

Purton. Magazine

January 2019



A new year is a time to reflect on the triumphs and low points from the previous year, and Purton saw both in 2018. We welcome 2019 with optimism, despite the political uncertainty that overshadows the UK. On a local level, we have a great deal to be positive about.

Photo: St Mary's Church in the snow, 2018. By Molly Looker

50p

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, bethaney23@icloud.com	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
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 (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com Tel: 770627	
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: 770157	Jane Smith: 772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035	
Methodist Churches <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	
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	
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade		
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 committee:

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

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

Advertising enquiries: Richard McCarthy Email: advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Tel: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries: Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:
The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2019

INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Purton really is a remarkably special community. Every month this magazine chronicles the goings on, in and around the village and any reader is very likely to learn something new from each edition.

For example, maybe only the younger generation would have known that there was a National Chocolate Day recently but the team at the Cedars Care Home made sure it was suitably celebrated with staff dressed up as Oompa Loompas – see page 41. Dressing up our surroundings has yet again been helped by another donation of bulbs by Toomers on Stone Lane and thanks from the Parish Council are recorded on page 6.

There is a report on page 16 from the Community Action Group for the former Best One shop in the Lower Square. Many residents will have noticed some new, more permanent boarding has been erected around the shop in recent weeks. Rather than signifying even more delays as some have assumed, the Co-Op have confirmed that they are still planning to re-open the shop and expect to invest some £1.3 million in the project. In addition, they will again bid for the Post Office as well as having a bakery in store selling ‘baked on site’ goods such as croissants, pastries etc. We are promised that further updates will be provided for future editions of Purton Magazine.

Our village always seems blessed with individuals who do so very much for the rest of us. Pauline Ward was one of those who worked tirelessly for the rest of us and she died recently, just 2 days short of her 97th birthday and there is a lovely article remembering her contribution on page 21.

Then, at the other end of the age range, the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers’ report never fails to intrigue and interest readers many times older. Recently 1st Purton Brownies celebrated UK Parliament Week (who knew?) and debated whether or not boys should be allowed in Brownies. Youngsters are getting so mature these days that the “insightful comments both for and against” would have been really interesting to witness. You’ll need to turn to page 28 to find out the result of their vote.

There are so many more little nuggets of new knowledge to be found in these pages and the Magazine Committee wish all readers, advertisers, contributors and distributors a comfortable, rewarding New Year.

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Volunteers have now worked at Pips and more are always welcome – see page 40

41st

PADS pantomime is already in production for performances at the end of January – see page 27

947

Age Concern vouchers and newsletters have been distributed around the village – see page 19



What comes under Purton Parish Council's remit?

We are often challenged with questions over the remit of Purton Parish Council and have decided that each month we will post a question raised by a resident, with the answer given by a Councillor. This information will also be available on our website for those who prefer to view online. So if you have a question please send them to the Clerk at deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call our offices on 01793 771066.

Change In Bus Pass Renewals



**Older person's
standard
Wiltshire
concessionary
bus pass**



Information about renewal of bus passes

From 1 January 2019, not all bus passes will be renewed automatically. This is because there are approximately 20,000 passes in circulation that have not been scanned on a bus prior to renewal, indicating that the pass has not been used. In these cases the passes will not be automatically renewed.

If your pass is not automatically renewed but you would still like to receive one to use in the future, please contact Wiltshire Council on **0300 456 0100** and we can arrange for your new pass to be issued.

Wiltshire Council regrets that any charges which may occur on bus journeys are non refundable.

Thank You

A huge thank you to Toomers for donating bulbs again this year. Your constant support to the Council and Charities to better the area is much appreciated.

Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7

Don't forget to bring your children along to the Youth Club held on a Wednesday in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm for Purton resident children only.

For more details please contact the Youth Leader Jude Deaman Telephone: 01242 224 509; Mobile: 07787821798 Website: www.communitymas.co.uk. A facebook page has also been set up under Purton Youth Club.

Welcome

The Parish Council are pleased to welcome on Councillor Jim Reid to the Parish, effective from Monday 12th November.

Councillors 2018-19

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

Meet your Councillors

A number of Parish Councillors will be available for a chat over a coffee at Pips Community Café on Saturday 9 February at 10am and Friday 12 July at 2pm. If you have any concerns that are within the remit of the Parish Council, then please come and meet the Councillors and use the amazing community facilities on offer at the Café.

Purton: A Dementia Friendly Community

We are holding the next three sessions at the Pips Community Café, Station Road at 11am. A perfect opportunity to show you care by attending the 45 minute information session and maybe have a cuppa and piece of cake or even lunch!

Tuesday 15 January 2019, Wednesday 27 February 2019, Thursday 21 March 2019.

Please show you care – 45 minutes of your time to make a difference.

One of the aims of the “Making Purton a Dementia Friendly Community” is to enable 80% of the volunteers at Pips to take up this challenge so we can be proud in saying that they support the cause and are one of only two businesses in Purton (Purton Farm Shop being number one) who are supporting us. “Pips Community Café, a Dementia Friendly Café”... does have a certain ring about it.

January Meetings

Commencing at 7pm in the Village hall – members of the public welcome to attend.

Monday 7 January 2019 Play area committee followed by Burials committee

Monday 14 January 2019 Council meeting

Monday 28 January 2019 Purton Institute and Village Hall charity followed by Charities Finance meeting

Remembrance Service

A huge thank you for the support given by the Royal British Legion and the Parish Council in their organisation of the Remembrance service held on Sunday 11th November 2018. The work that is required to arrange this event would not be possible without the two bodies working so well together.

Memory Stones

We now have three memorial tribute stones in place at the front entrance to the cemetery. If you are interested in a memorial stone to honour a loved one who was a resident in Purton at time of death, please contact the Clerk on 771066 or email deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Planning - permission granted with conditions

- 18/05422/FUL Casa Paolo, Common Platt. Erection of 2 new dwellings and conversion of existing restaurant premises to provide separate self-contained dwelling house.
- 18/06774/FUL Restrop Farm, Restrop Road. Erection of a single-storey link between dwelling and ancillary barn.
- 18/07054/LBC Restrop Farm, Restrop Road. Erection of a single-storey link between dwelling and ancillary barn.
- 18/07352/FUL 73 Pavenhill. Proposed detached garage.
- 18/06148/FUL 9 Pavenhill Retrospective minor amendments to workshop/studio (16/11701/FUL) inclusive of: addition of velux windows, installation of WC and window, timber cladding of building instead of render, installation of rear door.
- 18/07946/FUL 35 Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent. Demolition of outbuilding and swimming pool and erection of 1.5 storey outbuilding.
- 18/08015/FUL Montana House, Pavenhill. Proposed rear extension.
- 18/08628/FUL 9 Hoggs Lane. Change of use of land from agricultural to

residential, the erection of greenhouses, tool shed and compost bins (retrospective)

18/07972/FUL 6 Lower Pavenhill Erection of replacement dwelling and garage.

Charities

Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity has engaged a professional body to assess the viability of this charity going forward due to its decreased usage and costs associated with managing and maintaining a listed building with limited use. The review is anticipated to commence at the beginning of 2019. Information will be provided once details are available to the public and a consultation will be undertaken as part of this review by the external professional body.

Business Opportunity

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity has a business opportunity available from 10th September 2018.

The Kiosk (currently known as Laura's Kitchen) has come up for lease. If you are interested please contact the charities secretary for more information on 01793 771824 or email charities@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

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 let's raise some pennies. www.giveasyoulive.com/

Footpaths of Purton

Please see below one of the amazing footpath leaflets that has been designed by a resident. These are available for purchase from the office if you prefer an A4 size at a cost of 50p.

WALK 7: TWO CHURCHES

Distance: 6.5 km (4 miles) starting College Path to Purton

Difficulty: 18 Total Ascent: 150m

Conditions: Fairly smooth and well-maintained. Mostly flat.

Refreshments: Angerby, Pipps Cafe, Purton Club and Laura's Deli

Parking: College Path by listed car park or at St Mary's Church

CRICKET FIELD
The Purton Cricket Club founded in 1820, is believed to be the oldest club in Wiltshire. The cricket field was given to the club by Captain John Saller for a token rent of 8 p per year, which soon ceased to be paid.

The Church
Adjacent to the Cricket Field, another field was given to the parish by Squire James Saller for the Cricket Club to keep a horse to pull their mowmen.

The grave monument
The grave monument at the Church has a small tree plantation designed to commemorate the Millstream, since the commemorative stone near the bench.

St Mary's Church (from SE)
St Mary's Church is unusual in having both a spire and a tower. It was built in stages during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. Despite suffering some damage during the time of the Reformation and Civil War, the structure is still standing since the 15th century. Much of the interior however reflects Victorian restoration work in the late 19th century. The church is Grade I listed. There are eight bells in the west tower with the tallest dating back to 1276.

View towards St Mary's Church
This view (at road 2.1) is along the centuries old path from Rectory to the Church.

Historical Detail
During the Great War a Reconnoitre Trench was established at the Manor Farm. Staffed entirely by officers led by William Paterson and (level at Church path) (Collier Lane) they re-trained proboscis horses & mules from across the Southern Area Command from 1917-1918.

Looking south at point 15
by Parish Boundary Stone
The field behind the stile was the site of a 16th C tower camp.

All Saints Church
All Saints Church is a Grade II listed building dating from the 14th century, built on the site of a pre-Norman church. It is about four from the mid-13th century is the oldest part of the church. The tower houses a bell. Outside in the small grounds there is a churchyard, the cross of which is thought to be Saxon.

1. From the top walk down the right. SE and take steps to the left.

2. After 100m, turn L towards Methodist Church, then bear R along Church Path.

3. Continue along Church Path, past allotments, tennis courts and cemetery.

4. At end of path, cross Rd (Collier Lane) from car park down on L verge of road. If starting west of Church park on S side of Church End.

5. In 100m, turn L. Brough gate into field.

6. After gate, turn R. Go through coffee and at next gate turn L to follow edge of cricket field.

7. Leave field through gate and after 10m, take path through copse on to Crick Edge and go up to the stile.

8. Over stile and turn R, take path through open moorland.

9. Over stile and cross field diagonally (often moorland).

10. After stile, follow field edge parallel to road.

11. Leave field by stile and continue past houses for 100m then cross rd on L side, continue to more open moorland.

12. After visiting church, continue along roadside path. Cross the stile road (The Stitches).

13. Cross Rd at junction and bear R towards Church.

14. Look out for grass stile. Cross stile and continue across field.

15. After stile bear slightly to right, following path around field edge may be added.

16. Three double stiles with ditch bridge.

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175. After stile, follow field edge parallel to road.

176. Leave field by stile and continue past houses for 100m then cross rd on L side, continue to more open moorland.

177. After visiting church, continue along roadside path. Cross the stile road (The Stitches).

178. Cross Rd at junction and bear R towards Church.

179. Look out for grass stile. Cross stile and continue across field.

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376. After stile bear slightly

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 finding out how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Grigg on paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk, or Deborah Lawrence on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call the office on 01793 771066.

How to contact the Parish Council

Telephone number: 01793 771066

email address: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.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 deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 771066. Find us on Facebook: Purton Parish Council Twitter: @PurtonPC

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

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Pavenhill, Upper and Lower Pavenhill and Paven Close*

Purton United Charities

The distribution of the charity funds will be made on Saturday 26th January 2019 at Purton Silver Threads Hall, Between 2pm and 3pm

Qualification to receive the Charity are:

- Only one payment per household.
- In the case of a married couple this will be paid to the husband providing he is of retirement age.
- Widows and single women providing they are of retirement age and are unable to work (evidence of inability to work must be supplied)
- Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year to qualify.
- If you are unable to attend on the day due to illness or disability only, you may apply in writing by no later than 18 January 2019 to: Neil Miles, College Road, Purton, or any other Trustee.

CHRISTOPHER NEW, Secretary, Purton United Charities

A new year at Cricklade Country Market

Our first market of 2019 will be on Friday 25 January, 2-4pm, at The Jenner Hall, Cricklade



Locally handmade, home cooked or home grown produce straight from us to you. This is a local market supplying local things.... with a tea room too. Come and see what we have to offer. There is no charge to look!

Future market date: 22 February. Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market.

Riding Shotgun

Are you an able-bodied adult willing to take an occasional ride on the Wednesday Lydiard Millicent Lunch Club wagon? There's no horse, no open-topped wagon, no Stetson, no gun, and nobody to shoot.

There is a brand-new Purton Age Concern 8-seater van, a proficient driver, a group of lunch club members who need collecting from their homes and safely returning after a superb reasonably priced two course lunch. You have the satisfaction of keeping them safe; at least that is consistent with riding shotgun in the Wild West!

The van leaves the Parish Hall around 11am to collect members, lunch is at 12noon and members requiring transport are returned around 2pm to finish your duty about 2.30pm. The current rota is once every third week and we would like another volunteer to join in.

If 'Riding Shotgun' might be for you please enquire to: Julian Wright on 01793770986.

Community Action Group for the former Best One Shop

The community action group formed to look into the plans regarding the reopening of the old Best One store, had a meeting with the Co-Op on 5th December to discuss their plans for the building. They took over the lease in 2016 but have yet to open a store in the building.

They agreed that it has taken too long to get the shop open but confirmed they are still planning to do so. The cause of the delay has been the overrun on renovation costs as it's been more expensive to upgrade than planned. They are expecting to invest £1.3m in reopening the store.

The plan now is to resubmit a planning application by Christmas, as the last one has expired. This should be approved within 8-12 weeks and a period will follow whereby they need to agree certain conditions with Wiltshire Council. Building work would be expected to start in earnest around June next year (subject to issues arising with planning etc) and the store opening sometime between October and December 2019.

The hoarding that has been erected around the building will remain in place until the store opens but will have some minimal signage added to it stating the store is coming.

The Co-Op have confirmed that they will put forward a bid for the Post Office again. Apparently, this cannot be done until the building is ready but they have stated they will do so at the appropriate time. They also confirmed they would have a bakery within the store selling 'baked on site' goods such as croissants, pastries etc.

The Co-Op acknowledged the issues with the road layout in the triangle area and are currently drafting some proposals to improve this. Getting this right will take some time though and may not be in place before the store opens. They have agreed to work more closely with the Parish Council to progress this and the understanding is that the final proposal will be made available for consultation with the community at the appropriate time.

The Co-Op have a standardised pricing policy across all stores and this is not set regionally.

Once the store is open anyone making purchases can use a Co-Op loyalty card which will pay 5% of the cost of purchases of own brand goods back onto the card, and a 1% contribution to a local cause. We will be able to put forward causes for this money and vote on which ones we would like to support as a community.

The Co-Op have agreed to keep in touch with a couple of the members of the action group going forward and update them on progress. The action group will share these updates via their Facebook group and also in the Purton Magazine so residents are kept up to speed with what's happening.

Kirsty Davies, Group Co-ordinator

Purton & District Age Concern



I must begin this month by mentioning a long list of people who have supported us with our Christmas events and activities this year. Our grateful thanks go to Robert Cook who kindly printed our Christmas vouchers again this year and the street wardens who delivered the vouchers and newsletters; your support is much appreciated. At the time of writing 947 vouchers have been distributed during December. Local businesses can redeem vouchers with Andrew Capewell our new treasurer in January.

I would like to thank Carole and Steve Griffiths at Artworking for printing our calendars, Christmas cards and Christmas raffle tickets. They provide a very speedy and efficient service and are always a pleasure to work with. Special thanks go to Andrew Hiscock, and Val & Jodie the hairdressers, for selling calendars and cards for us again this year.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who helped at both of our Christmas parties, especially Maria and her team of helpers for providing the delicious food, Sarah and her team for decorating the halls and tables so beautifully and to everyone who served the food, including Megan, who did a great job! Thanks to the people who provided the entertainment at the parties; Paul on his ukulele, the Merry Folk and Village Voices choir. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves judging by the feedback we've received. It's lovely for us to know people have had a good time.

Thanks to Jane Farr and her group of friends who did the washing up and served mince pies with hot drinks during the interval at the main party. They turn up every year and get on with clearing up the kitchen.

I must also mention Hazel Woodbridge and the minibus drivers and shotguns, who made sure everyone arrived at the parties on time. I know they were very busy transporting people to and from both parties but the Village Hall party was particularly busy.

Thank you to all who donated cakes, bric-a-brac, books and festive items including Mr and Mrs Belcher who provided the mistletoe and Mrs Instone who gave us the holly for our Christmas market in December and to Andrew Hiscock and Robert Collis for providing the sausages and cooking equipment. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day and to those who came along to support us. We managed to sell out of Christmas raffle tickets at the market and at least the weather was kind to us most of the morning; we just got wet packing up at the end of the event.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who donated so many lovely prizes for our Christmas raffle and to everyone who sold or purchased raffle tickets. The prize draw took place on Tuesday 11th December and all who won a prize will have received them by now.

Thank you to everyone who made a financial donation to Purton Age Concern during the festive period and throughout 2018. We are extremely grateful for all the

donations we receive and for all the support we get from local people. We wouldn't be so successful without all this support.

Finally, thanks go to Neil and the team at the Red House for hosting our carol singing (with mince pies and mulled wine served during the interval) on Christmas Eve. This event has always been open to all Purton residents as it is our way of thanking everyone in the village for the support you give our charity throughout the year.

For details of our Burns Night Celebration on Saturday 19 January 2019 and Jumble sale in February please see future events section.

Future Events

Burns Night Celebration - This will take place on Saturday 19th January 2019 at the Village Hall, doors open at 6.30pm. The evening includes a three course meal, a piper to pipe in the haggis, dancing with a live band & caller and drinks will be available at the bar. The cost is £20 per person, tickets may still be available from Jenny Barnes on 770339.

Jumble Sale - Our next jumble sale will be on Saturday 9th February in the Village Hall. Jumble can be left at the hall between 12noon-1pm and the sale starts at 2pm. Refreshments will be available. Come along to bag yourself a bargain or two!

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.

Minibus shopping trips: Friday January 11, 8.45am - minibus to Marlborough. Friday January 25, 9.00am minibus to Cirencester. For more information or to book your place please contact Hazel Woodbridge, minibus co-ordinator on 770862.

Tai Chi - We hold gentle Tai chi exercise classes at 2pm on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall. The classes resume on Thursday 3rd January 2019. The New Year is a great time to start exercising so if you would like more information about the Tai chi classes please turn up at the Millennium Hall at 2pm on Thursdays or contact Steve Rouse, the Tai chi instructor, on 07956359924 or email him at wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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 11th January 2019 and costs just 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits. Transport is available,

to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862. Wishing you all a Peaceful New Year.

At our recent committee meeting we were offered a second-hand upright fridge-freezer which is available free of charge to any pensioners in our area who would like it. If interested please contact Louise on 772558.

Louise Tidman

In memory of Pauline Ward MBE 1921-2018

Purton has lost another of its treasures.

Pauline Kemp was born on 7 December 1921 in Maresfield, Sussex. Her father was a Postmaster. She enjoyed life as a child in Sussex. She spoke fondly of both her parents and sister when she was growing up. Pauline told me about a friend of her parents who was a clock maker, she often accompanied him to grand houses to check and wind the clocks. She stood in wonder at the sweeping staircases and diamond-like chandeliers adorning the marvellous houses.

Pauline went on to be a secretary in the NAAFI and gave up her work in 1947 a year after she married John Ward. She was twenty five when they married in Bromley, Kent, and only a few months ago she told me that the church where they were due to be married was so badly damaged in the war, that they had to have their wedding in the village hall instead. She loved life with John, a civil engineer. The couple had two sons; Richard, born in 1953 and David in 1956.

The family moved to Purton in 1970 from Wolverhampton and soon became part of village life. Pauline nursed both of her parents at home in Purton before they passed away. It wasn't an easy task but Pauline, in her usual determined way, soldiered on.

Pauline worked at Ashgrove House Nursing Home for a while. She worked nights and struck up a friendship with Tracey, a friendship that would be re-kindled in the future.

Unfortunately Pauline's husband John and eldest son Richard both died many years ago. Pauline threw herself into her charity work and had become deeply involved in the Purton Helping Hand, the village charity whose members were all Purton people, who raised money in the village, for the village. No matter what age, if the Helping Hand found out that you were ill, in trouble, flooded out, or had a fire, for example, they would try to help. She was chairman when I first became friends with her in the late eighties. She was also chair of the Purton Carnival committee for some years, an off-shoot of the Mother Group, the Purton Helping Hand.

Pauline worked tirelessly for both committees and she made many good friends during her work for both, me included but Pauline was in charge! She found it very hard to delegate and would always try to do everything herself. If we were doing a fundraiser which involved putting out tables and chairs, nine times out of ten, when the committee arrived at the venue, all the work was done, even if it was agreed that we would be helping with the task.

No event was complete without her Tea Loaf. She'd be up most of the night baking, and there was usually an extra one for me to take home. Many times after our monthly meetings at the Silver Threads Hall, Pauline would insist on walking home, no matter what the weather. "I walked up so I'll walk back" was her answer when a lift was offered. On more than one occasion, we ignored her answer and took her home. Into the boot went her push basket, and into the front went Pauline – still remonstrating!

Pauline worked hard for the Silver Threads Club too. She was their secretary for over twenty years. I am told by Brenda Cook that it was a job she did very well and that she enjoyed doing it. In more recent years, following Miss Elizabeth Ward's death, she became their president. She enjoyed the companionship of people of her own age group. How she found time for herself I will never know! This was never her priority, giving and doing for others was. Very often Pauline and her trusty push basket climbed Station Road three times a day, attending meetings for different committees and charity events. We used to laugh and say that she must have worn a groove into the pavement because she was up and down all day!

Having lost contact with her youngest son, David, for some time, Pauline was grateful for her friends Shirley and Gary who were a constant in her life and always on hand to help her, along with Glynn, who helped with DIY around her home. Her friends from the Silver Threads, Helping Hand and Carnival were a big part of her life, especially Audrey, Lynda, Brenda, Kevin and myself, who were always ready with a friendly ear when she just wanted to talk.

Some years ago when John Gosling was very ill, Pauline, along with her good friend Audrey, kept John and Sheila's shop at Pavenhill running. She also had a shop of her own for some time. 'This & That', sited where the cycle shop is now, at the Lower Square, sold collectables, and second-hand goods. There was always a cup of coffee of going for anyone who stopped by, and of course a chat.

In 2012 Pauline was awarded the MBE. She was very excited but really couldn't understand why she should get it. She was overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up at the Red House to see her receive it from the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Sarah Rose Troughton. She accepted it quietly and never bragged about getting it.

Unfortunately the Purton Helping Hand folded a few years ago, Pauline was broken-hearted. She was made president of the Carnival committee, which by then was independent of the Helping Hand.

Pauline was the victim of a burglary at her house, while she snoozed in the garden. For the first time she felt very vulnerable. What a rotten thing to happen to someone who did so much for others, I can't write what I would have done to the person responsible! Not long after she had a fall on the stairs and had a short stay in hospital. She then went to Ashgrove House to recuperate, twelve weeks of trips to the hospital followed, accompanied by Tracey, who told me she was always so

grateful to the doctors and staff who helped her. She in turn was very popular with all of them. As she recovered from her fall she had to be reminded, more than once, that she was a resident herself and not at the home to help the other residents.

Pauline never went back to live at her home in Station Road, but was lovingly cared for by the staff at Ashgrove. For the first time she was being looked after, as she had done for so many other before. She often said that she didn't deserve the attention she was getting, but of course she did. She loved going out with the other residents. She had a passion for new clothes and was eagerly awaiting Christmas Day when she was going to wear her new gold pleated skirt, she'd bought a few months before. She'd proudly show me her newly-painted nails, always coral colour. At last Pauline was enjoying being looked after.

In November Pauline underwent an operation but she never really picked up again. Until then she was still very much the Pauline that we all knew and loved; an independent, determined lady with all her faculties. Sadly on 5th December 2018, two days short of her 97th birthday Pauline passed away in the company of her good friend Tracey.

How privileged we all were to have known such a lady, who did so much for Purton. God bless Pauline.

Pearl Lait

The Only Way is Wessex Male Choir (Give it a go open evening)

If you sing in the bath (or anywhere else for that matter) and fancy belting out a few numbers with like-minded guys, come along and meet us on 15th January.

A warm welcome awaits for all men who can sing high, low or somewhere in between.

If you turn up at Abbeymeads Christ The Servant (4 Elstree Way, Swindon SN25 4YX, our practice venue), you will be offered a knighthood or chips (depending on which is available at the time). We are the Wessex Male Choir and have performed in front of countless Kings and Queens (and many other pubs too!)

If your New Year's resolution is to cut back on beer, moderate your laughter and take up marathon running, join the Benedictine Monks Road Running Club. If on the other hand you don't want to give up beer and laughter and you want to sing too, come and join us on the 15th January to see what we are about.

A host of celebrities including Donald Trump, Harry Kane, Boris Johnston and Jeremy Corbyn will not be there, so there's room for you. For more details get in touch with Nick Brown (Tel: 01367 253256 or 07956 270354), and take a look at our web site .

Choir members will be present at Christ The Servant Church from 7pm, singing is expected to start at 7.30pm. www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk/

Ten Years Ago...

Maybe the contributors to Purton Magazine for January 2009 were so concerned with Christmas preparations that it lacked some of its usual sparkle. The editorial hit a serious note discussing “the concept of anomie (the lack of the usual social standards in groups)”. Apart from changes in family compositions, it was suggested that this was growing due to the ever-increasing movements of people. Although commitment to others in Purton remained strong, the editor regretted that “traditional community life is fading away across the UK”. One might have hoped that, in welcoming others into any community, whether a village or a nation, it might itself become more outward-looking. And yet, 10 years on, the lesson has not been learned.

Looking back further, Purton Museum told the story of a tobacco tin with a picture of the then Princess Mary on the lid, one of the many sent to troops on the Western Front at Christmas 1914. Inside was a card “with Best Wishes for a Victorious New Year”. Let alone 10 years, have we learned in 100?

Just after the Second World War, an informal group called the ‘Bachelor’s Club’ sprung up, based at the Angel and the Sun at Lydiard. The characteristic of the group was that “if they were caught out with a young lady they were fined a shilling”. One unforeseen consequence of this was that the members were in great demand from the ladies, either for the latter to claim a trophy or because they had been encouraged by another member so as to boost the club’s income. The club didn’t last long as the members all got married!

The last word must rest with the report of the Guides’ summer camp. That was a success until “the next day we had a really lovely breakfast then our parents arrived to take us away from our fun”.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society - PADS Panto 2019

Rehearsals for our 2019 pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, are now well under way and going well. This will be our 41st pantomime production, the first being performed way back in 1976.

There will be the usual three evening performances on consecutive nights, from Thursday 31 January through to Saturday 2nd February, with a matinee at 2pm on Saturday.

Ticket prices are £8 Adults, £6 Concessions, £5 Children and tickets will be on sale early in January from the Library and Flawless Floors in Purton. Alternatively, you can order tickets by calling: Barbara (770160), Kate (771442), Lindsey (771890). You can also contact us via the Purton Amateur Dramatics Facebook page.

Kate Bath

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Unsurprisingly, Christmas featured in November/December's meetings. 2nd Purton Brownies made cards for Lunch Club and for the residents of Ashgrove House. The Ashgrove residents received theirs in person when the Brownies visited for an evening of carol singing, with some girls also playing musical instruments.

1st Purton Rainbows decorated pottery Christmas tree ornaments which had been made by resident Purton artist Tony Grint. Thank you Tony; they look great.

Christmas wasn't the only celebration. The Guide unit welcomed two members, Ava and Chloe who renewed the promise they had previously made in Brownies.

Activities from the new guiding programme are being gradually introduced. 2nd Purton Brownies completed one of the 'Unit Meeting Activities' entitled Fire Fire, which included a discussion on what to do if your clothes caught fire, fire exits, smoke filled rooms and how to find out if there is fire the other side of a door. They also practised a fire drill. 1st Purton Brownies have started on 'Skills Builders' which is where girls select their own areas of interest and work on challenges in small groups according to those interests. They've made compasses, practised packing bags for camping, created emojis, done some sewing and worked on communication skills. The Guides have dyed and decorated linen bags ready to carry their new badge books for when they start the new programme in January.

1st Purton Brownies loved celebrating UK Parliament Week, with activities spanning two weeks to do it justice. They debated the topic of whether boys should be allowed in Brownies, with insightful comments both for and against, then held a ballot where the 'no' vote had it. They took part in an exercise in democracy to decide what items they would take from a shipwrecked boat to start a community on a desert island and they learnt about Vote 100, with stellar performances from Agnes, Freya and Sophie who really brought suffragette, suffragist and male militant characters to life.

The Guides also took on a serious topic as they got involved with the Girlguiding initiative to end period poverty: "We pledge to tackle period stigma by talking openly about periods, so no one feels embarrassed talking about them" (Girlguiding 2017). They looked at period products available, symptoms and helping themselves to feel better, talked about tackling the stigma, social action against period poverty and played games, including phrases used to talk about periods and myth busting. They also learnt about the Red Box Project set up in 2017 to combat the issue of young women missing out on their education because they can't afford the products they need during their period. This nationwide project aims to provide red boxes filled with free period products to schools. The Guides designed posters to be displayed in local schools to raise awareness and ask for donations of period products which will be for use by the pupils at that school. In addition, they are sending their thoughts

on the topic to local MPs along with sample posters, aiming for MP support for the Red Box Project locally.

Lots happens outside the weekly meetings too. Eleven Guides took part in the annual Streetwise competition. Neither the extreme weather elements nor the other Guide and Scout competitors deterred them. Teams bussed and marched around Swindon, picking up points with the Purton accompanied teams winning well-deserved 2nd and 3rd places. Congratulations! The Guides dried out sufficiently to then take part in the Act of Remembrance at the cenotaph the following day along with the Brownies and Rangers.

Seven Guides travelled further afield during the October half term: to Paris with Guides from Wroughton and Old Town. A French themed evening was therefore a must so that they could share their experiences. The Guides experimented with the lingo, although the result was more 'Allo 'Allo than fluent français! They played French bingo, made friendship bracelets in the colours of the French flag, consumed baguette, camembert, French juice, cake and sweets.

Guide leader Rachel is getting married in January so of course she had to have a Guide 'hen do'. All the girls assisted Rachel in preparing flowers for a bouquet to be thrown, made a selection of tasteful fascinators, decorated some exquisite wedding cakes and enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch. Let's hope the extravagant sounding hen do doesn't outshine the wedding itself!

The Brownies, Guides and Rangers enjoyed an afternoon at The Wyvern Theatre watching The Gang Show. A brilliant afternoon of entertainment performed by local guiding and scouting members, including some of our own Purton girls. A big well done goes to Rianna, Ciara, Sophie and Freya. From talk afterwards, several other Brownies and Guides want to follow in your footsteps at the next Gang Show.

For more information about guiding locally, please contact district commissioner Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. More volunteers to join our team are always welcome. Register interest in joining at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/. Find us on Facebook too: [facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision](https://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision)

The Royal British Legion 2018 Poppy Appeal

A total of £8976.31 has been sent from Purton and District to the 2018 Poppy Appeal, and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way.

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped again this year. We are always happy to hear from anyone who is able to offer a few hours once a year to help with the House-to-House collections or at the West Swindon Centre.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence, Poppy Appeal Organisers, Tel 01793 771084,
Email: the_lawrences@btinternet.com*

St Mary's Primary School

The children are preparing for all the Christmas activities at St Mary's and as you read this in January, they will have performed their Christmas Nativity Plays to parents/carers, sung at Carol Concerts in Church and the choir were thrilled to join other schools to sing at Royal Wootton Bassett's Christmas lights switch on, held on 30th November, where Eddie the Eagle was the resident celebrity! The PTA will have hosted the annual Christmas Fayre, which always proves to be a great fundraiser! We look forward to the start of Term 3 and hope all the children have had a good rest over the festive period with their families.

Staff News: We said goodbye to Mrs Young, MDSA who has left us after 14 years of loyal service and we welcome Mrs King who has now joined the MDSA team.

The poppies and other Remembrance Day items bought by the children in school raised a wonderful £369! We received a lovely thank you card from the Royal British Legion for this donation.

One of our Year 5 children proved that suffering with type one diabetes is no barrier to success after organising a profitable "Dress up as a Superhero" day at school, raising £420 for JDRF who fund research for type one diabetes. Isaac, who has suffered with the condition since he was four, organised a fundraiser where for a small donation the whole school were encouraged to wear super hero outfits/masks and there was a cake sale after school too. The event appeared in the Swindon Advertiser and we were thrilled with the amount raised for such a good cause.



St Mary's girls' football squad had storming success at the Cricklade Football Festival on November 16th, winning 3 of their 4 matches. See team photo.

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



Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community

We are incredibly proud of our school and all that it means to the community of Purton. St Mary's CE Primary School has a tradition of educating children from this parish since 1861 and many local families have seen generations educated within our walls. We are currently working on updating our ethos, values and mission statement and we need your help. In order to ensure they reflect the school and its place in our community, we would welcome your responses to the following questions:

1. How important is St Mary's CE Primary School to you?

- Not important Important Very Important

2. Thinking about the school, the children and the community, please rank the following words from

1 (least important) to 5 (most important):

Trust	1	2	3	4	5
Justice	1	2	3	4	5
Love	1	2	3	4	5
Faith	1	2	3	4	5
Tolerance	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please circle the word that best describes your faith:

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| Christian | Hindu |
| Jewish | Muslim |
| Sikh | None |

Other (Please specify)

Rather not say

4. Thinking about education at St Mary's, please circle three words/phrases that you think are the most important to ensure children are well-prepared for their next steps in life:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Achieve high grades | Resilient learners |
| Innovative thinkers | Enjoyable curriculum |
| Relevant to the world today | Inspirational teaching |
| High standards | Mostly happy |

Thank you very much for your time in answering these questions. Please return this form by Thursday 31st January to St Mary's CE Primary School, College Road, Purton, SN5 4AR or if you are unable to return this form in any other way and require someone to collect it from you, please call 01793 770239.

Any other comments:

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher



Church Floodlighting



- Dec 3 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on his 28th birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- Dec 27 St. Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of a wonderful husband **Denis Wood** who died 26 years ago. Love Barbara.
- Dec 31/Jan 1 The Church will be floodlit to welcome in the New Year.
- Jan 7 St. Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Dale Herbert**. Sadly missed: always in our hearts. Mum and Dad and family
- Jan 8 St. Mary's will be floodlit for **Bob Wightman MBE**, in celebration of what would have been his 107th birthday. Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family.
- Jan 20 St. Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on the 7th anniversary of his passing. Dearly loved and sadly missed Husband, Father and Grandfather.

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.

A Cricket Mystery

On 12th August 1840 the Purton Cricket Club Secretary sent out a circular drawing members' attention to the situation in which the club was placed and whether it should continue as a club or not.

The document was signed by William Bunce (aged 35) who was a Purton resident and is shown on the 1841 census as living at Widham with his wife Charlotte (aged 33) and four children; Mary (6), William (4), David (2) and Alfred (3 months).

William died in 1846 but his wife remarried. The 'Lincolnshire Chronicle' for Friday 31st December 1852 has the following entry: 'On the 17th of November last, at Elgin, Hare County, America, Mr James Knott, formerly of Leicester, to Charlotte, widow of the late William Bunce Esq, architect and surveyor, formerly of Purton, Wiltshire. Does anyone in Purton claim a connection to William? I would be very pleased to hear from anyone with information. The cricket club did continue but the years 1841 and 1842 were difficult ones.

Joe Gardner 770681

New library session

The new Rhyme Time will be starting on Wednesday 16th January 2019 from 2.15pm to 2.45pm and is for babies and toddlers with their parents and/or carers. This is a free activity provided by the library and will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Purton Library.

Susan Relph

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.

Thank you Age Concern

I would just like to thank all those who helped and organised the Age Concern Christmas party. Once again you did us proud as you do every year. It must take a lot of work organising the food, the venue, and the entertainment. It was a lovely evening that my husband and I really enjoyed.

Carole Gleed

Hospital stay fails to stop birthday celebrations

I would like to thank everyone who sent me get well soon cards during my stay in hospital, and for the birthday cards I received during my stay at Ashgrove House. The staff at Ashgrove were brilliant and I'd like to thank them for the birthday cake and celebration tea party, and all the care and attention I received during my stay there.

Sheila Kirk, Norbury Court

Neighbourhood Plan query

In November Purton Village supported the Neighbourhood Plan. Why then has an application been accepted for 38 new houses on land at Restrop Road, which was not included in the Plan?

A Resident

Response from Cllr Jacqui Lay:

“I ‘called-in’ the application for decision by the Northern Area Planning Committee two years ago when the application was originally submitted as the site lay outside the framework of the village. The Neighbourhood Plan was progressing at the time hence the decision on the application was delayed until the NP went through. The site is shown in the NP as being part of the only site in Purton outside of the framework for development – see Policy 14 of the plan. Both Prof. Pagett and myself spoke at the meeting to why the application was not what was wanted as it was only part of the area of land designated for development and that it should also include bungalows, housing for village need and part of an access route into the rest of the site however as the site was shown within the NP for up to 40 homes it was the NP Policy 14 that evidenced that the application should be granted.”



The other side of the gate

Well what a year! I don't think we could have foreseen such contrasts in weather in one year. 12 months ago we were under snow, then that evil period aptly named the 'Beast from the East' came in March that stopped the country in its tracks and made for a very late turn out for the cows. Then spring which lasted about 10 days before a dry summer that went on until November! I said very early on that the weather was dominating farmers' talk and it's still happening now, although how much more than normal is hard to tell. The effects will be felt for a long time to come. Our cows have performed extremely badly (through no fault of their own) this year. One fundamental ingredient to our farming system is grass, not just grass, but grass that is growing from February to November. That didn't happen this year. The freshly calved cows from March onwards never had the chance to flourish. They've been held back all summer by very poor forage. We have been feeding bought in hay and silage. This year will have a high financial cost for many farmers in our region. Two years ago, we were producing about 1100 litres a day, however on 1st December this year we produced about 470 litres – there's the difference and when we only get 29p per litre, you can see it's not going to pay!



During November, I cut back to milking only 12 cows, twice a day. The other milking cows were only milked in the morning. This was working quite well, but the amount of milk they gave could not justify the expense of extracting it, so from 1st December we cut back and are only milking them all once a day. This has been harder for me to get my head around than the cows, it seems. They appear to be very happy about the situation and to date have had no adverse reactions. The cost of compounded feed (cake we feed in the parlour), electricity, cleaning chemicals, water, udder cloth washing is where we hope to save, but I must admit spending 3 hours less in the parlour is having a good mental effect too. The second milking is always a bit of a pain. It prevents you from starting other jobs or finishing some and means you have to cut short a day out.

The cows still need checking, feeding and bedding up, but this routine work can be done by anyone and isn't complicated like milking can be!

At the moment, the cows are still out and probably will be for another few weeks as this drier period sets in. They are marking the ground a bit, but only around the gates. The fields remain dry and whilst they still want to go out, I will let them. If the wind changes and they stay in of their own accord then we'll declare winter and shut the gate!



This week we are putting up electric fencing to keep the pretty Brown Swiss in. We've bought a new mains fencing unit that packs quite a punch and I'm hopeful that only a few interactions with it will instil a new respect for boundaries! I'll let you know how that goes!

We had a new addition to the cow family this month too. Tammy joined us on 13th November. She came from a farm at Wroughton from where we got some of the other Brown Swiss. She is a monster and makes some of our cows look half grown! She has a big attitude and was very bolshy on her arrival. She strutted around picking fights with other cows (we noted that her old herd mates were reluctant to engage!) until she saw the donkeys: I've never seen such a big cow stop so abruptly and stare in jaw dropping amazement at the funny shaped creatures. When they moved, she ran away!

We also have a new name for one of our cows and the fashion in which she got it was not so pleasant! Alex the vet had been monitoring 630 after removing a part of her third eyelid last month. It appeared to be extremely painful and had closed up, so during the afternoon of 27th November he came and removed her eye. Now, I don't do needles very well and he had the biggest needle I'd ever seen! This was to inject local anaesthetic into the eye socket. He gave her a large sedative and when that had taken effect and she was sleepy and safely on the floor, he started to inject her. At this point I had to look away. Rally and Sarah didn't seem too bothered (actually they were overly interested and gave a running commentary), so I let them at it and returned my gaze only after he'd finished. The procedure is horrid. I called him a butcher to his face and he laughed! All joking aside, this was not funny. It is quite amazing the amount of space the eye takes up and the remaining socket is massive. As the eyelids are no longer needed, they are also removed and the two sides are stitched together. It would not hold up in Hollywood and he'd never make



a plastic surgeon! So 630 is now known as Popeye - see, I told you we were good at cow names!

It's also been a sad month for us too. Tractor, our Jack Russell, sadly died peacefully in his sleep. He was a true character and at only 9 years old has left us too early leaving a huge gap at Quarry Farm. We will miss him. Dotty, our new 8 week old puppy who arrived 4 days ago, is already showing a character of dominance over the Labradors. I'm sure she will feature heavily in my ramblings!

We've had another Neospora aborted calf too. This time in one of our new maiden

Brown Swiss heifers. So sad to see a young animal mourning for her lost baby. Karen, our next door neighbour, could see her from her bedroom. Heartbreaking to see her returning to the same spot for a few days. We don't know exactly what they comprehend, but it's safe to say they fully understand the grief. We will try again with her next month. Hopefully she'll be able to make it to motherhood.

I put a picture of the aborted foetus on Facebook with a request for dog owners to pick up after their dogs. It makes me so angry to see the devastation of someone's laziness. As I write, that post has been seen by 24,000 people. Let's hope we can change the culture and more people will help keep our animals safe from this incurable disease.

This is the last entry for 2018 and we're happy to slam the door on it. We hope 2019 will let us reset and be much easier for our cows. Dora's Dairy will be open every day over the coming holiday periods, so please feel free to come along and say hello to us and our cows.

Jonathan Cook

Editor: Jonathan provided photos of both Popeye's eye removal and the poor aborted calf. We decided not to print them as they were a bit too graphic for some of our readers.

Guide Dogs

I did a stall with Swindon Guide Dogs at the 'Christ Church Christmas Market' on Saturday the 17th of November and raised £81.10p, this was the last venue of 2018 (where has the year gone?) The Committee and I give you our sincere thanks for your support to us over this last year, and we wish you A HAPPY NEW YEAR and may 2019 be kind to you.

Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group.

Purton Village Diary - January 2019

1	Tu		New Year's Day
3	Th	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
6	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Covenant Service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
9	W	10.30am	Meeting for local artists and crafters who would like to sell their wares at Pips Community Cafe
10	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
11	F	8.45am	Age Concern Minibus to Marlborough
13	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
15	Tu	11.00am	How we can make Purton Dementia Friendly with Sue Giles at Pips Community Cafe
		2.00pm	Shopping with Jenny at Silver Threads Hall
		8.00pm	After 8 quiz 'Start as you mean to go on' led by Helen at Barbara C's
16	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		2.15pm	Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies and toddlers and their carers
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI meet at the Village Hall for a talk about 'Looking after your back' by Jolyon Livingston
18	F	9.00am	until 4.30pm, Pips Community Café starts it's new Friday opening hours
19	Sa	6.30pm	Burns Night Celebration at Purton Village Hall
20	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Purton Methodist Church
22	Tu	7.30pm	Purton and District Gardeners' Guild AGM and talk on beekeeping at Silver Threads Hall
23	W	7.30pm	The Phoenix Players start their run of 'The House Guest' at Swindon Arts Centre
24	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society welcome Dr Nick Humphris to talk about Chedworth Roman Villa
25	F	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
27	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

29 Tu 2.00pm Bingo with John at Silver Threads Hall

Every week

M 7.00pm to 8.00pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)

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)
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)
6.15pm Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall

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 10.00am Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children

2nd & 4th Tuesday Purton Probus at Red House lounge

2nd Wednesday (except Aug) 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church

3rd Monday St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church

3rd Tuesday Royal British Legion meet at the Red House

February

2 Sa 2.00pm Jumble sale at Silver Threads Hall

9 Sa 2.00pm Age Concern jumble sale at Village Hall

14 W TBC Purton Evening WI Cheese and Port evening with quiz

Moon Phases

● 3rd Quarter: 29 Dec ● New moon: 5 Jan ● 1st Quarter: 13 Jan
○ Full moon: 20 Jan ● 3rd Quarter: 27 Jan

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, Tel: 772954 or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

If you enjoy playing Bingo come and join us!

Bingo4Us is a friendly little bingo club that meets every Wednesday afternoon in the Jenner Hall in Cricklade. We are looking for more members to join us. The Hall is open from 1pm and it is 'eyes down' at 2pm. You can just come along and join in or if you have any queries please call me on 07801 952027.

Vicky McIntosh, Treasurer

Latest news from Pips Community Café



Pips is continuing to thrive and every day we see new faces, with people assuring us they'll be back. Pips has hosted a number of community meetings, including one with the Co-op about the re-opening of the old Best One shop. There have been two new volunteers doing their first shift this month, and we are now up to 32 people who have worked a shift. Our happy hour for half price coffees was popular, as are the delicious home-made cakes that we always stock, baked by another band of volunteers.

We now have a mobile phone at the café (for incoming calls only!) so people can ring in with their food orders. So, if you only have a short time for lunch, Pips is now an option - the number is 07498 526872.

The café has been a bit quiet recently, but we put that down to the hectic run up to Christmas, as well as some wet and miserable weather. Hopefully by the time you read this, the Cedars will have been for their Christmas half price coffee and cake.

Forthcoming events and news

In January Ashgrove House will be coming and we hope that the pre-school will be joining us for a drink and a biscuit as a break on one of their welly walks. We have arranged some sessions for Sue Giles to come and provide information on how we can make Purton more dementia friendly. The first of these is on 15th January at 11am for 45 minutes. All are welcome, so put it in your diary.

We have also been approached by Purton Parish Council and agreed they can use the café for some Councillor Meet and Chat sessions. The Parish Council will publicise when these will be.

Opening times

From January we have decided not to open until 10am on a Saturday as we haven't been very busy before then, but the good news is that we now have enough volunteers to open on a Friday. We'd like to thank all our volunteers and customers who've helped get us up and running and we look forward to welcoming you in the new year.

Our opening hours for January will be: Closed from 1st-7th, Tuesday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm, Fridays (from 18th) 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm. Pips will be closed from 23-31 December.

Contact us: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk, 01793 772298

The Pips Team

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

Refurbishments and Audits

We've been undergoing a bit of a facelift so consequently we haven't been able to hold many community inclusive events as we would have liked. Sadly, we had to cancel our planned October Bazaar due to time constraints and we are sorry to those who made the effort to pop in! We hope to hold a table sale in early spring and have a few other events in mind to share with the community. We would dearly love to invite Purton and surrounding area toddler groups to Cedars once again. And now that our refurb is almost finished, I hope to visit groups to formally organise how we might develop regular a toddler group visit to Cedars in the new year.

Activities continue to be fun and varied!

On National Chocolate Day we had a Willy Wonka themed event. Our wonderful staff all dressed up as Oompa Loompas, making it great fun for residents, their families and staff alike. We also supported Pink Day, with residents rolling, cutting and decorating fairy cakes; followed by Children in Need, with staff working in their PJ's and many residents finding this highly entertaining! Alzheimer's Society Elf Day was marked with staff becoming Elves for the day! We had a relay of residents being escorted into our garden to feed two beautiful reindeer, Seven and Blitz. Residents were able to feed and touch them and some elected to experience a snow machine which just added to the magic of the day.

Chris Deriu, our fulltime activity co-ordinator, had a vision for events this year and her hard work has certainly paid off, she said, "The Elf/Reindeer day was a team effort, and

everyone helped to make it brilliant, we will certainly be booking the reindeer to visit us again next year. The joy on the faces of our residents as they engaged with the animals was priceless!" (GDPR means we are unable to picture residents but hopefully from these clips you can imagine their joy when engaged in these activities!)

Trips and outings



Outings are always hit and miss during autumn and winter and we have had to cancel or postpone things due to illness, transport issues and financial constraints. However, we do try and have a rotating ladies, and gentlemen's trip each month, which are always enjoyed by those who can go, and we are very grateful to the Purton and District Age Concern volunteers who help us. Also, a huge thank you to them for inviting us to the lovely Christmas party a few weeks ago at the Silver Threads Hall where several our residents had a great time. The Activities Team will be working on selecting trips and organising various themed events throughout 2019 and we hope to be able to involve the community more.

Thank you for your support during 2018, and on behalf of Cedars we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We continue to appeal for volunteers and organisation such as a local Choir, knitting groups or individuals who have some time to share, just contact: www.osjct.co.uk/volunteering/ or pop in and see us!

Our Full time Activities Coordinator is Christina Deriu EMAIL: C.Deriu@OSJCT.CO.UK or Jane Pitcher j.pitcher@osjct.co.uk, or pop in for further details. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Purton Historical Society



On 22 November the Society heard a fascinating talk by John Dymond, a local historian, entitled "Snap, the rise and fall of a downland community". Snap (Snape or Snappe) was a small village between Aldbourne and Ogbourne St George, occupied since Iron Age times, but always housed arable farm workers.

It was a complete village with its own church, chapel and school etc, until the introduction of sheep farming for the more profitable wool, which only needed a shepherd and a dog. The redundant workers slowly left for jobs elsewhere, some even emigrating abroad.

By the 1911 Census only 2 households were left and eventually in 1913 the last inhabitant 84 years old widow-Rachel Fisher- was moved to a nearby village where she complained it was "too quiet". Still a lovely area, look out for the remains of this deserted village when walking there. A closely-researched talk, enjoyed by all, followed by questions. Refreshments were enjoyed in the interval.

Jill Watts, teddington1940@gmail.com

Annual Christmas Social Evening

Friday 7 December 2018 at 7.30pm in Purton Silver Threads Hall

Almost 50 members and guests attended the Christmas Social Evening. The Silver Threads hall looked very festive – thank you to the people who decorated the hall and to Jan Walker for the lovely seasonal table decorations. There was musical entertainment by the 'Merrifolk', a quiz about Purton, a buffet supper and raffle. A happy and enjoyable occasion - a very suitable end to another successful year.

The New Year

Thursday 24 January 2019 at 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall – Dr Nick Humphris, Chedworth Roman Villa

The Villa was one of Britain's finest Romano-British villas with fine mosaics. It nestles in a wooded cwm overlooking the River Coln in the heart of the Cotswolds. The villa site was occupied in Iron Age times with the first villa being established early in the 2nd Century AD. It was developed in the 3rd Century and 4th Century into the magnificent villa we have the remains of today. Dr Humphris will tell us how the villa developed and things about the very rich owner's lifestyle, how he changed his mind in surprising ways and how his servants cleared up after one of his parties.

Thursday 28 February 2019 at 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall – Stephen Wells, The Life and Crimes of Jack the Ripper

Thursday 28 March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Purton Village Hall – AGM followed by Lincoln Cathedral – from Birth to Death and Beyond – Kate Maddison
New Members and visitors always welcome

Janet & Tony Neate, E mail: tjneate57@gmail.com, Telephone: 01793 770117

Purton Museum: Visit from St. Mary's School pupils

On a wet and windy Wednesday afternoon we were delighted to welcome 20 pupils in Years 5 and 6 from St Mary's School. They were accompanied by their teachers and teaching assistants. Marion Hobbs took one group into the library (the original plan was an outdoor session on local landmarks but the weather was too bad) and there she talked to the children about the Toll House, the mill stone next to the library, the engine in the village hall car park and the Remount Memorial. The other group remained in the museum to have a guided tour of the WWI exhibits taken by Liz Rushen. The children were fascinated by the x-ray showing shrapnel wounds especially when they realised that the young soldier concerned eventually had to have his arm amputated. They learnt about 'what a woman's role was during the war' and the dangers of working in an ammunitions factory and they had a fuller explanation about Purton's remount depot. They then learnt about what children their age would have been doing to help the war effort. Do you know why children had to collect acorns, conkers, blackberries and eggs during World War One? A well-informed group of children at St Mary's can give you the answer! One child, Caitlin Eastman, with the help of the rest of her group, had to find the four displays in which her great great grandfather was mentioned. The two groups then changed places.

Throughout their time at the museum the children were a credit to their teachers and parents. They asked relevant questions and were so interested in all that they saw or heard. As one boy said as he was leaving "I've learnt so much today".

Clive and Liz Rushen , E mail: cliverushen@btinternet.com, Telephone: 01793 770933

Museum: Winter Closure & Grand Re-Opening

After a very successful November, the World War I Project drew record numbers of visitors from near and far.

The Museum is now closed for the winter months. The Grand Re-opening will be on Saturday 6th April 2019 with new displays, one entitled 'Signs of Past Times' and we will be privileged to exhibit the late Mr Joe Ricketts Senior's (from Lydiard Millicent) extensive collection of artefacts from the early part of the last century entitled 'One Man's War'.

Proposed Spring Lecture 2019

The Society has discussed the possibility of organizing a short course of lectures in conjunction with the Worker Education Association.

It has been provisionally agreed that a 'free of charge taster lecture' will be held in March 2019. The proposed subject is Pevsner* Buildings of England and Purton Local Area.

*The Pevsner Architectural Guides are a series of guide books to the architecture of Great Britain and Ireland. Begun in the 1940s by the art historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the 46 volumes of the original Buildings of England series were published between 1951 and 1974.

The lecture should take place during the evening in the Silver Threads Hall. Attendees may be asked to make a small donation to cover the hire of the hall. The date and time of the lecture will be confirmed in the February magazine.

Mrs Marion Hobbs Tel: 01793 770185, email: roy.marion@btinternet.com

75 Years of Peace

During the year 2020 it will be 75 years since the 1939-45 war ended and it is felt that something should be done to commemorate the men from Purton and Lydiard who gave their lives so that we could have 75 years of peace and let's not forget their comrades who were able to come back home and enjoy the peace they had fought for.

The idea is to form a small committee to explore what can be done. The War Memorial and Village Centre would be the right place for anything commemorative as this was purchased for the village by the village to be a living memorial to those who lost their lives during the 1939-45 war and also to those who fought and came back, as well as providing a wonderful facility for us all to enjoy.

It has been decided to have an open meeting at the Red House Club on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 7.30pm. Any ideas that anyone would like to put forward would be appreciated or you could be more involved and serve on the committee which would obviously only be for a short period of time. Any enquiries please contact me on 770696.

Tony Price



Girls football team through to Regional Competition

Our Year 8 girls football team are through to the English Football League regional competition in Oxford!



Team: Alana Hunt, Nalani Hunt, Lauren Gratton, Phoebe Dean, Ella-Mae Hurst, Ciara Normington, Yumeka Oh and Faith Pound.

Year 8 student, Ciara Normington, the goalie, reports on the Swindon competition:

Tuesday 27 November saw the EFL Girls Cup at Dorcan Academy using their Astro turf pitches. We played our hardest through the

cold rain. We had the first match against Dorcan resulting in a draw, 1-1. We then played St John's which was also a draw of 0-0 but we came out stronger in our next match against Commonweal with a result of 3-0. Our final heat was against Nova, which was a harder game, but we got through to the semi-finals with a score of 3-1. Luckily, the rain had stopped for the semis and were up against St John's again. Our semi-final score was 4-0 so we were through to the finals. With our strongest team, we beat Dorcan in the finals with a score of 1-0.

All our team were very proud of ourselves with great tackles, passes, goals and saves. We all enjoyed the EFL tournament. We were all rewarded with certificates and are now through to the Regionals representing Swindon against many other schools in Oxford.

Awards Presentation Evening 2018

At the end of November we invited our 2018 Year 11 students to return to Bradon Forest for their Awards Presentation Evening. Mr Palmer, Head of Key Stage 4, was the compère for the evening with Mr Richard Boggis-Rolfe, Chair of the Athelstan Trust, the guest speaker. Richard talked to the students and parents/carers of the importance of life skills as well as gaining qualifications. All the students attending received their GCSE certificates. Achievement awards were also made. It was lovely to see the students again and to hear how they are getting on at college.



Musical entertainment at White Lodge

We were delighted to be invited to visit the White Lodge Care Home to entertain the residents with Christmas musical delights. Our choir sang, sometimes accompanied



by our ukulele band, and guitarist Aaron impressed everyone with his playing. Carwen and Aimie were very brave and sang a duet. The residents really enjoyed our visit and sang along with some of the songs.

World War I Poem Challenge

The English department took all of Year 8 out of the classroom and into the main hall for a World War I Challenge Seminar. They were focusing on the poem “Break of Day in the Trenches” by Isaac Rosenberg, a working class Jewish writer - very different to the public-school educated Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon.

Year 8 worked in teams to understand and evaluate the symbolism in Rosenberg’s poem and finally compared it to the much-more-famous “In Flanders Fields”.

The aim of this session was to take Year 8 out of their comfort zone and to challenge them. Overall, the feedback we had was very positive.

Break of Day in the Trenches

The darkness crumbles away.
It is the same old Druid Time as ever.
Only a live thing leaps my hand,
A queer sardonic rat,
As I pull the parapet’s poppy
To stick behind my ear.
Droll rat, they would shoot you if they knew
Your cosmopolitan sympathies.
Now you have touched this English hand
You will do the same to a German
Soon, no doubt, if it be your pleasure
To cross the sleeping green between.
It seems, odd thing, you grin as you pass
Strong eyes, fine limbs, haughty athletes,
Less chanced than you for life,
Bonds to the whims of murder,
Sprawled in the bowels of the earth,
The torn fields of France.
What do you see in our eyes
At the shrieking iron and flame
Hurled through still heavens?
What quaver—what heart aghast?
Poppies whose roots are in man’s veins
Drop, and are ever dropping,
But mine in my ear is safe
Just a little white with the dust.



Here are Purton Magazine HQ we're always looking for images of local places, people and events to go on our cover and we often rely on villagers sending these in to us. If you're out and about in the village with your camera and see something you think would be of interest, please send it to mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Please to use the highest resolution setting on your camera and think about the subject, framing and composition of the shot, and remember to shoot portrait rather than lanscape. We look forward to receiving your photos in 2019!

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Christmas Concert 2018

It was a sell out at this year's Christmas Concert at Bradon Forest. The appreciative audience enjoyed wonderful renditions from solo singing, the ukulele band and instrumental pieces. Audience member Mrs Watson said "I had a lovely evening. It was heart warming to see the students showcasing their wonderful talents to such a lively audience".



Supporting Children in Need 2018



Students held a non uniform day in school in aid of Children in Need. Staff dressed up too with the theme of Grease, which is to be our school musical production in 2019.

The Woman in Black review

On Thursday 15 November, the English faculty took fifty students to London to see The Woman in Black to prepare Year 9 for their January studies. The story follows the young lawyer, Arthur Kipps,

on his journey to the isolated Eel Marsh House to audit the affairs of the late Mrs Alice Drablow. At the funeral, Kipps sees the eponymous woman in black - and so the hauntings begin...

Students impressed and entertained their teachers with their excellent behaviour and their hilarious responses to the sinister appearance of the leading lady. Reactions varied from the comical to the bizarre. Plenty of students huddled together for reassurance, and one student, who shall remain forever anonymous, hid on the floor with his blazer over his head. Meanwhile another jumped so high his cup of sweets ended up in the row behind! Ms Paisey and Josh Keane had a birthday to remember. We hope to make the trip an annual event, teaming up next year with the Drama department to help the GCSE students complete their theatre review coursework.

Admissions Policy 2020/21

Applications for Year 7 Entry

The limit for admission into Year 7 in September 2020 is 269 (the published admission number).

Parents of Year 6 students should complete an online application with the local authority in which they live. Alternatively return a completed Local Authority Common Application Form (CAF) to the address indicated on the form from the

local authority in which you live by 31st October 2019.

All schools and local authorities in England are now part of a national and statutory coordinated admissions process which requires parents to use a Common Application Form (CAF).

NB: Under the statutory national Admissions Code parents can indicate three preferences of school on their form.

- Each preference will be looked at independently of the other; i.e. the system is now 'equal preference'.
- However, if a place at more than one of the three preferences is available, and where there could be two or more potential offers, the highest preference school place available will be the only offer.
- Any applicant refused a place has the right to an independent appeal.

Details of the appeals process are contained within the standard letter sent to unsuccessful applicants. Applications for Entry to Other Year Groups For admissions during 2020/21 - all applicants applying for a place at Bradon Forest School must complete an application form which should be returned directly to Wiltshire County Council and not the school. This applies to all applicants irrespective of where they live. A decision letter will be sent out by the local authority within twenty school days of receiving the application form and this will provide information, if appropriate, about the statutory right of appeal. Oversubscription Criteria If the school is oversubscribed - priority for admission will be given to students in the order stated below:

I. Vulnerable Children (including Looked after Children and previously Looked after Children). A Vulnerable child is: a 'Child in Public Care', is a 'looked after child' who is in the care of a local authority. (i.e. 'Looked after children' as defined in Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989 or children from families registered with the National Asylum Support Service, or children with particular educational needs where written evidence is available from Central SEN services to show that it would be detrimental to the child not to be admitted to the school.)

Siblings within the same family of present students

II. 'Sibling' in this context means full, half, step, foster or adoptive brothers and sisters living in the same family unit at the same address. Present student for

(i) Year 7 Entry 2020 means a student registered at the school at the start of the 2019/20 academic year.

(ii) For entry to other years the sibling must be registered on roll at the proposed start date.

III. Any students who live in the current designated areas of the following Wiltshire primary schools: Ashton Keynes Primary School; Lydiard Millicent Primary School; Ridgeway Farm Primary School, Purton, St Mary's Primary School, Purton; St

Sampson's Primary School, Cricklade. Designated area for primary schools as established by Wiltshire County Council. The housing developments at Moreton Bridge (also known as Moulden View) and the new development at Ridgeway Farm are both situated in Purton thus are in Wiltshire. Therefore, applicants from these addresses are in Category 3. Students also are eligible for free Wiltshire transport from these two areas.

All other students with priority being given to those students who live nearest to the school. Distances will be measured between the student's home address and the school, using distances supplied by the relevant Local Authority.

Within each of the criteria, priority will be given to medical cases if supported by evidence. 'Medical cases' in this context requires written support from a senior clinical medical officer and the child's general practitioner or a specialist showing that it would be detrimental to the child's health not to admit him/her. The medical condition must be of a long term and seriously disabling nature to qualify for recognition under this criterion. (It is the parents' responsibility to provide all the necessary medical documentation and to provide the reasoning why Bradon Forest School is more suitable than other options.)

Students with Education and Health Care Plans

All children whose Education, Health and Care Plan names Bradon Forest School must be admitted. The responsibility for allocating a secondary school place for a student with an Education and Health Care Plan lies with the Central SEN Services at Wiltshire Council. Parents should not apply online or complete the Common Application Form in these circumstances. A student's individual case manager can provide relevant information.

1 The home address given on the application form must be the address where the child resides for most of the week with his or her parent or carer. (Where a child has a joint address, then the address where the child tax credit is paid will be taken as the child's home address. Evidence will be required in this instance.)

2 'Distances supplied by the local authorities will be used and these will measure the straight-line distance using the home and school address. Those with the least distance will be given priority. Wiltshire Council: The distance is measured using Ordnance Survey eastings and northings. Swindon Borough Council: The distance is measured as a straight line from the centre point of the rooftop of the home address to the centre point of the rooftop of the school.

If two or more children with the same priority for admission live an indistinguishable distance from the school, but cannot all be admitted, then the available places will be decided by means of casting lots (random allocation).

Waiting Lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting

list will operate until the end of the academic year. This will be maintained by the school and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

Children of Multiple Birth

Children who are twins (or other children of multiple births e.g. triplets etc who are applying for places at the same time and who are living at the same address) will be admitted over the published admission number if necessary.

Admissions of children outside their normal age range

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. When such a request is made, the school will decide on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Purton Tennis Club



A new year, and a new tennis season! We are all looking forward to warmer, sunnier days, however, at Purton Tennis Club, weather depending, we play all year round. Our club coach, Ben Langley recently represented Wiltshire in the County Cup and had some great results. Wiltshire beat South Scotland and then Bedfordshire, but narrowly missed out to Oxfordshire in the promotion match.

Earlier in the year, Rachana Patel, Jo Adam, Angie Baldock and Glynn Stevens also represented the county and had good results (Rachana in particular, playing long singles matches in the heatwave!)

At Purton, Ben continues to coach adults and juniors of all ability, as well as running a weekly cardio session. Cardio is a fun way to get fit and at £5 per session, a great introduction to tennis.

In 2019 we are introducing a special 'family social membership'. For just £99 for the entire year, parents, with their children can have access to the courts at any time (subject to availability). Full details are on our web site or give Michelle Hay, our membership secretary, a call: 01793 771427. For cardio or coaching (group or private) email: benlangleyPTC@outlook.com Why not make 'Tennis' your New Year Resolution – pick up a racquet and give it a go!

Janet Saunders

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Traditionally our November meeting is a social event including an American Supper, where members bring a contribution to the food to be eaten. This year was no exception and, true to form, member's contributions resulted in a magnificent feast for us all to share.

However, before partaking of the mouth-watering array of goodies, we welcomed the Village Voices choir to entertain us with their fabulous arrangements of songs ranging from the ever popular Christian hymn 'Amazing Grace', written by clergyman John Newton in 1779, to 'Mr Blue Sky', made popular by the British pop group Electric Light Orchestra, (ELO), in 1977. For many of us this was our first introduction to the Village Voices choir. Highly rated by one and all on the night, their performance ended with a number of classic Christmas carols for us all to join in with.

Then it was time for members to tuck in to the delicious mix of Yuletide favourites and member's creations, allowing for several return visits to the table! This was a light-hearted end to our 2018 programme.

The new year begins with the AGM on 22 January at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. This is a brief affair and will be followed by a return visit from Mike Benson of the Swindon & District Beekeeping Association who will present a film 'The Life cycle of the Honey Bee', a follow up to his June 2018 talk 'More than Honey'.

The 2019 programme will feature a range of topics including topiary, creating a downland garden, heritage vegetables and seed saving techniques.

If you have an interest in gardening why not come along and join us. We are a friendly group of about 55 members meeting every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. Our annual subscription for 2019 will be £15. Visitors £3 per meeting. A very happy new year to one and all.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

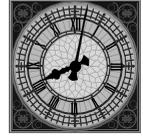
Purton Annual Flower Show-Arts-Craft-Produce

At our last meeting we finalised the date of our next Show. This will be on Saturday 31st August 2019. Our schedule will be updated at our next meeting on 27th February. We are always interested in any great or different ideas you may have.

After 19 years as Treasurer, Graham Price has decided to stand down, although he will continue as a Committee member. Over those 19 years we have donated £8,569.13 to the Royal British Legion - an amazing amount - and we are all extremely grateful for Graham's outstanding work over many years. Lindsey Hall will now take on the roll as Treasurer. This will be the third year of running The Group Challenge, and I will shortly be contacting previous Challengers to discuss ideas for this year. However please do get in touch if you have any original ideas. Here's to a prosperous 2019 growing season. For further info please contact me:

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

After 8



The November meeting of the After 8 group was well attended on a cold miserable winter's evening at Lorraine's house. Our two leaders were Sandra and Helen. Thank you for an informative and entertaining evening.

Our Topic was Thanksgiving and occurred two days before the actual event in America. It is celebrated on the 4th Thursday in November. However, the US is not the only place Thanksgiving is celebrated. Where else I hear you cry? Puerto Rico, Liberia, Grenada and most surprisingly of all Norfolk Island. Where? Norfolk Island is a former British penal colony and a current Australian Territory. (Think Mutiny on the Bounty!) Canadians also celebrate Thanksgiving but on a different day – the second Monday in October.

We had a quiz testing our knowledge of Thanksgiving facts and trivia. Surprisingly we all seemed to do quite well, with no obvious cheating.

Thanksgiving was originally a harvest festival instigated by the Pilgrim Fathers who went to the New World in search of religious freedom. Their ship, The Mayflower, landed in America in 1620. They celebrated their first harvest in 1621. Interestingly the 50 surviving Pilgrims celebrated with 90 indigenous Indians who had helped them plant crops and to survive that first very hard winter. It will also not surprise the female readers among you to know that the meal was prepared by a mere four women who had managed to survive the first winter. Following on from this there was no fixed date for Thanksgiving. Different States had different dates.

George Washington made a proclamation in 1789 that the country should have a day of "Repentance and Thanksgiving" on the last Thursday in November. This proclamation also coincided with the end of the War of Independence.

It was Franklin D Roosevelt who changed the date to the 4th Thursday in November as he saw that it would be better for business if there were more shopping days before Christmas if November were a five-week month.

Thanksgiving is a secular festival. Americans try and come home for Thanksgiving to celebrate with their families and it is a much bigger event than Christmas for them.

There are often parades in cities that are sponsored by large companies. For example, in Philadelphia in 1920 Gimbles sponsored the parade. Today Ikea sponsors it. The largest parade of all is Macey's in New York.

Food wise, Americans tuck into Turkey with 'all the trimmings'. Different regions and different cultures of America will utilise different ingredients for the side dishes. Pies figure on the menu - specifically pumpkin pie.

Charitably, the poor and homeless have always been provided with food to help 'celebrate' Thanksgiving. We celebrated with Eileen's Thanksgiving buns she had baked using a Mary Berry recipe!

Marion Andrews

The Great War Project

Part 66: Peace Treaties 1919-20

On 18 January 1919, the Paris Peace Conference was opened in the Great Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles. Symbolically, the date and location were significant: during the Siege of Paris in the Franco-Prussian War, the German princes had assembled in that same room to proclaim the Prussian King Wilhelm I as German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm I, on 18 January 1871.

Delegates from 27 nations assembled for the Conference although it was chiefly controlled by the Big Four major powers: France, Britain, Italy and the U.S.A. The fifth major power, Japan, only sent a former prime minister to the conference and so played a small role. The delegates were assigned to 52 Commissions which reported back to Conference on subject areas including the creation of a League of Nations, responsibility for the war, treatment of prisoners of war, international aviation and many others. The main conclusions were included in the Treaty of Versailles which also dealt specifically with Germany. Further treaties were created for the other defeated nations. The conference ended on 21 January 1920 when the inaugural meeting of the General Assembly of the League of Nations was held.

Treaty of Versailles (concerning Germany, signed 28 June 1919):

Territorial Changes:



Germany lost all territorial gains made under the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and the eastern European “protectorates” that Germany had established were given full independence. Moresnet and Eupen-Malmedy on the Belgian-German border were transferred to Belgium but with a plebiscite to determine the wishes of the people. The French coal industry had been mostly destroyed during the war, so Germany was to give the output of the Saarland coalmines to France in compensation for 15 years. During that period the League of Nations would control of the Saarland. A plebiscite would then decide sovereignty. Alsace and Lorraine, taken by Germany in the Franco-Prussian War, were returned to France. A plebiscite in Schleswig-Holstein would determine sovereignty between Germany and Denmark - Schleswig voted to join Denmark, Holstein for Germany.

Parts of Upper Silesia were ceded to Czechoslovakia and to Poland while a plebiscite would be held to determine the future of the rest of the province. Poland received control of the province of Posen (now Poznań) and Pomerelia (Eastern Pomerania) was transferred to Poland giving the new state access to the Baltic Sea. Danzig at the seaward end of this “Polish Corridor” became a Free City under the control of the League of Nations. A plebiscite was to be held in part of southern East Prussia while the Soldau area of East Prussia was transferred directly to Poland. Memel, between East Prussia and Lithuania was ceded to Lithuania.

Mandates:

Germany lost all its former colonies which became League of Nations mandates. Togoland and Kamerun (Cameroon) were transferred to French control. Ruanda and Urundi were controlled by Belgium, German South-West Africa (Namibia) by South Africa and German East Africa (renamed Tanganyika) by Britain. Portugal was given control of an area of German East Africa south of the Ruwuma River known as the Kionga Triangle (Quionga) which became part of Mozambique. German port concessions in Shandong, China, were passed to Japan, which was also given all German islands in the Pacific Ocean north of the equator. The German possessions south of the equator were granted to Australia, apart from German Samoa which was given to New Zealand.

Military Restrictions:

The treaty intended to make it impossible for Germany to take offensive action again so that other nations could disarm in safety. Germany was to hold a maximum army strength of 100,000 men and army organisation was controlled. The creation of paramilitary forces was forbidden under the treaty.

The Rhineland was demilitarised and all fortifications in the Rhineland were to be destroyed. To ensure compliance, the Rhineland was to be placed under Allied military occupation for a period of 15 years (to 1934). Germany was not to be allowed to take part in the arms trade. The German navy was only allowed six pre-dreadnought (i.e. old) battleships and six light cruisers, with tight limits on destroyers and torpedo boats, and an outright ban on submarines. Naval manpower

was limited to 15,000.

The German Navy's High Seas Fleet had been interned at Scapa Flow since November 1918, with the Peace Conference to decide the fate of the ships. On 21 June 1919, the German officer in command at Scapa Flow took it upon himself to order the scuttling of the fleet, since the negotiation period for the treaty had lapsed and he had not received notification of a one-week extension to the deadline. 53 ships, representing the majority of the fleet, were sunk.

Reparations:

Germany was forced to accept responsibility for losses and damages caused by her aggression and that of her allies. Germany was to compensate the Allied powers financially with the exact amount to be determined by a Reparations Commission. The subsequent 1921 London Schedule of Payments required Germany to pay 132 billion gold marks (then \$33 billion) in gold, commodities, ships or securities. In reality, the amount was 50 million Gold Marks in A and B bonds (then \$12.5 billion).

Gold marks may not mean much to you and they didn't to me. So here is a comparison. Just before the war, Germany was on the gold standard and 1 kilogram of pure gold was fixed at 2790 marks. During the war, Germany came off the gold standard and the Allies didn't want any of the reparations paid in paper marks, which might be subject to inflation ... no one was even thinking of the hyper-inflation that occurred later in the 1920s.

As I am writing this (10 August 2018), the BBC currency and commodity internet pages tell me that there are \$1.2784 to £1 and 1 troy ounce of gold is valued at \$1,216. Given that there are 32.15 troy ounces in a kilogram, that means 50 billion gold marks is worth:

$1216 / 1.2784 \times 32.15 / 2790 \times 50 \text{ billion} = \text{£}548 \text{ billion}$ in 2018 money. That is an enormous number but represents a compromise put forward by Britain and Belgium compared with a much higher figure that France and Italy wanted, and a much more lenient figure from the USA. As another comparison, in April 2018, the US gold holdings in Fort Knox had a book value of slightly over \$11 billion. Source: Status Report of U.S. Government Gold Reserve. Current Report: April 30, 2018.

As a further significance, the Treaty of Versailles was signed on the 5th anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on 20 June 1914.

Treaty of St-Germain-en-Laye (concerning Austria, signed 10 September 1919):

Austria was also to admit its war guilt. Huge amounts of imperial Austrian territories were redistributed, much in line with changes already made at local level in 1918. Bohemia and Moravia became the economic heart of the new Czechoslovakia. Galicia and Lodomeria, which had been annexed from Poland by Austria in 1772, were given back to the re-established Polish Republic. Austrian Silesia was divided between Poland and Czechoslovakia, even though this placed a large German-



speaking population in Bohemia and Sudetenland. Rumania received Bukovina.

The South Tyrol, predominantly German-speaking, and the Trentino were given to Italy. The Austrian coastal regions of Gorizia and Gradisca, the city of Trieste, the Istrian peninsula and several Adriatic islands of Dalmatia also became part of Italy. Mainland Dalmatia, Carniola and Lower Styria were given to the Yugoslav Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, together with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The German-speaking Burgenland was transferred from Hungary to Austria.

Politics & Military Considerations:

The treaty forbade Austria from “compromising its independence”, either directly or indirectly. This meant that Austria could not enter into political or economic union with Germany without League of Nations consent. It also meant they couldn’t use their chosen name, German-Austria, and had to change it back to simply ‘Austria’.

The Austrian Army was limited to a force of 30,000 volunteers with no conscription. The treaty covered many other political and economic issues that resulted from the break-up of the large empire, such as rail and river transport.

Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine (concerning Bulgaria, signed 27 November 1919):

Western Thrace was transferred to Greece, cutting off Bulgaria’s access to the Aegean Sea, and a population exchange was arranged between the two countries. Bulgaria also lost land on its western border with the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia), and was required to recognise that kingdom. Dobruja, occupied during the war, was returned to Rumania.

Bulgaria's army was limited to 20,000 men and the country was required to pay reparations of £100 million.

Treaty of Trianon (concerning Hungary, signed 4 June 1920):

As Hungary had already left the joint empire with Austria, its de facto borders at the start of the peace conference were defined temporarily as the cease-fire lines of November 1918. However, the Rumanian Army had already advanced beyond that line and the Allied powers required Hungary to acknowledge the new Rumanian territory gains. The Hungarian government was put in a position of being unwilling to accept the terms and of simultaneously being bound by the Conference constitution to accept them. The Hungarian leadership therefore resigned and power was seized by the Communist faction who set up a Soviet Republic and a Red Army.

The new Red Army moved into Slovakia and reached the new Polish border cutting off Czechoslovakia from any support from Rumania. A cease-fire was agreed on 1 July 1919 and the Hungarian Red Army began to leave Slovakia by 4 July. Hungary then attacked the Rumanian army at the River Tisza on 20 July but collapsed after only 5 days. The Rumanian army marched into the Hungarian capital, Budapest, on 4 August 1919.

The Hungarian government was restored to power by the Allies and their new delegation returned to the Paris Conference on 1 December 1919.

Slovakia was ceded to the new Czechoslovakia together with Ruthenia. The whole of Transylvania was ceded to Rumania and the Burgenland became part of Austria (see above). The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (KSCS) gained Medimurje and part of the Slovene March (now Prekmurje). Additionally, Vojvodina was ceded to Serbia.

The Ottoman Empire

The disposition of the ottoman empire was confused by another regional war which will be dealt with in part 69.

Rick Dixon

The book of this series, *Purton in the Great War*, is now available – price £15. If you would like to buy a copy, please contact Rick Dixon on 01793 759123 or email rickdixonmail@gmail.com. Profits will go to Combat Stress.

Sale of local arts and crafts at Pips

We are hoping to provide an outlet for local people to sell their small handmade art and craft items at Pips from the beginning of February 2019. If you are interested please come to the cafe at 10.30am on Wednesday 9th January to find out more.

*For more information please contact Marie Dempsey on 770826
or email marie.dempsey@live.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. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

The last days of Hitler by Hugh Trevor-Roper, 1885-1978, published 1947.

Before the war Trevor-Roper was a distinguished historian at Merton College, Oxford. During the war he served in the SIS (Special Intelligence Service), where he carried out very important work at Bletchley Park. How he came to write this book is best explained in his own words: "It is now fifty years since I was appointed by the late Sir Dick White, then the head of Counter Intelligence in the British zone of Germany, to find out, if possible, what happened to Hitler, who, by that time had been missing for over four months. That report completed my official duty afterwards, when I had been demobilised, Sir Dick White persuaded me to write this book, which was first published in 1947".

Imagine Berlin in 1945; bombed to the point of ruin and many of the people the author needed to interview dead, on the run as war criminals or in the hands of the Soviet Union. Representatives of the Soviet Union, from Stalin downwards, will lie and continually change their story. "In September the Russians carried their disbelief further: they accused the British of harbouring both Hitler and Eva Braun in their zone of Germany..."

I first read this book about the age of sixteen. History had long been an interest of mine but it was the first seriously academic volume I encountered. It was to teach me much. It was to introduce me to the lesser known Nazi leaders, particularly Martin Bormann, and increased my understanding of well-known Nazis such as Hitler, Goering and Himmler. The book was also my introduction to the serious study of the sources of historical evidence and how wary we must be of them: "Anyone who undertakes an inquiry like this is soon made aware of one important fact, the worthlessness of mere human testimony."

On entering college in my early thirties to take a History degree, *The Last Days of Hitler* stood me in good stead when it came to the study of historical sources and even more so in my final year when "Hitler's Germany" was a main part of the syllabus. It was even more important when I introduced a course on contemporary History when I was teaching at Bradon Forest School.

Is The last Days of Hitler worth reading today? In the words of a Guardian review (Sept. 2016) "It remains unsurpassed. It will help younger generations to understand recent history and the current world." Above all it is a good guide to what can happen when democracy declines and Fascism or Communism takes over.

Paul Booy

Purton Evening W.I.

As I write this in the run up to Christmas, I reflect on the last year and look forward to the next.



Our November meeting saw our Birthday - Happy birthday to us! We spent an evening creating baskets of flowers, ably lead by Royal Wootton Bassett Floral Art Society. Appropriately, for a birthday celebration, this was followed by cake!

We have had an array of speakers and discussions this year all of which have been interesting and thought-provoking. We have journeyed to the weakest link, learnt ballet, reminisced about our favourite childhood books, heard how one family went back in time and lived on war-time rations and learnt about Italian fashion, to name but a few.

Every year we have resolutions to discuss; this year was Mental Health Matters, - Oh boy does it ever! I have experienced this first hand over the last year. Our mental health really does affect our physical health. They say volunteering, studying, exercise and finding time for ourselves all have a positive effect on our mental health. I have done many of these things this year to help boost my mental health. The latest was volunteering at Swindon Gang Show - laughing and joking has really boosted my endorphins. So why not give your mental health a boot and start the new year by giving yourself one Wednesday evening a month and visit us for fun and friendship. You might just learn something interesting along the way you never know. Our January meeting is all about healthy backs.

The WI - inspiring women for over 100 years. Our contact details as ever, are Barbara on 01793 770818 or Janet on 01793 772146

Lynn Mayneord

Join our team!

Almost 850 copies of *Purton Magazine* are delivered to our readers every month by our team of volunteer distributors. We aim to deliver the magazines on or before the 1st of the month of publication. However, very occasionally that target slips by a day or two, perhaps through the absence or illness of a distributor. The magazine committee apologise for any late deliveries experienced. However, if you would like to join our team of volunteer distributors, either on a regular monthly basis or just on an emergency contingency basis, please contact Sandra Horsnall on 01793 770157 or distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk to offer your services. The maximum commitment would be an hour or two a month and would be a really helpful contribution to the service we provide to our neighbours in the village.

Council to light up Wiltshire with modern technology

Annual savings of more than £1m a year are expected as Wiltshire Council agrees to invest in low-energy street lighting.

The council is responsible for almost 45,000 lights on its highways. But with energy costs rising sharply it is investing more than £12m to replace older lamps with Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting. Unlike older lights, LED can be dimmed to save energy.

The intention is to dim the lights from 8pm to 6am. That will cut energy consumption by 69% while keeping roads as safe as possible.

Subject to the proposals being approved by Full Council, procurement will get underway, with the two-year installation planned for 2019/20.

The council has also agreed to consider converting non-highway lighting to LED, including public open spaces, car parks and housing estates, subject to suitability and cost.

Wiltshire Council cabinet member for highways, Bridget Wayman, said: “*Now is the right time to convert our ageing streetlights to modern, flexible LED technology. It’s a significant investment but in the long term it will make vital savings and give us a much more reliable system. As well as the financial benefits, it will also significantly reduce our carbon footprint.*”

The decision was agreed at Wiltshire Council’s cabinet meeting on 11 December.



Our village magazine is distributed to households and local retailers within Purton and surrounding communities. To promote your business in a display advertisement please email:

advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk

or call 01793 772954. Community and not-for-profit organisations can publicise their events free of charge.

2019 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 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**

If you would like to become a Purton Magazine subscriber, please contact Sandra Horsnall, distribution co-ordinator, tel: 01793 770157 or email: **distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk**

Purton Placard

PURTON SILVER THREADS

Jumble Sale

Saturday 2 February, 2.00pm
at the Silver Threads Hall

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 19 January at Purton Village Hall.
Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £20 and
include a three-course meal. For tickets
contact Jenny Barnes 770339

Jumble Sale

Saturday 9 February, 2.00pm
at Purton Village Hall. Bargains galore!

PURTON EVENING WI
**Cheese, Port and
Quiz Evening**

Wednesday 14 February
With 'Legendary Len' as
our quizmaster. Look out
for further information
in the new year or email:
purtoneveningwi@hotmail.com

HOUSE GUEST



A thriller by
FRANCIS DURBRIDGE

SWINDON
ARTS CENTRE

7.30pm

Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th January 2019

TICKETS: £12.00 £10.00

GROUP BOOKINGS: 1 free for every 10 booked.

TICKETS AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE: 07517 698083

Or e-mail bookings@phoenix-players.com

For payment by credit/debit card please go to
www.swindontheatres.co.uk

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QUIZ NIGHT RETURNS!

PURTON VILLAGE HALL, FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

7.30PM START (DOORS OPEN 7PM)

£2 PER PERSON UP TO 6 IN A TEAM

BEN AND SAMANTHA'S WORLD CHALLENGE

TO TANZANIA

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

Purton and District Probus Club



On 13 November, Bill King, an accomplished Speaker, who previously covered the role of the US 9th Airforce, both during the Normandy Landings and in supporting the Allied advance, gave us an illustrated talk entitled "Yesterday's Runways", taking in the airfields of both World War I & World War II, in particular those of the Cotswolds, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire.

Aeroplanes were in their infancy before 1914. John Moore Brabazon, in 1908, had only managed to fly for one minute in the French Voisin Biplane. Sir George White's Boxkite, developed and built at Filton, Bristol, proved its worth in 1910, with a reconnaissance flight over Army manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain. In 1912, the Bristol BE2, initially a reconnaissance biplane, was developed. In 1914 this aircraft, due to the war, became a two-seater, armed fighter with a Lewis gun fitted.

In the same year as the birth of the BE2 (1912), the Royal Flying Corps Central Flying School was set up at Upavon, with, a little later, a Military Wing at Larkhill. A V Roe, De Havilland, Vickers and Sopwith were all active developing and producing aircraft. At the start of World War I, about a dozen airfields were established in this area including Hullavington, Kemble and Yatesbury. Filton and Farnborough, the home of the Royal Aircraft Factory, were already operational and Boscombe Down followed in 1917. The Royal Air Force came into being on 1st April 1918 by an amalgamation of the RFC and the Royal Naval Air Service. Airforce Blue was chosen for the uniform and adopted in many other countries. To begin with there were approximately sixty aeroplanes in service, but at the end of World War I, 23,000 had been built.

In 1935, with war threatening yet again, the RAF was scaled up. Eventually 600 airfields would be needed. Bomber Command airfields evolved in East Anglia, dictated by endurance and range. Airfields for fighter aircraft were set up a little further inland, allowing time to reach altitudes that were most effective to neutralise enemy bomber formations. Our area was host to airfields for maintenance, recovery, staging and supplies to the front line. The Battle of Britain was fought by fighters operating from South East England and along the South Coast. Down Ampney played a big part in the D Day Invasion, Arnhem, and the Rhine Crossings. A memorial records Paratroopers of the 1st, 3rd and 6th Divisions setting off in Dakotas and Horsa Gliders to create spearheads and join up with ground troops. Bill told of one particularly brave encounter at the height of the Battle of Britain, by Sgt Pilot Bruce Hancock (26 years old), practicing night flying from Windrush Airfield, near Burford. Two Heinkel bombers had penetrated a Radar blind spot at Lyme Regis intent on bombing airfields. One of the German bombers trained its seven machine guns on the unarmed trainer. Sgt Hancock's only defence was to ram the under-belly of the Heinkel. Both aircraft fell from the sky in flames with no survivors. A stone plaque on a wall in Church Lane, Windrush, commemorates Sgt Hancock's sacrifice. Bill gave us a very detailed history of the surprising number of

airfields in The Cotswolds, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and advised us to look out for the war memorials.

Our meeting on the 27 November was honoured by another visit by Linda Dowsett, from Trowbridge, whose public speaking raises money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Linda's first talk concerned her spat with Anne Robinson and The Weakest Link. The talk this time was "Love on the Nile", but perhaps it should have been "Comedy on the Nile", for this great granny is a full-of-fun storyteller. On the first anniversary of her husband Gordon's passing, she flew to Luxor for a solo holiday, visiting the great temples and monuments of the Nile between Luxor and Abu Simbel, on Lake Nasser.

Linda's first mistake was overweight luggage, but when she explained that 4kg of this was sweets for the poor Egyptian children, the airport staff compromised and only charged her for half of the overweight. At the carousel in Luxor a man stepped forward and grabbed her suitcase. Her alarm subsided only when he took her to a trolley and held his hand out. Linda regretted taking all her money in Egyptian currency because, when it came to paying for extra excursions, some friends that she met on the plane made considerable saving by paying in British pounds. The Guide explained that the exchange rate was fluctuating all the time!! When exploring tombs in the Valley of the Kings, a turbaned gent invited her to follow him beyond a barrier that stated "No tourists beyond this point". Linda followed and, engrossed by the frescoes and images, suddenly realised that she and the Guide were the only two people this deep in the chambers. Fortunately, he too, only wanted payment in cash.

Linda's Tour covered all the most magnificent temples and monuments of this, the upper part of the Egyptian Nile, and even the house of Howard Carter, the archaeologist who discovered the treasures in the tomb of Tutan Khamun, was pointed out to her group. Her excitement and enthusiasm shone through at each location with humorous stories of sculptures of queens on birthing stools, the worship of crocodiles and haggling with pedlars and tradesmen, including having to yell "stop thief", which echoed up the valley, but resulted in the recovery of her money. At the Kharga Oasis, (5 Hours by coach from Luxor), the lavatory attendant doled out bog-roll one sheet at a time!! Even when sailing, midstream in a felucca, enterprising lads came alongside offering fruit and souvenirs.

With this talk, like the first, Linda gave us an entertaining address, and up to last year, she has raised £27,200 – enough to finance the training of five or six Guide Dogs.

The Purton Probus club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am in The Red House lounge. Programme for January 2019: 8th: A school boy in the 30's, 22nd: Nelson's Navy.

Bob Stevens

Jane strides in to apply for the 2019 Mad March Hare

No sooner had registration for the 2019 Mad March Hare opened in November when Rainbow Guider, Jane McDougall, leapt in to become the first entrant.



The 52 year old mother of three took part in the 2018 event, spurred on by the involvement of her Slimming World Group.

Jane has lost 4 stone with Slimming World and started running in November 2017. She and completed her first Mad March Hare 5k in 2018 but has challenged herself this year by signing up for the 10k and plans to run the event with friends from the Liden and Swindon East Slimming World group, who are calling themselves the 'Slimming World Striders'.



Jane said 'I had a couple of injuries in the summer which kept me from running but now I am fit again and was looking for an event during the start of 2019. I really enjoyed the event last year, particularly the community feel so it seemed ideal. I searched the event and registration was open so I decided to register. I am happy to have an event to work towards and it's also for a great cause. I would recommend the Mad March Hare event to anyone as it's a great friendly event. Our group has people of all abilities, some started in September 2017 but others have joined more recently. We are all very supportive of each other and I am hoping a number of them will join me in signing up for the Mad March Hare again this year.'

The 12th Mad March Hare event will take place on Sunday 24th March 2019 starting and finishing at Lydiard Park Academy. The 5km or 10km routes will take walkers, joggers and runners around a circular route of West Swindon and the popular Lydiard Park.

To take part or volunteer at the event please log on to www.madmarchhare.org.uk/, email at info@madmarchhare.org.uk or call 0845 6808064.

Follow us on Twitter @MadMarchHareSWN or Facebook: www.facebook.com/madmarchhareswindonbreakthroughbreastcancer

Prospect Hospice

Remembering someone you love

Prospect Hospice have launched a new outdoor Memory Tree, situated within their private Remembrance Garden in Wroughton. Each copper or stainless steel leaf hanging on the new Memory Tree will be engraved with a name, making it a poignant and lasting way to remember loved ones.

The Memory Tree leaves are available to anyone who would like to create that special lasting tribute to their loved one, even if you have not previously been directly involved with Prospect Hospice.

The contribution you make for your leaf will help Prospect Hospice to support and care for people affected by a life limiting illness, in the local community.

To find out more about the Memory Tree and how you can order a leaf please contact 01793 816111 or email dataadmin@prospect-hospice.net.

Prospect Spring Run

Sunday 17th March 9.30am – Stanton Park, registration: £15, suggested sponsorship: £100

This challenging, multi-terrain run will give you something to get stuck into early in the running season. Our brand new 10km and 5km routes will cover woodland, farmland and rough track, a great event for regular runners, those looking to up their distance or try off-road running.

Could you become one of our box collectors?

We are currently looking for volunteers to become box collectors in the Covingham, Brinkworth, Wootton Bassett, Lydiard, Old Town and Penhill areas. Our collectors are an important part of our volunteering team, collecting household boxes within their neighbourhoods. Household boxes are an easy way for people in our community to donate to the hospice, and box collectors enable us to continue to raise funds in this way. If you are able to help, or would like some more information on this role, please contact Alex on 01793 816163, or email alexandracooper@prospect-hospice.net.



Hollie Ricketts, Community Fundraiser