africa (Tanganyika, later Tanzania), the last German forces were driven out of that territory into Portuguese Mozambique on 1 December.

At home, there was a military coup: Afonso Augusto da Costa resigned as Prime Minister on 10 December to be replaced by Sidónio Pais (Sidónio Bernardino Cardoso da Silva Pais). Da Silva Pais' coup of 11 December deposed the President, Machado Guimaraes, and da Silva Pais was appointed acting President on the 28th.

Meanwhile, Funchal, the capital of Portuguese Madeira, was shelled by a German submarine on 12 December. Madeira held a strategic position in the North Atlantic.

Italy

Austro-German forces launched an offensive against the Italians on the western end of their line, around Asiago on 5 December. On the 9th, an Italian naval raid on Trieste harbour resulted in the sinking of the Austrian battleship Wien.

A French troop train derailed in the French Alps on 12 December killing 543.

USA

The United States declared war on Austria-Hungary on 7 December. Panama and Cuba also declared war on Austria-Hungary while Ecuador severed diplomatic relations with Germany.

The 18th Amendment of the Constitution, prohibiting alcohol, was approved by the US Congress on 18 December. It was ratified by the required number of states by 16 January 1919, and came into effect another year later in 1920.

US President Woodrow Wilson used the Federal Possession and Control Act on 26 December to place most US railroads under federal administration, with the aim of transport troops and war materials more efficiently.

RICK DIXON

Our Family's' War

3 Cookery Books – from Purton Magazine in April 2012

In the Exhibit of the Month series, I described a set of three books of household hints and recipes. These were the Best Way Book compiled from pages of the

Woman's World and Home Companion. The first 2 volumes are signed on the flyleaf by the owner "M Miles 1912" so are over 100 years old. Book 3 doesn't have a date but refers to Wartime Economies so may be from late 1914 or so.

The original volume (let's call it Book 1) has a red cover which proclaims it contains 850 "practical and tried recipes and household hints" and has the strap line "The cheapest Cookery Book in the World". It was priced at 6d (2½p). Book 2 with a yellow cover has a further 1000 entries. The blue-covered Book 3, although still 6d and containing 1200 entries, has perhaps been undercut in price since the strap line has changed to "Every Home should have this Book."



By this time, the source material had been extended to the Family Journal and the Weekly Friend.

Adverts inside are for some products still familiar to us today (Brown & Polson's cornflour, Atora shredded suet, Bird's custard) and others that have fallen by the wayside (Symington's pea flour and Icilma Fluor Cream guaranteed to clear the skin without hair growth while preventing sunburn, chapping and washday redness).

Recipes include a breakfast dish of Brain Rissoles (Book 2, page 51): take the skin off some calves' brains and simmer for ½ an hour, then cut into slices and dip in egg and breadcrumbs. Mix a saltspoonful of mixed herbs with the breadcrumbs. Fry to golden brown in boiling fat.

"An Inexpensive Dish" from Book 3, page 13 suggests you boil some sausages in their skins for about 20 minutes, just covered with water, then remove the skins. Line the bottom of a pie dish with mashed potatoes, put in a layer of sausage meat, then a layer of sliced tomatoes seasoned with salt and pepper. Repeat until the dish is full but the top layer should consist of potato. Mark with a fork and bake in a hot oven until golden brown.

Household Hints from Book 1 include how to clean a tiger's skin rug with water, a clothes brush and some benzoline and Book 3 has a lemon juice, glycerine and borax anti-freckle lotion.

Book 3 also suggests rubbing the lead of a pencil (graphite) against the joint of a squeaking door hinge... this one at least should work! Also a topical tip on how to renovate a feather boa: if a feather boa gets limp while out in the damp, curl it as soon as you get home by shaking it over a bowl of boiling water in which a handful of salt has been dissolved.

I hope that these tips will be of assistance... but please don't use benzoline on your tiger's skin rug!

RICK DIXON



A Woman in a Man's World

Members might be forgiven for wondering just what our early October talk was going to be about. The familiar sight of a wartime RAF cupola on an air traffic control tower, on the screen, confirmed that we were going to hear memories of Lynn Hilditch's life as an air traffic controller in the Royal Airforce. After brief periods as an estate agent and nursing she gained her qualification as an air traffic controller at Biggin Hill and became an officer in 1967. There followed seven years in service, then, in 1984, she went back into service and continued until 2000.

It was a life amongst Vampires, Harriers, Hunters, Victors and Provosts – to name but a few, and the men who flew them and the controllers she worked with. With wit and knowledge Mrs. Hilditch had many stories to tell both humorous and dramatic. The most memorable and probably the funniest were about the sexist comments she endured, particularly in the earlier part of her career. With the aid of her slides she clearly explained the technical development of ATC from sixties Biggin Hill – tracking unidentified dots on the screen – to the amazing 3D control zone of Swanwick today.

DAVID BISSET

Our meeting on the 24th was addressed by Commodore Ian Gibb, a retired P&O Captain with 43years service at sea and 20 years as an Elder Brother of Trinity House. The talk was entitled: The first 500 years of Trinity House. Henry VIII, on the 20th May 1514, presented a Royal Charter to a guild of mariners who were troubled by the poor and unregulated performance of pilots on the Thames and the excessive loss of ships negotiating the shifting channels of the Thames estuary. The Charter set the course for "The Masters, Wardens and Assistants of the Guild Fraternity of the Most Glorious Undivided Trinity and of Saint Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond", Trinity House, to safeguard shipping and seafarers of the home fleet and those of foreign visitors. The Corporation of T.H. consists of 31 Elder Brethren and up to 400 Younger Brethren who, once sworn in, are members for life. Elders are selected from Younger Members on a replacement basis. "Our long standing familiarity with the channels, hazards, currents and markings of our coastline qualify us to inspect and audit around 11,000 aids to navigation and provide Elder Brethren as nautical assessors to the Admiralty Court".

Today the Guild also has a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver reliable, efficient and cost-effective Aids to Navigation Service, for the benefit and safety of all mariners. Trinity House, needing an annual input of £77 million, but still a charity, is vital to the nation's economic growth and an essential element of Britain's maritime infrastructure. Its income derives from endowed funds vested in land and property in London and other ports. The GLA, aids to navigation service, is financed separately, from Light Duties

levied on commercial vessels calling at ports in the British Isles, based on the net registered tonnage of the vessel. As the Lighthouse Authority, Trinity House provides lighthouses (all now automatic), buoys, light-vessels and beacons as well as the Differential Global Positioning Service used by almost all commercial shipping. These aids to navigation are constantly monitored and reviewed by the Planning Centre at Harwich, which also gives "out of hours" service to sister GLAs, The Northern Lighthouse Board and The Commissioners for Irish Lights. Any problems reported to Harwich are dealt with in the shortest possible time.

In the early days, when defensive measures against European invaders was necessary, pilots kept their knowledge of the inshore channels secret, but the seabed does not remain constant and today the amount and size of shipping around our coasts is very much greater.

A main task of Trinity House is to train Pilots, set the standards, and issue Certificates of Competence to regular users of inshore waters. In recent years Trinity House has offered Bursaries for cadets to train as Pilots and Operatives to become T H Yeomen of which there are now 75. Whilst serving as Deputy Master to the Corporation, Ian himself had the task of distributing 3 million for useful investment for marine's wellbeing, training and recruitment. As an Elder, Ian is required to attend at Harwich or London about six times a year, sometimes residing for up to two weeks. He has visited many of the lighthouses of the East & South coast, usually by helicopter from the T.H. Service Ship, Patricia. Those needing to fly have to undergo an escape drill involving a fully submerged helicopter. A particular experience, when serving at the Admiralty Court, resulted in his dislike of a certain nationality; Ships were queuing in the Bitter Lakes of the Suez Canal when the leading ship suddenly went full astern causing a collision. In attempting to allocate the blame, dishonesty and bribery between pilots and the canal officials, made the task almost impossible.

Stories such as this, and Elders being stranded after landing on the Bishop's Rock lighthouse in an unexpected fog, made for a very entertaining talk. Ian's favored charity is the RNLI, for which, by his talks he has raised thousands of pounds.

The Probus Club meets in the Red House lounge every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the calendar month 10am. December Programme ; 5th President's lunch at The Wiltshire Golf restaurant, 12th Members Choice.

BOB STEVENS

Purton Profferings

Burley Electric Coal Effect Fire - As new condition, 2 speed fan, instruction book and spare bulbs included. Cost over £250, asking £40. Contact Rosemary on 01793 770999

Purton Bowls Club



We have closed the green for another season and left it to our green staff to prepare for next year, they have already covered it with dozens of bags of top dressing and spiked it to aerate the roots. The work will carry on over the winter period to keep the grass short and in good condition. Meanwhile a lot of our members carry on playing bowls indoors, some of them happy that at least they don't have to worry about the weather for a few months. We have two major indoor bowls greens nearby based in Old Town and Cheney Manor, these are popular with all the local clubs and our members link up with other players from these clubs into teams and enter competitions throughout the winter. There are social games as well.

During the summer we ran our Club Competitions and this culminated in Finals Weekend on September 2-3, the weather was pretty good and we had a good attentive audience both days. The list of winners were as follows: Men's singles: Andrew Davie; Ladies' singles: Alison Fail; Mixed Handicap: Chris Mitchell; Mixed Two Wood: Dave Hall; Men's Two Wood: Colin Baker; Ladies' Two Wood: Chris Mitchell; Men's Pairs: Mike Sharp, Peter Berry; Ladies' Pairs: Sue Williams, Alison Fail; Mixed Pairs: Chris Mitchell, Paul Boyles; Triples: Margaret Adams, Bryan A'Lee, Andrew Davie. Our Presentation Evening would have been and gone by the time this article appears, and this year it was held at the Red House. I will report on that in a later issue.

Overall this year we did well with the men finishing 7th in the Wiltshire League and 6th in the Swindon and District League. All season our ladies have been doing well and finished 2nd in the Swindon and District evening league and 6th in the afternoon league, so well done to them. I can't let the opportunity



go by without mentioning the ladies' national triples win again. I hope the picture in this report will show how delighted they were to win it.

I must mention the sad passing of John Blackwell, he was an avid member of the Bowls Club and loved to play whenever he could. He gave up a couple of years ago to look after his wife who was suffering from early dementia, but he would visit whenever he could, he had his own health worries with a heart problem that curtailed his activities. He was always a happy man and a good bowler. We had a guard of honour from the Bowls Club at his funeral and hope that his family appreciated it. Tony Price did such a good obituary for John who was obviously a close friend of his. Our condolences to his family on this sad occasion.

PETER BERRY

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Congratulations to Maisie, Maisie, Kennedy, Sophie and Olivia of 1st Purton Brownies who have all made their Brownie Promise this term. Part of the guiding promise is a commitment to serving the community, which can manifest itself in local, national or global community action. 2nd Purton Rainbows have followed through on this by holding a fete to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind and, at the other end of the guiding age range, the Rangers have collected donations and made care packages for Swindon Night Shelter. A total of 30 packages containing toiletries, ponchos and underwear will be delivered to those in need.

We're very pleased to be part of the vibrant community that is Purton and to get involved in local events. 1st Purton Rainbows and Purton Guides have both been creating nativity scenes ready to exhibit at St Mary's Church on the Advent Sunday weekend. Be sure to look out for them! 2nd Purton Rainbows made poppies to be displayed at St Mary's Church over the Remembrance Day weekend. You may also have seen poppies stuck to windows in some homes in the village as 1st Purton Brownies made window sticker poppies as part of their Remembrance Day meeting.

The nature challenge Rustle, Bustle, Squeak continues to provide activities for the girls; 1st Purton Rainbows have enjoyed making autumn trees from paper cones and scary monsters from apples, pears, marshmallows and biscuits! 1st Purton Brownies had a 'batty' theme for their Hallowe'en meeting, sharing facts they'd discovered about bats, making flying bats and having their own bat supper. The supper was mostly fruit, but the mealie worms (of the confectionery variety) were also a hit!

Hallowe'en provided inspiration for both 2nd Purton Rainbows and 2nd Purton Brownies. The Rainbows made spooky ghosts whilst the Brownies made pompom spiders, bat bookmarks, stained glass pumpkins and spider's web cakes.

Bonfire Night was another source of inspiration: 1st Purton Rainbows learnt about firework safety and 2nd Purton Rainbows made bonfire cakes. 2nd Purton Brownies toasted marshmallows, having safely lit a candle each first for that purpose. They also had an outdoor quiz using glow sticks and made firework collages.

2nd Purton Brownies have continued with their food theme; they made (and ate!) waffles, looked at different sorts of bread and made "animal" sandwiches - an animal from chocolate or cheese, spread with fruit or vegetable decoration on a slice of bread.

The Rangers and Guides got together to complete a night hike around the village, honing their compass skills and answering questions about the areas they visited. This was to prepare them for the upcoming Streetwise competition in Swindon, of which the Guides are the current accompanied team cup winners. Some work on reading bus timetables might be needed as not one Patrol managed to answer

that question correctly! After half term, the Guides (by popular request!) played games in the dark. Old favourites were played as well as trying some new ones. If you're interested in volunteering with any of our units, we'd love to hear from you. For more information about guiding locally, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/.

UK Parliament Week 2017

Members of Girlguiding from across north Wiltshire took part in UK Parliament Week during November, which helps get younger people, particularly girls, engaged in politics. The girls held debates about local issues, formed their own political parties to campaign about the things they felt strongly about and wanted to change, held a mock election and welcomed Wiltshire Councillors and local MPs to their meetings.



Cllr Jacqui Lay visited 1st Royal Wootton Bassett Guides where she discussed what it means to live in a democracy. We also talked about the women who fought for the right the vote and formed the Suffrage Movement and Suffragettes, ahead of the Centenary of the Womens' Vote in 2018. We learned about the day-to-day work of Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council from Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Mary Champion and Cllr Molly Groom.

The Guides really enjoyed their politics-themed activities and felt they could make informed decisions once they reach voting age at 18.