

# Purton. Magazine

February 2018



'A Toad in a Hole', the PADS Pantomime, based on the classic Wind in the Willows story, will be performed on 8th, 9th and 10th February at Purton Village Hall.

Photo: Pixabay

50p

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## Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, <a href="mailto:bethaney23@icloud.com">bethaney23@icloud.com</a>	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Purton Age Concern	Position to be filled	
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
<b>Schools &amp; Playgroups</b>		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
<b>Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary</b> <a href="http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk">www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</a>		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: <a href="mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk">vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: <a href="mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com">judithwells36@googlemail.com</a> Tel: 770627	
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: 770157	Jane Smith: 772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	<a href="mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk">administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 773035	
<b>Methodist Churches</b> <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
<b>Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett</b> <a href="http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk">www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk</a>		
Parish Priest:	Tel: 852366	
Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues		
Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell	Tel: 325681	
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
<b>Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade</b>		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson	Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church	
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.0pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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# Purton. Magazine

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**INTouch**  
Design & Print

## From the Editors

Our front cover illustration this month is something of a visual metaphor – if there can be such a thing. The all-knowing internet tells us that the Play-on-Words Appeal is one of roughly twenty advertising strategies that marketing professionals use to persuade people to buy a product, pay for a service, donate to a cause, or otherwise be persuaded. The Play-on-Words Appeal relies on the creative use of language and associated visual metaphors to intrigue and please audiences.

The PADS pantomime has always been known to please audiences in the Village Hall. This year, the world-famous *Wind in the Willows* has been adapted – no doubt for local audiences – and renamed. That gave us the choice of illustrating sausages in batter or the rather more literal photograph of a toad in a hole – however no prizes now for guessing the alternative title of their production but more details can be found on page 35.

As usual, descriptive words abound in this issue but some bring rather awkward images to mind such as in the “belly jiggling” on page 33. There we learn that it was enjoyed, along with the usual foot tapping, at the annual Bradon Forest Christmas Music concert where Christmas crackers and audience participation helped to provide the ‘item links.’ Maybe some of that energy was provided by the school’s Year 9 basketball team – see page 32 – who now move on to the County Final having “stormed their way” to win the Swindon schools’ tournament.

Regular readers will remember that last month we reported with much sadness that Rick Dixon had been confined to hospital on holiday. As this issue goes to print, it is comforting to confirm that he has returned to the UK – albeit in an air ambulance – and is now being cared for in a local hospital. Our thoughts are also with Helen who has endured 7 weeks effectively marooned on Madeira, so often feeling quite helpless by his bedside, especially while he was unable to respond.

One outcome for this February issue of Purton Magazine is that we are sadly unable to bring you part 55 of Rick’s Great War Project. Indeed, it is doubly frustrating because we know that it has already been written but we have been unable to access his computer. We plan to include parts 55 and 56 next month in the March issue while wishing Rick a safe and speedy recovery.

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St Mary’s pupils ran in the North Wilts cross country festival  
- see page 28

33

Purton Tennis Club members and guests enjoyed their Christmas meal - see page 44

£470

Raised at One Stop for the new ECG machine at Purton Surgery  
- see page 51

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## **Community Litter Pick**

A group of volunteers will be carrying out a village litter pick on Saturday 10th March commencing at 12 noon at the Royal George, Pavenhill. All volunteers welcomed.

## **Purton Neighbourhood Plan**

The Purton Neighbourhood Plan has now been formally submitted to Wiltshire Council. Details are available for viewing on our website: [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood-Plan.aspx](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood-Plan.aspx)

## **Councillor Vacancies**

Only 2 vacancies left and we will have our full quota. If interested in fulfilling these last two vacancies please contact the Clerk.

## **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**

Make Purton a Dementia Friendly Community and Become a Dementia Friend; Tuesday 13th February at 10am and 4pm and Friday 23rd March at 2pm and 7pm. A 45 minute session that will change your views and understanding in a positive way. Make Purton Proud. Held at Purton Village Hall, Station Road, Purton.

## **Councillor Surgery**

Do you have concerns or questions regarding Purton that the Parish Council can advise or help with? Come along and have an informal chat on Saturday 10 February 2018 from 10am-12 noon at the Village Hall. Other dates set for the year are Saturday 12 May, Saturday 8 September and Saturday 3 December 2018.

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## **Footpaths**

Sadly landowners are experiencing a high volume of walkers taking incorrect routes through their fields causing damage to new crops that have been planted. These crops are to be used for cattle feed and therefore, contamination by dog faeces can result in catastrophic defects to the animals and their unborn calves. Please can we remind all walkers to keep to the designated footpath routes and dogs to be kept under control on the paths only. If you are unsure of the correct footpath route, you can check on the Wiltshire Council website or purchase a map from the Parish Council offices. Maps are also held in the Library and Doctors Surgery and a map is printed at the end of this article. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

## **February Meetings 2018**

Monday 5th February 2018	Finance Meeting
Monday 12th February 2018	Council meeting
Monday 19th February 2018	Planning meeting
Monday 26th February 2018	Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

## **St Mary's 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.

## **Good will required - 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.

## **Illegal Scattering Of Ashes**

Purton Cemetery has been subject to illegal scattering of ashes over the Christmas/ New Year period. Not only is this practice illegal and not permitted on graves, but is also distressing for all those who attend our cemetery. Purton Parish Council has a process in place for scattering of ashes should anyone wish to discuss in the future but this process is subject to Cemetery legislation and law and designated scattering areas.

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## **Planning Permission Granted - approved with conditions**

- 17/08558/FUL Bentham House, Bentham Lane. Bentham. Alterations, refurbishment and extension of grade II listed house including reunification of main house with adjoining Old Barn Flat to form a single dwelling. Demolition of boiler house and 1950s outbuilding. Construction of new back porch. Demolition of 1950s dormitory block. Construction of swimming pool building extension with bedroom accommodation above. Restoration of walled garden and construction of new greenhouse. Conservation repairs to historic building fabric.
- 17/08965/LBC Bentham House, Bentham Lane. Bentham. Alterations, refurbishment and extension of grade II listed house including reunification of main house with adjoining Old Barn Flat to form a single dwelling. Demolition of boiler house and 1950s outbuilding. Construction of new back porch. Demolition of 1950s dormitory block. Construction of swimming pool building extension with bedroom accommodation above. Restoration of walled garden and construction of new greenhouse. Conservation repairs to historic building fabric.
- 17/10099/FUL Land South of Common Platt. Variation of approved scheme and approval of drainage details following outline consent Ref 14/11425/OUT and reserved matters consent Ref. 16/07010/REM.
- 17/10355/FUL Kempster Court, High Street. Retrospective conversion of barn to dwelling.
- 17/10110/FUL Purton Stoke House, Stoke Common Lane. Two sided extension, one to the east and one west, to enlarge kitchen and utility areas and provide extra W.C. Internal alterations to improve flow of house. Raise roof ties in study to create more head height.
- 17/11308/TCA Silver Threads Hall, High Street. 25% crown reduction to T1 Beech Tree, 20% crown reduction to T2, 3&4 Beech Trees. Approve with no conditions.

## **Appeals**

APP/Y3940/W/17/3180317 - 7 Locks Lane. Dismissed.

APP/Y3940/W/17/3166533 - Land at Pavenhill.

## **Charities**

The Institute Building and Village Hall Charity will be carrying out a replacement roof repair to the Foyer/Kitchen area of the Village Hall building in the coming months.

We have set up a "GIVEASYOULIVE" site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall

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Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and lets raise some pennies. [www.giveasyoulive.com/](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/)

### **Community Speed Watch**

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

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

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

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

### **News just in...**

Good news for Purton as a new operator of the mobile Post van has been found, the van is due back to the village from Tuesday 23 January at the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon.

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

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

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

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

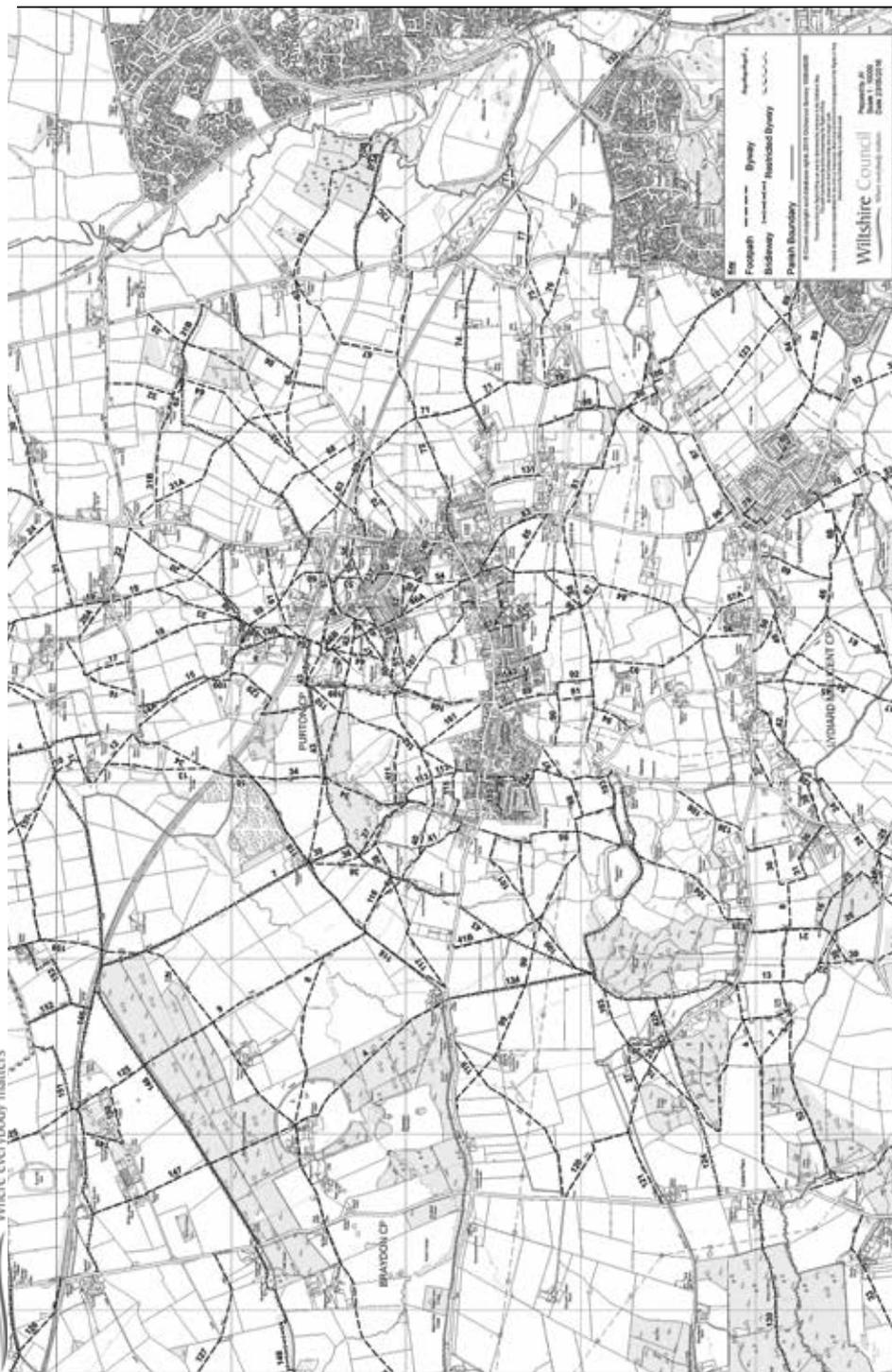
### **Facebook, Twitter and Website**

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

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

Please have a look at the site [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and sign up today.

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I'm starting this month's report with some wonderful news! We have had an amazing response to our minibus fundraising appeal. We have been overwhelmed by people's generosity and the money we have been awarded by several charitable grant foundations. We are now in a position to purchase our new vehicle, it may be with us by April.

This is not the end of the story, with hindsight we should have perhaps replaced our blue minibus a couple of years ago rather than let it get to 14 years old and need costly repair work. Following advice from the Wiltshire Community Foundation we are going to continue fundraising then hopefully we will be able to replace our 8 year old grey minibus within the next couple of years. We have set up a separate fund solely for donations towards purchasing a second vehicle. We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the minibus appeal already and those who are raising funds towards the purchase of our second vehicle. We are fortunate to live in such a generous, supportive community. Thank you all, from everyone connected with Purton & District Age Concern minibus service.

Now for a complete change of subject. I am hoping to organise two of the Age Concern outings this year. A boat trip in June on the Barbara McLellan boat from Bradford on Avon that will include lunch on board the boat. The second outing will be on a steam train on the Severn Valley Railway, this will be in July. Both outings will be on a first come first served basis due to the restricted number of passengers allowed. Please contact Louise on 772558 as soon as possible to register your interest in either or both of these outings. If I don't get sufficient people interested neither outing will be able to take place.

Sadly this month I must report the death of another person closely associated with Age Concern, Michael Breeds. Michael had been poorly for a while and was being cared for at home by his wife Pat. Michael and Pat have been part of Age Concern for many years. When they retired from work both decided to get involved with village life. Michael joined our minibus service where he worked alongside Joe Ricketts for many years. Pat joined Luncheon Club, helping out in the kitchen and she also became our street warden for Ringsbury Close. When the time is right Pat will be returning to both of her voluntary roles but for now our thoughts and prayers are with you Pat and your family and friends at this difficult time.

### **Future Events**

**Jumble Sale** - Our next jumble sale is on Saturday 3 February in the Village Hall. Jumble can be left at the hall between 12pm-1pm and the sale starts at 2pm. Refreshments will be available. Come along a get yourself a bargain!

**Annual Auction** - Our auction this year is on Saturday 3 March at 1pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9am-11.30am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. The forms can be

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completed in advance, please speak to your street warden as they will have some forms or fill in the form when you bring your items to the Village Hall on the morning of the event. Viewing of lots is from 12pm-1pm and the auction starts at 1pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this year. Refreshments will be available. Come and join in the bidding, its great fun!

### **Past Events**

**Christmas Vouchers** - Charlotte our treasurer has been busy paying out all the local businesses for our vouchers, by the time you read this all should be paid out.

**Christmas cards and calendars** - We sold all 300 calendars and 195 packs of Christmas cards that we had printed. Thank you to everyone who purchased a calendar, cards or both items. We even had an order for 20 Christmas cards to be sent to America!

**Christmas raffle** - We made a profit of £989 on our Christmas raffle.

**Carol singing at the Red House** – This was a huge success, so many people came along to join in the carol singing. We estimate there were double the amount of people compared to previous years. Our grateful thanks go to Neil and the team at the Red House for hosting the event, to Mark Blackwell and his musicians for providing the music, to Mick Looker's friends for providing the floodlights and snow machine, to Sheila, Tony and Maureen for providing the mulled wine and mince pies and to everyone who helped out on the evening. What a lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

### **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.

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

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

**Tai chi** - Tai chi sessions are held each Thursday at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a try, just turn up at the Millennium Hall, the first session is free.

**Friendship Club** - The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall from 2pm-4pm. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 9

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February 2017. Transport is available, to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

All in Age Concern would like to send love and best wishes to two of our street wardens. Firstly to Angela Smith who had an operation just before Christmas, Angela we hope you are feeling much better but not working too hard! Secondly to Jean Belt, who by the time you read this should be recovering from her recent operation, Jean best wishes for a speedy recovery.

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

*Louise Tidman*

## *The raising of the Christmas tree outside the Institute*

There has been a lot of conflict one way and another about the missing Christmas tree on the Institute so, as I have been involved since the very beginning in December 1983, I thought I would give you the history of it all.

Because of health and safety regulations which we in Age Concern could not comply with we decided we couldn't put up our usual tree and decorations. It is no good blaming the Parish Council or Age Concern for this as none of us make the rules and sometimes all these regulations seem ridiculous, but if something goes wrong, being the responsible body, the Parish Council would be in the cart.

We, in Age Concern, have been quite concerned about the Christmas Eve carol singing side of the event as numbers were increasing and filling up the pavement outside the railings at the Institute which meant that people walking on the pavement either up or down the road had to step out into the road. We knew this was dangerous and we were going to have to make a decision about the event but it was made for us by the Health and Safety regulations so we got permission to hold the event outside the Red House Club. It was a great success with more people than ever, so I can see this being an annual event – it was so much safer there.

Our thanks go to Mark Blackwell and his group of musicians, the Red House Club for all their help and assistance and the Trustees for allowing us to have it there, also Lawrence who provided different coloured lighting – the trees looked superb and we had snow as well! So thank you one and all – it would appear that the scene has been set for future years.

Now a bit about the history of it all. In 1983 we decided in Age Concern that we would like to do something for the village as a small token of our appreciation for the way they supported us. Hence a Christmas tree was purchased from Commander Greig at Bridge Farm, Hannington Wick. This we did for quite a few years and generally Arthur Griffin would get the tree along with Alan Webb in Alan's van. The first year was a disaster – the tree was free standing and someone kept

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taking the decorations, mainly the bulbs, off the tree and no sooner did we replace them than they were gone again. Nevertheless we felt the tree was appreciated by the people of the village and beyond, especially the children going to school.

At our committee meeting following that Christmas we decided to ask the Trustees of the Institute if we could put the tree on the wall and they agreed to this. I was entrusted to make a holder for the tree and a pulley to pull the tree up, plus two eyes to hold it back to stop it hanging out too far. This system has worked for 33 years – the only maintenance was keeping the pulley free and painting it when the Institute was done. Have we had any mishaps? – only one to really speak of and that was when the bottom of the tree went through an Institute window. Where do you go on a Sunday morning to get putty and glass? – that friend of Purton Age Concern Brian Frost. Off we went with the measurements and Brian cut a piece of glass, we took it back but it didn't fit so back to Brian we went and he was standing in his yard with a big grin on his face and a piece of glass the right size in his hand. He knew the Institute windows and he knew we had measured it wrong – still it was all cheap with no charge at all!

We were lucky we didn't have any accidents as to change the bulbs on the string of lights going across the yard we used to hold the ladder straight up, Arthur Griffin on one side and me on the other with no other support. Alan Webb would go up the ladder and change the bulbs – what confidence to have in your mates! Mind Alan was a fireman at Lyneham – we learnt a lot over the years which made putting the tree up quite a straight forward job, but not without risks! In latter years Alan said “I am going to get our Nick to ask his brother-in-laws to help – I'm getting too old to go right up the top of the ladder to put the rope through the pulley” so Adam and Ian Humphries, Nick and his friend Mick Looker took over the job from us oldies and, of course, the seed had been sown for our future Chairman to join the Age Concern committee. It has been very successful so we thank them all for their time and let's not forget the people before them – those at the very beginning; Cyril Walters, Lew Hanks, Arthur Griffin and, of course, Alan Webb and myself and other volunteers in between.

As I said, we put the tree up as Age Concern's thank you to the village but the tree itself was always sponsored by M and Mrs Hamish Orr Ewing ever since they arrived in the village – there was always enough for the tree and a bit more besides to cover the cost of the lights. Then Robin Gough kindly gave us trees when other sources ran out but Mr and Mrs Orr Ewing insisted on still giving us a donation which was greatly appreciated, as was Robin's gift of the trees, especially as he always got the right size with the trunk no more than 3” in diameter. In fact, Alan Webb made a gauge to slip over the trunk to make sure it would drop into the holder when we had the tree slung up in the air. Could I thank all the people who have been involved with the tree, lights etc. over the last 34 years – who knows what might happen in the future! Best wishes to you all for 2018.

*Tony Price*

## **Next Information Evening, Breast Cancer, Thursday 1 March**

Our next Information Evening will be on Thursday 1 March (7.30-9pm in Purton Surgery) when the subject will be Breast Cancer and we are fortunate to have Dr Anushka Chaudhry, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon at GWH, to talk to us. I heard Dr Chaudhry talk a few months ago and she is an excellent speaker who comprehensively covers her subject. She is very approachable and will be very happy to answer all your questions. As always, tickets are needed, these are free but limited and will be available from Purton Surgery towards the end of January.

## **Repeat prescriptions**

There are several ways of ordering repeat prescriptions: a) drop your paper request into the surgery, b) use the online Patient Access system which you can also use to book appointments, c) sign up to your pharmacy and authorise them to reorder for you. If you choose to use this latter method then you will need to tell the pharmacy exactly which medicines you need, otherwise there is the possibility of them dispensing items that you no longer require or for which you already have adequate supplies.

## **Reducing wastage**

Purton Surgery is dedicated to ensuring that patients have the right medication at the right time to help them stay well, however there are ways in which you can help: 1. Only order what you need. Although it can be comforting to keep a stock of medication in the cupboard for when you need it, medicines have expiry dates and your stock may be out of date by the time you get to it. In addition your prescription or dosage may have changed. So please when ordering your prescription double check what items you already have and then only order what you need. 2. Check your prescription before you leave the pharmacy. When picking up your prescription from the pharmacy check it before you leave the premises. Once you leave the pharmacy any unwanted medicines you return have to be destroyed, even if unopened, so quickly checking your prescription could literally save many thousands of pounds.

## **Receive PPG information by email**

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

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

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## NHS Equipment

You may have seen a report on BBC's "The One Show" regarding the amount of NHS equipment (i.e. crutches, walking sticks, zimmers etc.) which are out in the community and no longer needed. If the NHS could get back these unneeded items for re-use, they would save a considerable amount of money – hundreds of thousands of pounds per trust. The problem is that a lot of people do not know where to return these items, others have no way to get them to a return point.

Great Western Hospital has a system in place for returns and items can be left there, either in the main lobby or in the Physio reception area. They are currently very short of crutches and are requesting the return of any unneeded items. Within Purton there is a scheme set up whereby items can be left or collected for return. Please see the poster for details and sort out any unneeded items that you have and return them.

A poster with a dark grey border. At the top, the NHS logo is displayed in white on a dark grey background, with the word "EQUIPMENT" in bold black text below it. The main text is in black on a white background, starting with a bolded request to help save NHS money by returning loaned items. It then provides three options for returning equipment: to the hospital, to Purton surgery, or via a mini bus/street warden. It also includes a note about Mediquip labels. At the bottom, it provides contact information for Sue Richardson.

**NHS**  
**EQUIPMENT**

**Please help us to save the NHS money**  
**by returning loaned items such as**  
**crutches, walking aids, toilet aids etc.**

Any equipment can be returned to Great Western Hospital physio department or the main reception.

If you are unable to get to the hospital, you can now leave any items at Purton surgery.

If you cannot get to the surgery, ring the Age Concern mini bus, or your street warden, for these items to be collected.

If your item has a Mediquip label on it - do not return it to the surgery - but ring the number on the label, and they will collect it. (NB If it is a single pair of crutches or single walking aid, you can still leave it at the surgery).

For further information,  
please contact:  
**Sue Richardson on 01793 772581**

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## Leap with Libbie at the Mad March Hare

With less than 2 months to the 11th Mad March Hare which takes place on Sunday 25th March, Libbie Sheppard's training is full steam ahead! Libbie, who came to running 2 years ago, had a very poignant trigger to put running shoes on for the first time.



“Two years ago, a young friend of mine died. A few of us had the job of cleaning her house and there, in her wardrobe, was a pair of very smart almost new running shoes, which were my size! I thought that this was a little message to me, that I needed to take these shoes and do the running that she had wanted to do before she developed cancer”, says Libbie.

So, at the tender age of 68, Libbie joined a ‘Couch to 5k’ course at Swindon Shin Splints, in her ‘borrowed’ running shoes and was very quickly hooked!

Last year, the Mad March Hare was Libbie's first 10k and she ran the whole course wearing bunny ears! She fitted in very well with the Mad March Hare whacky dress theme, which is something that helps to endear



the event so much with such a wide audience. Whilst its aims are serious – to encourage people to get out and get active and at the same time, raising money for the Breast Cancer Now charity - the approach is very informal and fun! Turn up in running kit, comfy walking gear and/or fancy dress and you will fit in perfectly!

The Mad March Hare is a great first event as it welcomes people of all ages and abilities to get out and enjoy taking exercise. Now in its 11th year, it has raised over £100,000 for Breast Cancer Now and has become very well known in the Swindon community. There are 2 courses – 5 and 10k and they both start and finish at Lydiard Park Academy. Walkers, joggers and runners are all welcome. Families are encouraged to turn out and complete the course together and family canine pets are also welcome!



For Libbie, it was also a training stepping stone in her quest to complete a half marathon before she turned 70. This, she achieved, last September! “I have now achieved my goal and am continuing while I feel fit and well and ‘mad as a march hare!’”.

To take part, either on the day, or in a virtual capacity, or to volunteer at the event please visit [www.madmarchhare.org.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk), email [info@madmarchhare.org.uk](mailto:info@madmarchhare.org.uk) or call 0845 6808064.

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## St Mary's Primary School

Happy New Year from everyone at St Mary's School. Following the inspection on 16th November 2017, we are pleased to report that Ofsted concluded that St Mary's "continues to be good". We were proud that Ofsted reported that parents and the local community "recognise the strengths of the school's leadership [and] would recommend the school."

If you would like to read the full report, please visit our website page:  
[www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk/our-school/inspections](http://www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk/our-school/inspections)

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Justice. Some of the things we will be considering are; how does St Mary's make children aware of global justice issues? How do we support charities? What strategies are in place to ensure that rules and procedures in school are fair and just?

Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for each other in the school community

Well done to all the children who competed in the North Wilts Schools cross-country festival held at Bradon Forest School on Friday 1st December. We had four teams (33 children) representing St Mary's School. There were some fantastic individual performances and a special mention must go to Oliver, Jack and Alex who competed in our Year 3/4 teams. We were thrilled to discover both of our Year 5/6 teams were medal winners. Our green team came third and our yellow team won! We were all very proud of those competing!

The children's Christmas performances were a great success, and the collections following the wonderful EYFS and KS1 Nativity and the KS2 Carol Extravaganza raised £252.35 for the Swindon Night Shelter appeal. Many thanks to our parents for their generosity.

The whole school enjoyed a wonderful production of 'Dick Whittington' in this year's pantomime. M&M Theatrical Productions performed the story of Dick Whittington and his cat, as they went on their journey to London. The show featured bright costumes, super scenery changes and magical special effects and, of course, lots of audience participation - both children and adults!



We do currently have spaces in some year groups, so should you be thinking of transferring your child to St Mary's, you are warmly welcome to look round prior to submitting an application. Visits can be arranged through the school office [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

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](http://www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk)

*Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher*

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## Methodist Church

We are now beginning phase two of our church refurbishments and our first fundraising event will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday 17 February at 35 High Street from 10.00am. This will have the usual stalls: cakes, Bric-a-brac, raffle, tombola, jigsaws etc. Please come if you can, we enjoy you visiting our home.

We will, in the not too distant future, have to replace our heating system. We are being kept warm on "borrowed time", and our aim is to raise money towards this.

We are in the process of applying for a grant to upgrade our three toilet areas, also replacement of all flooring within that area, plus flooring in the rear entrance and kitchen. If we are successful with this application we plan to have this work done during this year's Pre-school summer holiday.

Further booked events are a Concert by Chedworth Band in the Village Hall on 28 April and Geoff Walters and Encore in June in our own church.

*Sylvia Freemantle*

### We Record ...

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

12 December 2017	Margaret Daphne Wheeler (91)
13 December 2017	Patricia Eileen (Pat) Caddy (89)
18 December 2017	Nigel Edward Bunce (63)

#### **Funeral Kingsdown Crematorium**

04 January 2018	Ronald Arthur Bunce (94)
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## Knit-A-Square (KAS) & Mama Ntombi's Community Projects (MNCP)

Recently I have had a few problems organising our latest shipment due to issues with the Customs Dept in South Africa. Eventually, on 11 January I managed to send ten boxes of knitted items to Knit-a-Square with a different shipping company but at a higher than usual cost! Hopefully the boxes should arrive at their destination sometime in March/April.

Thank you to everyone who is making long sleeved jumpers for the MNCP children aged 4-16 years. Jumpers can be made following any pattern you have available at home. I will be collecting jumpers up to Saturday 17 March when we will be hosting our annual fundraising Coffee Morning from 10-12 in the Silver Threads Hall. Please put the date in your diary, look forward to seeing you there. Thanks for your continuing support.

*Louise Tidman, Tel: 772558*

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## Purton Village Diary - February 2018

1	Th	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
2	F	7.30pm	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo at the Red House
3	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Purton Village Hall
		7.30pm	'The Connection' play at the Red House
<hr/>			
4	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
9	F	8.45am	Age Concern Minibus to Marlborough
		2.00pm	Friendship club at Silver Threads Hall
10	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
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11	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
13	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House lounge – weird and wonderful engineering
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Food demonstration at Silver Threads Hall
14	W	2.00pm	Half term Disney-themed family fun and fancy dress afternoon and fancy at the Millennium hall
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion at St Mary's Church
17	Sa	10.00am	Purton Methodist Church coffee morning at 35 High Street
		7.30pm	Quiz, Rock 'n' Roll Bingo and Air Guitar competition at the Red House
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18	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
19	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church
21	W	11.45am	to 1.00pm Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Purton Village Hall
22	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society 'Restoration of the Cotswold Canals' at Purton Village Hall
23	F	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
		2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall
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25	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church

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	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School
27 Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House lounge – the Dyson design process
	2.00pm	Entertainment from John and Margaret Craig at Silver Threads Hall
	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Purton and District Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall – 'So you think you know Gladiolus' with Gill Hazell
28 W	11.45am	to 1.00pm Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church

### **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 (Apr-Nov)
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church
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 Tai 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 (Apr-Nov)

### **Every month**

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

### **March**

1 Th	7.30pm	Breast Cancer Information Evening at Purton Surgery
3 Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Annual Auction at Purton Village Hall
7 W	11.45am	Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
10 Sa	12 noon	Community litter pick starting from the Royal George
14 W	11.45am	Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
19 Sa	10.00am	Knit-a-Square fundraising coffee morning at Silver Threads Hall

### **Moon Phases**

☉ 24 January    ☽ 31 January    ☽ 7 February    ● 15 February

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton or email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)



### **Amazing Basketball Success**

The Year 9 girls' basketball team celebrated storming their way to a win in the Swindon Schools' Basketball Tournament, hosted by Abbey Park School.



They won all of their matches, and despite a tough head to head with Commonweal in the final, they won 4-2! Congratulations to the whole squad, and to Beth O'Neill for being awarded Player of the Match.

"The girls played great basketball, especially their defence. They demonstrated a high level of fitness and came away deserved winners!" - Mrs Evans

Tournament scores:

Dorcan 14 - 2, Abbey Park 10 - 8, Royal Wootton Bassett 8 - 0, Commonweal 4 - 2  
They now move onto the County Final.

### **The Royal Shakespeare Company A Christmas Carol**

The Year 10 English students were recently lucky enough to go to the RSC to their sell out performance of *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens.

A brand new adaptation by David Edgar of the Charles Dickens classic – one of the most loved short stories ever written. In one ghostly Christmas night, cold-hearted businessman Ebenezer Scrooge learns to pity himself and to love his neighbour – but is that enough?

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David Edgar is one of our greatest living writers. His rich history with the RSC stretches from *Destiny* in 1976 through the multi-award-winning adaptation of Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*, to *Written on the Heart* (2011). Now he returns to Dickens to rediscover the social conscience of this timeless tale.

Rachel Kavanaugh (*Alice in Wonderland*, 2001; *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, 2003) directed, fresh from stunning the West End with her award-winning production of *Half A Sixpence*.

Bradon Forest English teacher Miss Thompson said, "The play was excellently executed, especially from an English text point of view! The students expressed how seeing the play had really brought the story to life and how they could now appreciate the context of the message Dickens intended. Bravo RSC!"



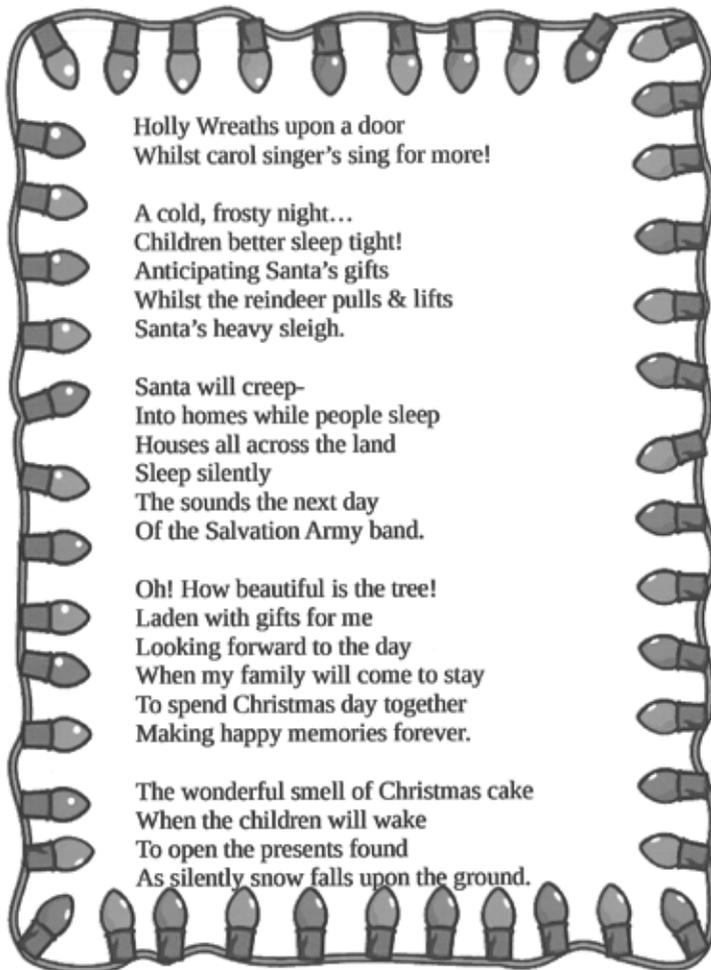
### ***Christmas Concerts***

The Bradon Forest annual Christmas Music concert was its usual foot tapping, belly jiggling evening of festive fun, thanks to students and staff involved with the Music Department! Tom Keen and Emily Musty compared the evening using Christmas crackers and audience participation for their 'item links'. The performers included the choir, soloists, ukulele band, jazz band and handchimers.

The annual Christmas Carol Concert was held in the beautiful St Mary's church. We had a very high standard of performances including soloists, handchimers, the choir and special guests, the Purton Village Voices. Christmas readings were shared by students, including the Head Girl and Boy and Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Chappell. This was the first year Dr Morrison, Bradon Forest's Headteacher, was unable to attend as he was accompanying the English faculty trip to see the RSC Christmas Carol performance.

### ***Poetry Competition***

Year 7 students were invited to take part in a Poetry Competition last term. There were lots of entries and the standard of poetry was amazing. It was very difficult to choose one winner so we had two!



Holly Wreaths upon a door  
Whilst carol singer's sing for more!

A cold, frosty night...  
Children better sleep tight!  
Anticipating Santa's gifts  
Whilst the reindeer pulls & lifts  
Santa's heavy sleigh.

Santa will creep-  
Into homes while people sleep  
Houses all across the land  
Sleep silently  
The sounds the next day  
Of the Salvation Army band.

Oh! How beautiful is the tree!  
Laden with gifts for me  
Looking forward to the day  
When my family will come to stay  
To spend Christmas day together  
Making happy memories forever.

The wonderful smell of Christmas cake  
When the children will wake  
To open the presents found  
As silently snow falls upon the ground.

### ***Your Choices theatre performance***

Bradon Forest recently welcomed the Solomon Theatre Company week with their performance 'Your Choices' for our Year 8 students.

Developed in partnership with Wiltshire Council, 'Your Choices' explains the three learning styles (kinesthetic, visual and auditory) and the learning pathways that suit each type. The show also highlights the barriers to learning as well as the influences that young people are affected by when making their subject option choices.

The performance follows three students, each with different backgrounds and aspirations as well as their different learning styles, showing how each hopes to make a success of their life. Packed with humour, 'Your Choices' makes an impact on its target audience, Year 8 students, and signposts them for their next step along their learning road.

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## Christmas

Twinkling decorations,  
In golds and reds and greens,  
Presents and shining baubles,  
But is this what Christmas means?

Steaming Christmas puddings,  
And being nagged to eat your veg,  
We take all this for granted,  
But look over the window ledge.

Some people are all alone at Christmas,  
Not a single family or friend,  
This happens every Christmas,  
But is not how it should end.

Everyone deserves a Christmas,  
A happier time every year,  
So next time you open your presents,  
Make sure you say them a prayer.

### Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

PADS pantomime this year is *Wind in the Willows* or *Toad in a Hole*. Performances will be held in Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th, with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30 pm.

There will be a licensed bar available at all evening performances, and soft drinks, teas & coffees available at the matinee performance.

Ticket prices are £7.50/£6.00 and £4.00

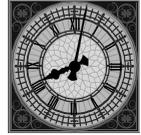
Further information can be found on our Facebook page: Purton Amateur Dramatics Society. Tickets on sale at Purton Library and Flawless Flooring, or call 772581, 770160, 771890 or 771442

Kate Bath 771442

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## After 8



On a cold and icy evening, fourteen festively attired ladies armed with seasonal nibbles, drinks and a Secret Santa, set out for Mary's house for a Christmas get-together.

Seasonal good wishes were expressed by the gathering to all those who were unable to join us.

Before the festivities could begin in earnest, a big decision had to be made. What would be the theme of our New Year Quiz? After a long debate it was decided that the theme would be Geography. Everyone needs to think up 5 questions with a geographical content.

The evening then started off with an excellent piano duet by Barbara and Marion entitled "O Little Swinging Town of Bethlehem". Thanks also to Cathy who had the tricky task of turning the pages.

Sandra kindly distributed carol sheets. We sang a number of traditional carols along with one or two other Christmas favourites like Jingle Bells and Winter Wonderland. There was some talk about asking Gareth Malone along but another time maybe!

A break followed whilst we sampled some very tasty Christmas fayre, the highlight of which was Pete's homemade pork pie.

Back to the singing with a different version of the 12 days of Christmas followed by a calming Silent Night.

Then the moment we had all been waiting for - Secret Santa. Each person took their turn in picking a present from the sack and then opened and showed them in turn. There were lots of candles from Santa, some body soufflé, hand warmer, an ornamental plate but the most amusing gift of all was a 'Snore Stopper'.

After all this excitement, the celebrations concluded with a rendering of two old favourites; Hark! The Herald Angels and O Come, All Ye Faithful.

*Lorraine Goodall*

### Purton Profferings

- Rubber underlay for astroturf (or possibly indoor carpet?) 6m by 3m. Tel: 771390
- Reed screening - for garden use. 3m by 2m - very slightly damaged. Tel: 771390
- Three clear glass windows, surplus to need. They were secondary glazing with plastic surround. Suitable for gardening clothes etc. Size: 2ft x 3ft 3 ins (60 cms x 100 cms) Tel: 771018
- Wanted: for art and craft work, buttons, preferably green and/or brown. Please can I come and raid your button box? Libbie: 771018.

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# Purton Post Bag



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

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## **Race Night thank you**

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported their World Challenge Race night back in November. It was a fantastic night with both Tasha and Will taking home over £300 each! It would not have been possible without the very generous sponsorship and support of several local businesses - namely The Hills Group, Hiscock Family Butcher, ASAP Personal Couriers, Rich and Nobby's Race Nights, Flawless Floors, the Maharajah, Spice Express, Barkimber, Purton Paws and Cyclecare.

*Tasha, Nicki, Helen and Will*



## **Brownies fulfil their Promise**

I would like to say a big thank you to the 2nd Purton Brownies for the lovely cake and Christmas card which was delivered to me just before Christmas, it was such a surprise and the kind thought was so appreciated. Thank you once again and good luck in all you do.

*John Stump - Norbury Court.*



## **Fundraising for new Age Concern Minibus**

Sue and Barry Pitts would like to say a huge thankyou for the donations made by people who came to look at our Christmas lights display at Vasterne Close. £135.75 was donated and will all go towards the purchase of a new minibus.

*Many thanks, Barry Pitts*



## **Community warmed by Choir concert**

Thank you to all those who braved the atrocious snowy weather to attend our Sing 4/4 Community Choir Concert on December 10th. Full praise to the Choir members for their excellent performance on the night. We sold 100 tickets, and will be donating £100 each to Cricklade United Church and to The Jenner Hall.

*Mary New*



## **A little help from my friends**

I'd like to thank all my family and friends for their lovely cards, flowers and offers of help during my recent stay in hospital and recovery at home. I'd also like to thank the staff at Purton Surgery for their care and advice.

*Angela Smith*

# Purton Placard

## PURTON SILVER THREADS

### **Jumble Sale**

Saturday 10 February  
2pm at Silver Threads Hall

## PURTON AGE CONCERN

### **Jumble Sale**

Saturday 3 February  
At 2pm in the Village Hall  
Bargains galore!

### **Annual Auction**

Saturday 3 March  
At 1pm in the Village Hall  
Come along and  
join in the bidding!

### **Purton Litter Pick**

Saturday 10 March  
Meet at the Royal George at 12 noon  
For more information contact John:  
07971 825785 or  
email [ljjohn9000@gmail.com](mailto:ljjohn9000@gmail.com)

## PURTON METHODIST CHURCH

### **Coffee Morning**

Saturday 17 February  
35 High Street  
10.00 am - 12 noon  
Cakes, Bric-a-brac, Raffle,  
Tombola, Jigsaws  
Tea/Coffee £1  
Proceeds for Methodist Church  
refurbishments

## Rockin' the 80's & 90's Disco

Saturday  
3rd Feb 2018  
Purton village Hall  
Tickets: £6

Call Debbie: 07990 563115

contact: [debbie.barlow1969@outlook.com](mailto:debbie.barlow1969@outlook.com)

P.A.D.S. Presents

# *Wind in the Willows*

A pantomime by Lee Braddock and Chris Kirby



8<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup> February – Purton Village Hall

Curtains up 7.30. Matinee 2.30.

Tickets Adults £7.50 Concess. £6.00 Child £5.00

Tickets from – Purton Library – Flawless Floors

772581 – 771890 - 771442

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



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

## A Book I will Always Remember

long; 450-500 words. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

### The Art of Coarse Rugby by Michael Green

With the 2018 RBS Six Nations Rugby Championship starting this month, it might be a good time to review the first ever book that made me laugh out loud – and many times at that. In the early 1960s when I had just reached double figures, my father lent me his copy of Michael Green's *The Art of Coarse Rugby*. Even before then I had developed what seemed a healthy interest in many sports, mostly those involving a ball of varying shapes and sizes.

In those days the game was often called rucker – a term rarely heard these days – but even then, played at the highest level by outstanding physical specimens of men; yes, long before there was any mention of women's rugby. Even in the 1960s the top XV's of the top clubs took to the field with forwards often over 6 foot in height and over 15 stone in weight, yet with the physiques of a heavy-weight boxing champion or an Army physical training instructor.

However, Michael Green's book is about the exploits of Bagford Vipers 4th XV although getting fifteen players onto the pitch was considered a victory in itself. Indeed, the alternative title of the book is "Any Number Can Play." It lists a few of the remaining human remnants that usually populated the last team in many clubs. A front row forward measuring 5' 5" and 16 stone but aged 46 was simply summarised as "all fat; a coward." A wing forward measuring 6' 2" and 9 stone, aged 17 has a note that "Mother doesn't think he is strong enough to play; she is correct." The rest of the 4th or 5th teams are made up of similarly limited physical specimens and played in a submerged section of the rugby world known as Coarse Rugby while the 1st and 2nd teams played rucker, as it was known then.

Rucker is a game for fit, enthusiastic, young men with oceans of energy to burn whereas Coarse Rugby is played by those who are too old, too young, too light, too heavy, too weak, too lazy, too slow, too cowardly or just too unfit for the game at the higher levels. A rucker player plays because he enjoys it. A Coarse Rugby player plays for almost every other reason: he may like the company, he may need to get away from his wife or because his father played and perhaps because he'd like to play in the 1st team or, more realistically, because he daren't admit that he's too old. Above all, the beers after the game are usually seen as the biggest incentive.

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It follows that Coarse Rugby pitches are the least well prepared, sometimes even without some of the visual white lines and often found behind a gas works, perhaps down Pudding Lane, which regularly floods. One team had to carry their goal posts and cross bar across the North Circular Road near Walthamstow without the aid of any zebra or pelican crossings. Home team players were periodically spun off their feet as a vehicle struck the rear, unguarded end of a rugby post being carried on a shoulder.

Yet, for all their very obvious physical shortcomings, coarse rugby men survived by using lots of low cunning and are definitely not to be trifled with. To use a modern term, their individual 'game management plans' would include sneaky fouls behind the referee's back even though the ref probably wouldn't have known many of the rules anyway. Being tackled was a singular sign of failure because the ball should already have been shifted on somewhere else.

One rather short and ageing scrum half would wear a shirt several times too large with the hem halfway between knee and ankle. Opposing teams learnt to respect him but only after he had slowly wandered over their try line with the ball hidden between his knees under his shirt while everyone else was hunting for it in what remained of a disorganised, collapsed scrum.

Coarse rugby captains are the salts of their clubs. Throughout the weekdays before a match, their teams are raided by higher teams when their proper players injured themselves in training – something coarse players never seem to manage; training, that is. There is one image that I will always remember. Half time has been reached and while some of his team slide off for a smoke, the captain is quietly congratulating himself for remembering to bring the half-time oranges this time. It was only when emptying the bag did he realise that this time he had forgotten – the knife. That picture of perhaps 23 players from both sides attacking half a dozen harmless oranges with their mud filled fingers just won't go away!

*Francis Sheppard*

## *Purton Horticultural Show*

By the time you read this we will have had our meeting to plan the Schedule for this year's show. Saturday 18 August 2018. Each section will again be promoted in detail in the coming months.

### **Potato Challenge 2018**

A community challenge for young people and other groups, from the village, and surrounding areas. This year we would like to extend this to local care and residential homes. Invitations are now in the process of being sent out, and all last year's challenger's will automatically receive one. However if you did not take part last year and would like to in 2018, then please get in touch.

For any further information about the Show please contact me, Happy Growing!

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

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## Purton and District Probus Club



On Saturday 2 Dec. Brian Gill, our Programme Secretary attended a meeting of other Probus Programme Secretaries of this area, to exchange lists of speakers available in North Wilts, South Gloucestershire and perhaps, some, from a little further afield. The meeting was held at The Rose & Crown at Lea near Malmesbury. Copies of the current year's Speaker lists from each club were circulated and recommendations discussed, the purpose being, to create a springboard for each secretary to organise his club's programme for the coming year.

The Annual President's Lunch was held on the 5th December at the Wiltshire Hotel, Golf and Leisure complex, Royal Wootton Bassett. The Guests of Honour were Mr Neil Bailey and his wife Beth, from the RWB Probus Club. Forty- five members and guests attended. John Godfrey, our President, welcomed everyone and expressed the view that the club had had a buoyant year, with several new members joining and enthusiastic numbers attending the meetings. He gave an amusing address and thanked the committee for their input during the past year, in particular, Trevor Domm, our General Secretary, for doing an excellent job during his 2nd year of office, and Brian Gill for an exceptional Programme of Speakers. Trevor organised the event with the help of his wife Anne-Marie, creating a sociable and enjoyable occasion. The RWB President called for a toast to the Purton and District Probus Club. We enjoyed an excellent festive lunch and look forward to an interesting programme for 2018/19.

The subject of the meeting on 12 December was "Member's Choice". Member Ian Mead began by presenting a world-wide collection of his photographs of public notices, each of which contained an amusing content: - contradictory or obviously 'Lost in Translation'. Some were very funny. Members were now invited to tell of the 'Magic Moments' in their lives; - life-changing, significant or sensational happenings. Some of the stories told, recalled experiences in the Armed Forces, e.g. delivery of reels of Trans-Atlantic submarine cable when Telecommunication cable had been requisitioned. Our Programme Secretary related an unusual encounter when attending a lunch in the House of Lords. He and a colleague required the toilet. Directed through a concealed door, the security policeman beyond gave them some complex directions. After doubling through a bar, at least twice, they managed to find the loo, but on the return journey they were loudly challenged with "Can I help you". It was no less than Lady Thatcher herself. John, our Club President told of being "bumped off" a daily return flight from Rijadh to Jiddah in Saudi Arabia. In spite of his reservation, the seat was allocated to a Saudi VIP. The aircraft, a Tristar, suffered a smouldering in the hold shortly after take-off and was obliged to return to Riyadh. Parked off the end of the runway, the immediate and unfortunate development was a total fire with many fatalities. John said the burned out wreck sat there for many weeks after the incident. Our final story was from "yours truly" not about missing

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a plane, but about a plane that, very fortunately, missed me. It occurred at the end of my first year as a Vickers Armstrong apprentice. Early in September in 1952, a friend and I were at the Farnborough Air Show on that fateful day when John Derry and his co-pilot lost their lives in the De Havilland 110. After a supersonic dive, creating the, then unfamiliar, double thunderclap, the twin boomed jet levelled out and flashed past low along the runway. It climbed away and disappeared into the clouds. Moments later it returned travelling at high speed from the direction of the famous 'black sheds'. Through binoculars, I focused on the approaching silver plane. Suddenly it disintegrated into a confetti of tea leaves. I thought immediately that I was looking at a flock of birds, until I lowered the glasses to see the two engines, trailing smoke, describing a huge arc across the airfield towards us. One engine struck the perimeter track near the Marshall's Tent and bounced into the spectators. The second sailed over our heads into a car park at the rear. Danger only registered when we heard the wail of the ambulances. Twenty seven people died that day and over sixty were injured. My friend and I were among the lucky ones. From that date, strict safety and flying procedures were subsequently enacted for all U.K. Air Shows.

The variety of stories contributing to the morning's talk, was quite surprising.

The Purton & District Probus Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Red House lounge. Visitors and prospective new members welcome. Forthcoming meetings; Feb 13 - Weird and Wonderful Engineering, Feb 27 - The Dyson Design Process.

Bob Stevens

## Church Floodlighting

Dec 28 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Denis John Wood** who passed away in 1992. Loving thoughts of a wonderful husband. I am proud he was mine. I still miss you. Your devoted wife Barbara.



Jan 28 St Mary's was floodlit in remembrance of **Susan Morley** on her birthday. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

Feb 8 The Church will be floodlit to celebrate and remember **Val Davies** on her birthday. For ever in our hearts. Brian, Rebecca and family.

Feb 15 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Ron Gunter**, a dear Husband and Uncle on the 17th anniversary of his death. Loved and remembered by Betty and family.

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

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## Purton Tennis Club



33 members and guests had an enjoyable time at The Red House the Saturday before Christmas at a sit down meal in the quiet room followed by the Disco and Band. Thanks to The Red House for hosting us and for Any Event catering for the excellent meal – highly recommended!

Winter league is going well – positions as I write this:

Purton A – 3rd in Division 1

Purton B – 5th in Division 2

Purton C – 4th in Division 5

Just a reminder that memberships are now due!

And finally... We are pleased to announce our new Head Coach is Ben Langley. Ben is a Level 4 coach and also one of our best team players. He is known to many as he has coached at the club before.



Our coaching programmes should soon be up and running and his details can be found on the website. Follow us on facebook & twitter or for information: [www.purtontennisclub.com](http://www.purtontennisclub.com)

*Lindsey Hall, Chairman*

## Lent Lunches 2018

Four lunches during Lent held each Wednesday from February 21st to March 14th at Purton Methodist Church, from 11.45 am – 1.00 pm.

The meal includes soup, jacket potato or roll, cheese and salad, and tea or coffee, a selection of cakes also available (at a small extra charge). All proceeds to TEAR Fund and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

As there was no meeting in December my report this month is a brief affair and just takes the form of a reminder that Gill Hazell will be paying us a return visit, on Tuesday 27 February, to present a talk entitled 'So you think you know Gladiolus'. The competition will be 'A Hint of Spring'. The meeting will be held as usual in Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm. If you have an interest in garden-related topics why not come and join us. We are a friendly group and are always happy to welcome new members and visitors.



*Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)*

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## Wiltshire Council News

### **Join us for a landfill site tour – Thursday 8 Feb**

This New Year learn more about recycling and landfill – sign up for an MRF tour in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on Thursday 8 February from 10am-12noon, Calne. Further details will follow in next week's newsletter, but to guarantee a space, please contact your Community Engagement Manager, Alexa Davies via e-mail; alexa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk or over the phone; 01249 706610. Places are booking up quickly so get involved and see what you can do! #wastefreefeb

### **New Seated sports programme in Royal Wootton Bassett**

We've launched a brand new seated sports programme in Royal Wootton Bassett that starts next week. Developed by our sports development team and the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, these new free weekly sessions will be held on Thursdays from 10-11am at Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall.

Seated sports are adapted from traditional sports and take place from a sitting position, allowing participants to enjoy a low intensity form of physical activity. These sports are perfect for older people, individuals with limited mobility, people recovering from an illness or injury, or anyone who would like to take the opportunity to lead a healthier lifestyle. The programme was developed after local residents expressed that accessible sports provision for older residents was a key priority.

John Thomson, cabinet member for leisure, said: "We're delighted to offer this new programme in Royal Wootton Bassett, which is the result of the local joint strategic assessment, where people stated what they'd like to see more of in their local area.

"Seated sports offer the perfect opportunity for low impact exercise, and if this programme is a success, it could be extended to other communities."

Allison Bucknell, chair of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, said: "Taking part in a regular form of exercise is proven to be extremely beneficial to people of all ages. "It is really good news that we can deliver this new activity and I hope that all those who take part will enjoy getting more active and as a result consider other sport and exercise sessions."

To register for the seated sports programme, or to request further information, please email SportsDevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk or call Matthew Pearson, Sports Development Officer, on 07827 982279.

## Health & Wellbeing Champion

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

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

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# Ten Years Ago...

In the February 2008 issue of your magazine reports of recent rains had encouraged thoughts more of global wetting than global warming. For the second time within 6 months, storms and subsequent threats of flooding had caused several disruptions with local river levels again rising. Some local roads were again flooded but in a few different places, perhaps indicating that some lessons from previous years had been learnt. Thanks again went to those who keep the ditches clear.

Just above many ditches there are often hedgerows and, 10 years ago, readers were encouraged to think about their hedgerows especially with spring approaching. According to the then government, hedgerows provided homes for at least 47 animal species that could still be a conservation concern in their most important habitats. For example, hedgerows are important for butterflies, moths and many species of birds, bats and dormice offering abundant sources of food.

Indeed we learnt that, under regulations introduced in 1997, the removal of any hedge longer than 20 metres requires planning permission. The regulations required the landowner to notify the local council if he or she intended to remove a hedge. At inspection, the council would take into consideration historical, ecological and archaeological criteria. Readers also learnt that badly trimmed hedges also posed as much threat to hedgerows as complete removal.

We really do look after our surroundings for subsequent generations as well as for our own satisfaction and enjoyment.

Purton Historical Society

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



The Cotswold Canals Trust is a Registered Charity and its aims are to promote, for the benefit of the community, the reopening of The Cotswold Canals – The Stroudwater Navigation and The Thames and Severn Canal. It promotes the restoration of the two waterways to give a balance between the needs of navigation, development, recreation, heritage, landscape conservation, wildlife and natural habitats. Clive and Jill Field will give an illustrated talk on the work of the Trust.

**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**

**Thursday 26 April 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall: Villages in the Vale of the White Horse – Mr Paul Williams**

New Members and visitors always welcome

Tony & Janet Neate, e-mail: [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com) Tel: 01 793 770117

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Our village magazine is distributed to around a thousand households and local retailers within Purton and surrounding communities.

To promote your business in a display advertisement please email: [advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk) or call 01793 772954.

Community and not-for-profit organisations can publicise their events free of charge.

**2018 Annual rates to advertise in 12 consecutive issues:**

*Eighth of a page £100*

*Quarter page £200*

*Half page £400*

10% discount for prompt payment, rates for fewer issues also available.

We welcome feedback, articles and submissions for publication in the next edition from the local community and from readers further afield.

Copy deadline is the 10th of each month.

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

If you would like to become a Purton Magazine subscriber and get the very latest local news, views and information delivered to your door every month by our team of volunteers, please contact Sandra Horsnall, distribution co-ordinator, tel: 01793 770157 or email: [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

Copies can also be purchased from; One Stop, Pavenhill; Shear Success, Station Road, and Purton Farm Shop, Church End.

All previous editions of Purton Magazine, from 2004 onwards, are available to view and download from our website: [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)

The Magazine committee and their contact details can be found on Page 4.



# Purton. Magazine

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## St Mary's Fellowship of Women

From February 2018 the fellowship will meet at the Methodist Church, Play Close at 2pm every third Monday of the month (instead of the evening meetings), a reminder will be found in the Purton Magazine.

Our first meeting is on the 19th February with David Sweet speaking about "Music in the 60's". We are always happy to welcome any new ladies who would like to join us. Coffee and tea will be served, with biscuits, at the end of the meeting.

*Susan Berry, Secretary*

## Christmas Fun at One Stop

Santa on a bike! That's what some people saw on the 16 December, at the top of Purton. One Stop had a visit from the somewhat slimmer man himself, joined by his larger-than-life Elf and little helper. We hope that everyone enjoyed the morning as much as we did. The pleasure of seeing the children receiving sweets from Santa made our day.

Team members at One Stop held a raffle and sold home-made cakes and biscuits in aid of the new ECG machine for Purton Surgery. With the generosity of customers, we have now donated £470. £449 was raised on the day, added to by the contents of collecting

buckets situated at till points. The management and staff of your One Stop would like to thank everyone for their support in raising such a great amount for this worthwhile cause.

We hope you had a good Christmas and we wish all our valued customers a happy new year, we look forward to seeing you soon.

*Pearl Lait, on behalf of the Purton One Stop Team*



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## Purton Football Club

Sadly the team were without games due to postponed games home and away due to the bad weather and Christmas and New Year the team has only played 14 league games with games in hand over over most of the teams in the Corsham Print Wilts Senior League.

Curently the side lie mid-table on 23 points having won 8 drawn 1 and lost 5 making 25 but have had 2 points deducted for failing to play a home game with Shrewton United who also were deducted 2 points as they could not raise a team when we were due to play them on their ground. Joint managers Neil Lee and Lian Lewis in their first season with the club and with a complete new side apart from a few of last seasons side are working hard with their players and are aiming move up the table in the second hlaf of the season.

New Chairman Terry Crumbie with a few willing helpers has been working hard on the pitch at the Redhouse and is also our new Treasurer and Andy Cowan our Vice Chairman has been helping me to sell the match days programmes I am still providing as I have been unable to get to the team's games the past couple of months.

In December the club ran a well supported (Race Night) at the Redhouse Club in a fund raiser for the club and a Sporting Dinner is in hand for later in the season hopefully. Sadly attendances have been down this season so far but the management and players are grateful to those who have been supporting the team and purchasing match-day programmes, your support is greatly appreciated.

*Alan Eastwood, President/Hon sec*

## Prayer for Purton

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

## Purton Evening W.I.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our January meeting and hearing all about living in a commune in Paraguay. More about this next month.



In the meantime, our February meeting at Purton Village Hall on Wednesday 21st February is going to be scrumptious! We will be welcoming Diane from Supercakes, who will hopefully show us how to make and decorate cakes successfully, and more hopefully, there will be some for us to sample!

If that sounds interesting and you would like to come along you would be most welcome.

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

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## Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



By the time this lands on your doormat Christmas will seem an age ago....

2nd Purton Brownies had only a few Brownies one snowy evening but those few worked hard decorating the mini Christmas cakes the Brownies had made for Lunch Club. The cakes were distributed with Christmas cards at Lunch Club just before Christmas by Bella, Ruby and Lucy.

Three Brownies left the unit at Christmas to move on to Guides or Scouts. They chose the activities for their final evening: Christmas plays and making "slime" - exceedingly messy!

1st Purton Brownies made Christmas cards, snowman decorations and enjoyed a family carol singing session. Their end of term Christmas party included the collaborative creation of a gingerbread house, having their toenails or fingernails painted (thank you to Imogen's mum Rachel), games and of course party food. The Brownies were sad to say goodbye to Beth, who has been completing the service element of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with them. Beth has volunteered with the unit over the last few years at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and will be missed.

The Guides' end of term celebration was a trip to The Link Centre for ice skating. They also said goodbye to Maddy, Maria, Katy-Erin and Rhea who continue their Girlguiding journey by moving onto Rangers. The Ranger unit is still fairly new and small but is open to girls and young women aged 14-25, whether or not you've been involved in Girlguiding previously. There are plenty of opportunities for Rangers:

Build your skills - awards and qualifications ranging from the Leadership Qualification, which trains girls to run their own unit, to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Support your peers - helping younger girls to navigate issues like body confidence and mental well-being through a peer education programme which provides in-unit sessions on issues that affect girls and young women.

Raise your voice - Girlguiding is passionate about giving girls a voice. Youth participation at local, national and international level helps shape future Girlguiding policy.

Travel the world - life-changing international adventures from working on a development project in a remote village, to representing UK guiding at an international conference.

Moving on to the new term, the Guide unit welcomed Becky, Emily, Holly, Maddie, Tegan and Vera in January, meaning there are now 30 Guides in the unit. Guides learn (or improve on) valuable, transferable skills so they started the term off by chopping an onion, tasting herbs, polishing shoes, hammering nails, wrapping presents and using chopsticks.

The Brownie units are looking forward to a sleepover in February and have been

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discussing the theme for their Brownie Holiday in May – a very important decision! Several of our units would really appreciate additional adult volunteers. With high numbers in the units, and waiting lists, more adults to support existing leadership teams would mean greater support for the girls. Why not find out more? Contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at [braydondc@wncounty.org.uk](mailto:braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>.

## Cricklade Country Market



Our next market is Friday 23 February, 2-4pm at the Jenner Hall Cricklade.

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

Future market date: March 30th (Good Friday)

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

## The Merchant's House, Marlborough

### ***DON'T PANIC! How do Technology and Psychology make the world look scarier than it really is?***

A Lecture about today's MEDIA by Dr. Dominick Donald, 7pm for 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Marlborough

Dr Dominick Donald is a political risk analyst who for nearly two decades has advised governments, corporations and armed forces on the gap between their perception of world events, and the reality.

Most of us base our views of world events on what the Media News tells us. But over the past 25 years, digitisation has stripped context and complexity from Foreign Affairs coverage, and wrecked the economics of traditional journalism.

Meanwhile, humans, it turns out, like to read what they already agree with - a psychological button that online news is wired to push. The end result is that we are reading more narrowly and less reliably - and often becoming more worried as a result. But there is another way...

Tickets £15/£12 for Friends of Merchant's House Trust. Cash or Cheques payable to The Merchants House Trust. Tickets are available from the Merchant's House, 132 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1HN Contact Victoria Egerton. 01672 511491. Email: [victoriae@merchantshousetrust.co.uk](mailto:victoriae@merchantshousetrust.co.uk)

We would appreciate advance ticket purchase. Doors open 7pm. Drinks available before the lecture Reg charity no 1010902

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