

Purton. Magazine

January 2018



Purton from the air, November 2017 taken by a drone
flown from Purton Cricket field by Matt Bather.

50p

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704		
Doctor	Purton Sugery	770207		
Dental Sugery	Church Street	770532		
	Philip Cooke	771022		
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505		
Library	Librarians	770870		
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>				
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331		
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>				
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, bethaney23@icloud.com			
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999		
Police	Non-emergency	101		
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558		
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862		
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066		
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431		
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)				
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:	Jane Smith:		
	770157	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.</i> Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship				
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT			
Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett				
www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk				
Parish Priest:	Tel: 852366			
Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues				
Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell	Tel: 325681			
<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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www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

**Purton.
Magazine**

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**InTouch
Design & Print**

From the Editors

As usual, this issue of Purton Magazine chronicles the happenings in and around Purton in current times as well as in years past. Readers will also find that times are a-changing within all these pages.

Many of you will know that Heather Ponting-Bather took over the design and print responsibilities for Purton Magazine from Rick Dixon earlier in 2017. Most of you may not have known that, on her way to her Graphic Design degree, Heather's thesis was written on the evolution of sans serif type designs in the 20th Century. On page 27 you will find a persuasive explanation of why graphic design is at the cutting edge of visual communications in today's society.

Visual acumen clearly runs in the family because Heather's husband Matt took the fascinating aerial photograph of Purton that is our front cover illustration this month. The north westerly view is bathed in warm autumnal sunshine and shows St. Mary's church with the scaffolding over the chancel roof. Now we learn on page 59 that after six months of hard but fruitful work, the repairs have now been completed ensuring that there is a sound and watertight structure for many years to come.

Also looking forward, a local version of Wind in the Willows by the much more enticing title "A Toad in a Hole" will be performed by the Purton Amateur Dramatic Society early in February with ticket outlets listed on page 46.

Although Purton Museum is closed until early April 2018, much work continues behind the scenes. As part of the South West Museum programme for WWI commemorations, our museum is one of six taking part and help from magazine readers is needed to create a grand display of associated artefacts – see page 48 for more information.

Then on page 54 we have part 54 of Rick Dixon's excellent Great War project, detailing events exactly 100 years ago in that "war to end all wars". However, it is with considerable sadness and much concern that, at the time of writing, Rick is still in hospital while he and Helen are supposed to be on holiday in Madeira. Especially as both Helen and Rick were, until very recently, key members of the Magazine Committee, we imagine that readers will also be sending very best wishes for a speedy recovery, leading to a happy – and soon healthy – New Year, as we do for all our readers.

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Parish Councillor
vacancies are still
available – see page 6

985

£10 vouchers distributed
by Purton & District Age
Concern – see page 14

£9326.91

sent to the Royal British
Legion from Purton and
District – see page 40

Purton Parish Council News



CCTV Installation

Due to vandalism and anti social behaviour the Council took the steps to raise funds through the RWB Area Board Grant scheme and we are pleased to announce that our successful application has allowed us to install CCTV and ANPR cameras at the Village Centre. A reassurance for all our user and clubs and further protection of the facilities.

Councillor Vacancies

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

Councillors 2017-18

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

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

Become a Dementia Friend Sessions for 2018: Wednesday 10 January at 10am and 7pm, Tuesday 13 February at 10am and 4pm and Friday 23 March at 2pm and 7pm. A 45-minute session that will change your views and understanding in a positive way. Make Purton Proud. Make Purton Dementia Friendly. Held at Purton Village Hall, Station Road, Purton.

Councillor Surgery

Thank you to those who attended the Councillor Surgery held on Saturday 2nd December. The issues raised will be addressed through the various bodies. We aim to set new dates in 2018 and welcome anyone who needs support, help or advise or wishes to join the Council.

Footpaths

What better way to remember a loved one than donating a gate in their memory

for inclusion in one of the many designated footpaths around the village. For more information contact the Parish Council offices, or email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

January Meetings 2018

Parish Council Meeting	Monday 8 January 2018 @ 7pm
Planning meeting	Monday 15 January 2018 @ 7pm
Informal Rights of Way	Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 10am
Charities Finance meeting	Monday 22 January 2018 @ 7pm
Recreation Meeting	Wednesday 24 January 2018 @ 7pm
Institute and Village Hall Charity	Monday 29 January 2018 @ 7pm

St Mary's Churchyard

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

Good Will Required - Churchyard Volunteers

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

Cemetery Memorial Testing

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

Planning – Approved with conditions

- 17/08736/FUL Weathercock Stables, Stoke Common Lane. Purton Stoke. Construction of sand school on equestrian land for private use.
- 17/08076/FUL Hayes Knoll Farmhouse, Hayes Knoll. Purton Stoke. Demolition of farmhouse, garage, open dutch barn and lean-to and erection of replacement farmhouse and garage.
- 17/02356/FUL Ridgeway Farm, Common Platt. Purton. Proposed bat roost chamber.
- 17/09627/FUL 9 Ringsbury Close. Purton. Extension and alterations.
- 17/09648/FUL Co-operative Food, Harford House. 1 Station Road. Purton. Installation of external plant to rear of existing building..
- Appeal Land at Pavenhill appeal has been rearranged to 17th March 2018.

Charities

The Institute Building and Village Hall Charity will be carrying out a replacement roof repair to the Foyer/Kitchen area of the Village Hall building in the coming months. We have set up a “GIVEASYOULIVE” site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and lets raise some pennies. www.giveasyoulive.com

Community Speed Watch

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

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

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

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

How to contact the Parish Council

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

We Record ...



Wedding at St Mary's Church

18 November 2017 Jonathan Oliver Hedley Pullar and Ruth Elizabeth Tweedie-Smith

Thanksgiving for the gift of a child at St Mary's Church

19 November 2017 Eoghan Francis Townsend

In Memoriam

27 December 1992 Denis John Wood: aged 68, passed away. Loving thoughts of a wonderful Husband, I am proud was mine. I still miss you. Your devoted wife Barbara

1 January 1918 William Jordan, 1st Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry, killed in action at Villers Plouich, near Ypres. He is buried in Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery, British extension, France.

10 January 1918 Herbert Fisher, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died of consumption (tuberculosis) at Hameln camp, aged 24, as Prisoner of War captured at 1st Battle of Ypres, 24 October 1914. He is buried in Niederzwehren Cemetery, Hessen, Germany and remembered on the Purton War Memorial and Memorials in St Mary's Church.

31 January 1918 Herbert Ernest Martin, RN, killed in action in naval accident, Firth of Forth, Scotland. Herbert is remembered on a memorial in St Margaret Pattens Church, London, and on the Purton War Memorial and Memorials in St Mary's Church.

Purton Guide Dogs

We had our 'Meet and Greet' with our sponsored puppy in the Silver Threads Hall on the 1st of December, unfortunately due to it having to be in the middle of the afternoon not many people were able to come.

'Purdie' was certainly quite a lively puppy, and enjoyed a few romps with Alan Fletcher's Guide Dog 'Nutmeg'. But her Puppy Walker had no problem in getting her to sit for us to take some photographs, and we were able to give her some fuss and attention. Our thanks go to the Puppy Walker and Alan for being able to arrange the visit, and to all our wonderful supporters who enabled us to raise the £5000, and my thanks to the ladies of the committee and their friends for all their hard work.

We would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Brian Davies, for the Purton Guide Dogs Support Group.

Purton & District Age Concern



I must begin this month by thanking everyone involved with our Christmas activities starting with Robert Cook who kindly printed our Christmas vouchers again this year (I hope you have treated yourself with a little extra this Christmas courtesy of Age Concern.) and thank you to the street wardens who delivered the vouchers and newsletters, your support is much appreciated. At the time of writing 958 x £10 vouchers have been distributed this year. I must apologise for forgetting to mention in last month's magazine that Jane Farr has taken over as street warden for Jubilee Close. Jane is already our street warden in Vasterne Close and was happy to add Jubilee Estate to her 'patch'. Thanks Jane, your support is much appreciated.

I would like to thank Carole and Steve Griffiths at Artworking for printing our 2018 calendars, Christmas cards and the door stickers we gave out with our Christmas vouchers. They have provided a very efficient service to us in recent months.

Thanks also go to everyone who helped at both our Christmas parties. Maria and her team of helpers for providing the delicious food, Sarah and her team for decorating the halls and the tables so beautifully and to everyone who served the food. Special thanks to the youngsters who helped with preparing and serving food. Thanks to Paul on his ukulele and Tony M for providing entertainment at our parties. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves again this year, people were dancing the night away in the Village Hall. We've had wonderful feedback about the parties, it's lovely for us to know people have had a good time and appreciate the hard work we put into organising our events. 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. I must also mention Hazel Woodbridge, Vic Patterson, Sandra Horsnall, Ian Smith, Sarah Entwistle and Mary Smith from our Minibus Service. They made sure everyone requiring transport was able to attend our parties. Hazel had 19 people booked onto the minibuses for the Village hall party, so quite a bit of organisation was needed to make sure everyone arrived on time. Thank you to all involved for giving up their time to help others enjoy the festivities.

Also, thank you to all who donated cakes, bric-a-brac, books and festive items including the mistletoe and holly for our Christmas market on Saturday 9th 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 braved the cold weather and came along to support us.

A HUGE thank you goes to everyone who donated so many lovely raffle prizes and sold or purchased tickets for our Christmas raffle. Special thanks to the local businesses who sold our calendars, including Andrew Hiscock, Val & Jodie the hairdressers, the Red House and Shear Success. We are also grateful to the Red House for agreeing to host our carol singing on Christmas Eve at relatively short

notice. PLEASE NOTE our carol singing this year will be at the Red House at 7pm, NOT outside the Institute Building.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has made a financial donation to Purton Age Concern during the festive period and throughout 2017. We are extremely grateful for all the financial donations we receive and for all the support we get from local people. We wouldn't be so successful without your support - THANK YOU. That brings me onto the minibus fundraising appeal, which is going very well. We are very grateful to every individual, group, club or business that have donated to our appeal. Every pound we receive is much appreciated and gets us closer to purchasing the new vehicle, so thank you all very much.

Sadly I must report the death of Joe Ricketts. Joe's funeral took place on Thursday 21st December at Lydiard Church. Joe was a driver for our minibus service for many years, during this time he was also the minibus secretary for a number of years. Joe will be missed by many of us in Age Concern. Please read Tony's tribute to Joe on page 19.

Future Events

Burns Night Celebration – This will take place on Saturday 20th January 2018 at the Village Hall, doors open at 6.30pm. The evening includes a three course meal, a piper to pipe in the haggis, dancing with a live band & caller and drinks available at the bar. The cost is £20 per person and tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. By the time you read this tickets may be sold out!

Jumble Sale – Our next jumble sale will be on Saturday 3rd 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 a buy a bargain!

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

Friday 19 January – minibus to Malmesbury (market Day) Pick up from 9am return via Waitrose. Cost £4

Friday 26 January – minibus to Cirencester You can also be dropped off and picked up from Dobbies Garden Centre. Pick up from 9am. Cost £3

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

Minibuses – Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 if you would like to book

the minibus. If you are thinking of volunteering as a driver or “shotgun” (driver’s assistant) on the minibuses please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at andywhitepacmb@gmail.com New volunteers are always welcome.

Tai Chi – We hold gentle Tai chi exercise classes at 2pm on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall. The classes will resume on Thursday 4th January 2018. The New Year is a great time to start exercising so if you would like more information about the Tai chi classes please contact Louise on 772558.

Fitsteps FAB Dance Class – If you like Ballroom and Latin dancing why not try the Fitsteps dance class held on Fridays from 4.30-5.30pm in the Village Hall, a dance partner is not required. The classes are a mix of ballroom steps and up tempo Latin dances and are suitable for people who love to dance and want to keep fit. The classes are open to adults of all ages and cost £5. For more information please contact Joanne Edwards on 01793 325341.

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 12 January 2018 and costs just 50p for tea/coffee/biscuits. Transport is available, to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Wishing you all a Peaceful New Year.

Louise Tidman

The Prospect 10K is back for 2018 and it's moving!

A new year brings a new venue and route for the Prospect 10k which is being held at Stanton Country Park on Sunday 18 February 2018! This challenging winter run is truly multi-terrain taking you across meadows and through woodland and, as ever, featuring plenty of mud.

You can register today by visiting www.prospect-hospice.net/10k or if you would like further information then please call the Fundraising Team today on 01793 816161.

The Feel Good-a-thon!

Start the new year with a fresh challenge to make you feel good!!

If you’re thinking of trying something new, want to give something up or just want to spend some quality time with friends and family, Prospect Hospice wants to hear from you. Our Feel Good-a-thon is our annual fundraiser to encourage people to do something that makes them feel good, and raise some money to help our patients feel as good as they can.

There are so many different ways you can get involved, if you wish to take on a Feel Good-a-thon challenge this January or would like more information then please contact us on fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net or call us on 01793 816161. Many thanks again for all of your support.

Obituary of Mr. Joe Ricketts

Have you ever felt strongly about something you wanted to do well – that is how I felt about writing a small tribute to Joe Ricketts, a friend of mine also a friend to many. If the world was made up of people like Joe it would be a marvellous place. We were so lucky to have Joe involved with Purton and District Age Concern minibuses.

Joe was born at Park Lane Lydiard and he had three sisters Phyllis, Joyce and Joan and a brother Ron, so you can see that it was quite a large family. Joe himself had three children – Heather, Neil and David and then there were five grandchildren. He lived in the Beeches all his married life, helping anyone he could as he was that sort of person.

From what I know he has always been involved in Lydiard life even from an early age – like the pantomimes he used to be in when he was young. I think they had their own concert party as they managed to get hold of an old loud speaker system and used to put on their shows in the back yard, finishing very professionally by saying ‘That’s all for tonight folks, goodnight!’ A bedroom window opened next door and Frank Gray shouted out ‘Thank goodness for that, I can go to sleep now’. I wonder if John Redford, Stan and Bunny Dash were his friends then – I think one of the pantomimes was Jack and the bean stalk and didn’t Mrs. Titcombe of Hook Street play the piano?

Like most of us at the time Joe did his National Service. I know he served abroad but I don’t know where and I wonder if he was in the Army Catering Corps with his knowledge of baking. He worked for our local baker – Godwins at Purton – perhaps along with the likes of Frank Strange and Bert Newman. Frank Strange worked there as well and I know Joe taught him to drive. When Godwins closed he went on to work for Wises and I have a feeling that then he worked for Hales. What I do know is that he was the finest lardy maker. If you have never tasted one of Joe’s lardies you don’t know what you have missed (not much good if you were on a diet!) He would often make a couple to sell at fundraising events and in fact he did this a few weeks ago for a MacMillan coffee morning that was held in Lydiard Parish Hall. I know a lady who bought one of those lardies, cut it in slices and put it in the freezer. She was a life long friend of Joe and I expect she is reluctant to eat it as she knows there will never be another piece like it.

Joe had so much involvement with Lydiard Millicent Church – I don’t know whether he was official verger at the Church or not but, if he wasn’t, with all the things Joe did I wouldn’t think they needed one. He was Church Warden, wound the clock and looked after it, locked and unlocked the Church for 40 years, was bell tower captain and, of course, sang in the choir. Joe’s singing was a pleasure to hear – you always knew when Joe was in the congregation at a funeral because you could hear his beautiful voice – and he also sang in the Swindon Male Voice Choir. Joe also provided the Christmas tree for the Church and nobody knew where it came

from. Then there was his commitment to Lydiard Parish Hall – Joe and his late wife Janet cleaned the hall and he was also on the committee and was booking clerk for several years.

Joe was the type of person who liked to be busy and involved and when Janet died he knew he would be on his own a lot and rather than sit at home with his thoughts he decided that he would like to benefit some cause or organisation, hence he volunteered to be a driver on Purton and District Age Concern's minibuses. I'm not sure if that was anything to do with my brother Godfrey being secretary of the Male Voice Choir and also secretary and co-ordinator of our minibuses, but one thing I do know is what a great asset he has been to our organisation. When my brother died suddenly, Joe along with that great friend of his John Blackwell, held it all together with Joe taking on the secretarial side. It was a lot of work, bearing in mind that we did a lot of Wilts Council Day Care work, which meant a lot of form filling.

One of Joe's regular duties was driving on a Wednesday for Lydiard Lunch Club. Could I add here our thanks to them for their generous donation towards our new bus. I know John Blackwell thought very highly of Joe as he always said if he was stuck for a driver Joe would always slot in at the last minute and he was very kind and thoughtful to the people he transported

I don't know whether Joe was a creature of habit or not but one of his regular habits was a trip to the Sun Inn on a Friday night for a game of dominoes, which is something you don't see very often now. He was also a bit of a traditionalist and liked to go into Swindon on a Sunday night for a Church service at the Church known as the GWR Church, which is St. Marks by the park. I can imagine a smile of satisfaction appearing on the congregations' faces when Joe walked in as they knew they were in for good singing.

With Joe you always knew where you stood – he called a spade a spade and you could trust his word absolutely. Someone once said to me that Joe is a good friend but a bad enemy but I haven't found any enemies. People just say how kind and helpful he was. He was a good Christian, someone we would all like to be like (and just think of all those lardies!)

Thank you Joe for everything you have done for so many. Your life was certainly not wasted but most importantly thank you for being you. I would also like to thank the family for donations in lieu of flowers going towards our new minibus appeal.

Obituary of Mrs. Kate Collier

A lady who has been very kind to Purton Age Concern has sadly passed away. Her name is Kate Collier who, along with husband Fred, was host at the Angel for 22 years - they came there in 1964. Kate was Irish and came over to England in 1959. She was the daughter of a farming family and was born in 1929 just outside Athlone, Southern Ireland. She met husband Fred at Garrards where they both worked. They

married and lived in York Road – in fact they were married for 60 years. After leaving the Angel they lived at Dogridge before moving to Hooks Hill. Husband Fred died some years ago and Kate still carried on in Hooks Hill but became poorly and had to have her leg amputated. She had to move into a nursing home at Wootton Bassett where she was well cared for with friends visiting.

Fred, Kate's husband, was a keen bowler and played for Garrards at Shrivenham Road in Swindon where they had their own facilities. In fact, it was quite a complex with a football stand, tennis courts and, of course, a bowling green with a club house. Is this where Kate had a taste of bar work as she used to serve there and help with teas? She loved watching bowls but was never interested in playing.

What about the time when Fred and Kate went on holiday – Pierce Bolger used to look after the Angel for them and one night Pierce hid the weekly takings upstairs hoping they would be safe. On arrival in the morning he opened up and went to get the money and what he found was a load of chewed up notes. Kate and Fred had an Alsatian dog who must have got a bit bored with no company and had done a good job – the notes were beyond recall. Is that why Fred never went on holiday again? Pierce was Kate's nephew - he used to run the Red House with his wife Ruth. Pierce went to live with Fred and Kate in York Road when he was 23. The first thing he had to do was to learn to play bowls and at 23 was the youngest player in the league.

Of course, the dance hall at the Angel was used quite a bit for various functions. I know PADS used it for their rehearsals – at no charge mind – although I expect the bar takings were up when they all came down to the bar after rehearsals. In fact I think it was their HQ. Pub life was a bit different then and we used to have some great Saturday nights in the Angel with the likes of Clem Smith, Doug Moss, Nelson Woolford, Tony and Herbie Smith and anyone else who came in. Nelson worked for Maslins, the undertakers at Wootton Bassett and Clem would always say 'You on call tonight Nelson?' Nelson would produce a tape measure from his pocket and say 'Always prepared Clem' and proceed to measure someone up. There would be plenty of customers chatting, playing cards, dominoes, darts etc. and there might be a sing song accompanied by one of the customers. There was some talent about in those days. Sorry, I'm getting carried away but that was pub life when Fred and Kate started at the Angel and I am so lucky with the good times I've had in there.

Kate was an excellent landlady and ruled the pub with a firm hand, perhaps a little hard at times. She wouldn't have bikers in there and, if you went in there wearing a crash helmet or carrying one, she would have you out before you got in there. One poor little elderly man who rode a moped went in there with his helmet under his arm and he was out straight away – he must have been 70 if he was a day!

Thank you Kate for all your kindness over the years and a special thank you for all the enjoyable memories we have of our evenings in the Angel. Also many thanks to the family for money in lieu of flowers coming to Purton and District Age Concern.

Tony Price

Vintage Tea Party - Saturday 27 January 2018, 3-5pm

Another Vintage Tea Party is planned for Saturday 27 January 2018 in Purton Village Hall. It will run from 3-5pm and Breeze will once again be playing for us. Tickets (cost £8) are available from Purton Surgery and from PPG committee members.

Next Information Evening, Breast Cancer, 1 March 2018

Our next Information Evening will be on Thursday 1 March (7.30-9pm in Purton Surgery) when the subject will be Breast Cancer and we are fortunate to have Dr Anushka Chaudhry, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon at GWH, to talk to us. I heard Dr Chaudhry talk a few months ago, her talk and explanations were excellent, she is very approachable and will be very happy to answer all your questions.

Membership of GWH Foundation Trust

Did you know that you can become a member of Great Western Hospital Foundation Trust? Members receive regular news and updates about what's happening within GWH NHS Foundation Trust as well as an invite to the annual members' meeting where the Board of Directors and Governors give an update on the successes and challenges of the past year. Anyone aged over 12 can become a member of the Trust which enables them to have a say on how services are run at the Great Western Hospital and in other locations across Swindon. More than 12,000 have signed up so far and the Trust is keen to get as many people as possible on board. Membership is available to all people who live in one of the Trust's seven constituencies which includes North Wiltshire. There is also a Governing Body for which elections are held periodically and members who are aged 18 or over can both vote or put their names forward as a candidate in these elections. For more information visit the website: www.gwh.nhs.uk

Receive PPG information by email

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

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

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*

Fresh new look for Purton Magazine in 2018

“Graphic Design is at the cutting edge of visual communication in today’s society” was the opening gambit of an essay I had to write as part of the interview process for my degree course at Swansea Institute of Higher Education (now Swansea School of Art, University of Wales Trinity St David College). This is a sure fire winner I thought, as I sat there anxiously awaiting my turn to speak to the course director. It obviously did the trick as I started the course in September 1998.

Since taking over the design of Purton Magazine I’ve made a few subtle changes to try to keep up with cutting edge, avant garde design trends, without upsetting the apple cart too much! Design trends may not be as important to us here in rural north Wiltshire, as they are to the big agencies battling it out in London. But good legibility and layout design is just as important in communicating village news as it is in multi-million pound advertising campaigns or broadsheet newspapers.

With this in mind, we have decided to change the fonts in the magazine to improve legibility and make the articles more visually engaging. Fonts are insignificant to most, but they formed a huge part of my degree, so much so that in 2001 I wrote 10,000 library-researched words (it was quicker than the dial-up internet in my student house!) about the evolution of sans serif type designs in the 20th Century.

We have moved away from the default Arial, for something with a bit more character, and so the typeface (or font) we have chosen for Purton Magazine’s body copy is Gill Sans. I have included an excerpt from my dissertation below, which explains some of the history behind the font and it’s rather eccentric designer.

“A vast amount of experimentation occurred in design during the 1920s. In the early part of the twentieth century there were two simultaneous creative movements: traditional revivalism in Britain and the USA; and Modernism in Europe; and the traditionalists were completely oblivious to, or in denial of, the Modernists.

Stanley Morison (1899-1967) became one of the most influential designers during this period in Britain, and in his role as adviser to the Monotype Corporation, became accountable for their programme of classical typefaces in 1923. These were used most widely by book designers around the world until the 1960s, when film setting took over. Morison’s most well-known typeface is Times New Roman, which was catapulted to popularity in the mid-1990s by default, through the global domination of Bill Gates’ Microsoft empire. The font was first developed for the redesign of the Times newspaper in London in 1932, and has since become one of the most widely-used, well-known and multi-purpose typefaces.

In 1924, Morison joined a group of friends in forming a London dining club. This ‘Double Crown Club’ initiated huge change in graphic communication and its members, including book designers and founders of printing companies, produced arguably the most innovative and original typographic designs of the inter-war years. The sans serif made its way to the front of the European stage during this time

and to German designers, especially, it represented ‘unsere zeit’ or ‘our time’, cementing its role as a way forward for graphic design. Jan Tschichold wrote in ‘Die Neue Typographie’ (Berlin 1928) that the sans serif should be known as ‘skeleton’ lettering as the alphabet had been stripped to its bare bones. This concept of purity was explored in depth by the de Stijl group in Holland; Piet Mondrian’s rectilinear shapes and flat colours are indicative of this. Purism was not only used as a theme in design but also in other creative arts, especially ballet and the theatre, which gained popularity around the time of the First World War. Most notably in Stravinsky’s controversial *The Rite of Spring*!

Between the two World Wars, the growth of knowledge and increased technological developments resulted in frequent scientific discoveries, especially in fields that had previously baffled scientists. Phenomena such as atoms and molecules could now be studied and the idea of a ‘Big Bang’ theory was also emerging.

Whilst Britain was in the grip of traditional revivalism, there was a subterranean movement of British designers who were embracing Modernism and the concept of the sans serif. In 1916, Edward Johnston (1872-1944) designed the first British sans serif when he was approached by Frank Pick to produce the typeface for London’s Underground Railway. The clarity of the text made it very popular with London’s commuters and with the Underground’s expansion after the First World War, gave the public a rare opportunity to see a piece of Modern British design.

The typeface was re-drawn in the 1980s by Banks and Miles in order to meet the more complex demands of the twenty-first century (whatever they may be?!). Despite this, Johnston’s ‘Railway Type’ still retains its quirks and idiosyncrasies, such as the calligraphic dots on the ‘i’ and the ‘j’, and the hooks he added to dismiss confusion between the lower case ‘l’ and uppercase ‘L’. Jock Kinneir and Margaret Calvert later used this idea for their designs for British motorway signs.

In 1961, P.M. Handover wrote in *Motif*:

“The alphabet was exceptionally economical of space, it was monocline (the strokes were of uniform thickness), it was legible, and in every detail it has been debated and considered. Johnston not only worked out the relationship between counter (white space inside letters) and mass (general shape), but spacing between letters, a nicety unknown to the grotesques of industrial jobbing. The use of such a designer’s work on such an institution as the London Transport System gave unserifed letters an authority they had never before achieved”.²

Edward Johnston’s design can be closely linked with the design of the more famous face, Gill Sans, produced by Johnston’s pupil, friend, and assistant, Eric Gill. The Monotype Corporation first cut Gill Sans in 1927, after it was designed originally for a shop sign in Bristol. Stanley Morison then discovered the design when visiting Bristol a few weeks later and persuaded Gill that Monotype could use it. Gill was renowned for not wanting publicity and attention and so wasn’t too enthusiastic about the whole idea, he even once said that his sans serif face would be much improved with the addition of serifs.

The thing that delights the typography enthusiast about the letter forms of Gill Sans is the fact that it isn't a strict sans serif; Gill has incorporated small subtleties which makes the font stand out from the rest. He's put his own personality into it, and by all accounts he was something of a personality. My college lecturer once described him as 'typography's Roy Cropper', likening him to Coronation Street's sandwich-shop proprietor. In contrast, the German designs at the time were very strict 'ruler and compass' creations.

Gill's avant garde antics went against the grain of the time, and what makes this interesting is that while we Brits were resisting Modernism, our German counterparts were positively embracing it. Despite both fighting in the First World War and experiencing some degree of social and political chaos, it is thought that Britain had generally higher standards of book and advertising typography so there was less need for change."

So there we have it, Purton Magazine is celebrating one of the triumphs of early British Modern Design and hopefully continuing the tradition of high standards in book design.

¹ *The Rite of Spring*, (Le Sacre du Printemps) is a ballet with music by the Russian composer Igor Stravinsky, choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, and set design and costumes by Nicholas Roerich, all under impresario Serge Diaghilev. The music is acknowledged as one of the most influential, and most reproduced compositions in history and is iconic of 20th century avant garde European music. Its 1913 premier caused a riot, such was the strength of feeling towards its innovative technique and content, establishing it as one of the most internationally known and controversial works.

² Quoted in Ruari McLean, 'Thames and Hudson Manual of Typography' from P.M. Handover (1961)

Heather Ponting-Bather, 2:I BA(Hons) Graphic Design, SIHE Class of 2001

Knit-A-Square (KAS) & Mama Ntombi's Community Projects (MNCP)

Thank you to everyone who supported us at the Silver Threads Hall Table Top sale on 11 November. We made £334, which includes donations and sales on the day. Special thanks go to Sheila Kirk who manned her own table during the sale but donated her profit towards our future shipping costs.

I've had a request from South Africa for long sleeved jumpers to fit children aged 4-16 years. Jumpers can be made following any pattern you have available at home or I have an easy to make jumper pattern if anyone would like a copy. I would like us to make as many jumpers as possible to send in our shipment due to set sail at the end of March 2018 as they will arrive in South Africa in time for their winter next May/June.

We will be holding our annual fundraising Coffee Morning at Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 19 March. Put the date in your diary, more details will follow nearer the time. Thanks for your continuing support.

Louise Tidman

Swindon care company urges people to consider a new career in 2018

With an ageing and rising population in Swindon, care for the elderly is increasingly on the agenda. With a rising demand across the country for carers, Swindon is no exception, however leading regional care provider First City Nursing and Care is encouraging people to consider 2018 the year for a career change and to take a look at care.

Two care assistants from Swindon are proof that no matter what your age, background or experience, a rewarding career can be within reach.

Liz Priestner and Alicia Woodward have both been care assistants for a year and now spend their working weeks working with a number of different people of all ages and with all range of needs – from full and complex care to respite and social outings.

However for both Liz and Alicia this is not their first career, or what they thought they would do.

Alicia, 21 from Lower Stratton, had worked in a hotel since she was 13. Starting as a kitchen assistant she moved across the hotel ending up on the gym reception responsible for new memberships. However, when the hotel had to close due to a large fire she found herself looking for a new challenge.

With a sister already working in care and having looked after her grandmother, Alicia had an idea of what the job was, but didn't know what to expect.

"My sister enjoyed it and so I thought I'd see what I could do," she said, "but each day and each placement is different and that's what I enjoy about it."

"Each person you care for will need help in different ways. For some it's about helping them do things that we do routinely but they never thought they would do again, like getting out of bed or brushing their teeth. Others just want company as you're making their tea for them. For me the reward is in knowing that you've made a difference to that person."

"I can see my career moving forward now and I've got plans to complete an NVQ to hopefully become a team leader and become more involved in care planning. I've definitely made the right move."

For Liz, care has been a regular part of her spare time but never considered for her main job until her son encouraged her after being made redundant from her previous job as a Paralegal at the age of 56.



“During the 1990s, I was a weekend and holiday volunteer carer for a group of group of disable young people. I had always enjoyed it, but had to give up when I moved to Chiseldon 17 years ago.

“I applied to First City after my son suggested a care role after being made redundant and having joined as a part time care assistant I now work as many hours as I can as I enjoy it so much. When I thought about it I realised that actually this is really what I want to do.

“I’ve been given lots of training as things have changed since I was a care volunteer and life experience also really counts for a lot. Care is much more than personal care but about being everything to people – health carer, appointment maker, chef and more. You’re helping people do things they never expected to do, to gain back their independence and make their own choices about how they want to live their lives.”

Stephen Trowbridge, managing director of First City, said: “Liz and Alicia are both excellent examples of the sort of people we look for here at First City.

“We don’t necessarily want people who have experience in care, but we look for people who have the right skills and attitudes to provide care.

“We want people who are passionate about helping others, who have a caring nature and who want to see others achieve everything they can. We provide the training and qualifications needed for the roles, but we can’t train people to have the right core values - to be positive, compassionate and caring - so that’s what we look for in the person.

“There is a need for more carers in Swindon and so if anyone is looking for a career change for the new year, then this is a job that will always be in demand. No matter your age, there is always a role for you in care.”

First City is looking for more care assistants and community support workers in Swindon and across Wiltshire.

*For more information visit www.firstcitynursing.co.uk
or call either Antonia, Michael or Charlie on 01793 434222.*

Purton Silver Threads

A huge thank you to members of Purton Age Concern for decorating the Silver Threads Hall so beautifully for the festive season, also for other users of the hall to enjoy.

We have had a very successful year with several improvements to the hall and a very interesting programme for our fortnightly meetings. We welcome new members to the club which is held alternate Tuesdays from 2-4pm, with entertainment, tea and cake, and social time together. See diary for January dates.

For further information, please contact Jenny Barnes, chairperson on 770339

Bradon Forest School

Amazing Promises Auction



The Bradon Forest Auction of Promises and Gala Performance took place on Friday 24 November. This was a fund raising event to support enterprise projects for students in Key Stage 4.

The evening started with an auction of some amazing promises ranging from tickets to see a show in London with overnight accommodation, an hour flight over the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire countryside to beautiful handmade jewellery and a hamper from House of Fraser worth over £200. Mr Dominic Hawley compared the auction with some witty repartee.

During the interval a meal and a glass of wine were served by students and the raffle drawn. The top prize in the raffle was a fabulous wine and chocolate hamper. Part two of the evening displayed some of Bradon's unseen talent not only that of students but staff as well. Highlights of the performances were Cora-Leigh May singing 'Like I'm gonna lose you' by Meghan Trainor accompanied by Mr Johnson on the keyboard, Kieran Jeffries' tap dance to 'O my love' by The Score and the staff band, Progress 8.

Mrs Hawley, Bradon Forest Business Studies teacher, said 'The Young Enterprise scheme is fantastic but it's expensive so we decided to have the auction. Taking in the Young Enterprise scheme will further enrich students' experience at Bradon Forest as well as providing opportunities to develop employability skills.'

Emma Wheeler, a former Bradon Forest colleague, exclaimed 'Just wanted to say a HUGE well done to you, the auctioneer and all the students, on such a well organised and enjoyable evening last night! Thoroughly enjoyed catching up with everyone and being entertained so well...what a talented bunch of staff and students Bradon has! Hope you raised a substantial amount of money for the Enterprise students too.'

Young Enterprise programmes provide practical ways for young people to get a taste of the world of work and the excitement of running a business. Young Enterprise gives educators access to high quality opportunities that create aspirational careers guidance, develop employability skills and deliver inspirational enterprise education. Through these programmes, students gain a first-hand insight into the career of local employees and learn about the skills which are valued in the workplace.

More Young Enterprise Success

Off the back of an extremely successful Promises Auction, the Young Enterprise squad headed out for a competition at Nationwide Building Society on 28 November.



The boys' team, whose brand name is AKATCHI, sold popcorn in box sets with two different 'seasons': rocky road and barbecue sauce. The



girls' team, Simply Blossoms, sold beautifully packaged bath bombs. Each team more or less sold their entire stock!

Mrs Hawley said: "Both teams performed extremely well at the trade fair, demonstrating their sales prowess and confidence in their communication with judges. They are starting to amass important skills as they embark on their Young Enterprise journey. Ultimately, AKATCHI were nominated as best team, primarily for being highly proactive and engaging with the staff at Nationwide, so well."



Awards Presentation Evening Year 11 (2012-2017)

We welcomed back our 'Class of 2017' for our Annual Awards ceremony on Thursday 30 November 2017.

The evening was organised and opened by Head of Key Stage 4, Mr Martin Bray. After a brief introduction by Headteacher, Dr Andrew Morrison, our Guest Speaker, Chair of Governors, Mr John Scott, took to the stage shared his life lessons with the students.

During the Award Ceremony students were able to collect their exam certificates. In addition awards were made by each of the faculties in all the different subjects. Students were awarded for their achievement, as well as their effort, commitment and determination.

The coveted Corbett Cup for Outstanding Achievement, given to the student whose exam success reflects their commitment to academic studies across all areas of the curriculum, was awarded to Leon Slade.

Bookbuzz

This term our Library staff have been handing out Bookbuzz books. Bookbuzz is a programme where all Year 7 students receive a FREE book which they can choose from a wide range on offer.



Librarian Mrs Styles said: "Reading is so important. We read to learn, we read to escape, we read to develop and open our minds. We wanted to reinforce this message from Primary into Secondary education and we hope to encourage keen, enthusiastic and insatiable readers here at Bradon Forest!"

The library did some additional fundraising and together with a donation from the English department, were able to fund this valuable programme.

Head of English, Ms Paisey told the students; "Reading is so important. It will expand your vocabulary and help you with your exams."

St Mary's pupils help Bradon Forest Textiles students

Year 10 students studying GCSE Textiles were able to see the children's dresses they had created modelled in real life when pupils from St Mary's primary school visited. The Bradon Forest students had to make a dress from an old pillow case using embellishments and other techniques to create unique designs.



Student Tamara Lee said 'It was lovely to meet the St Mary's pupils and to hear what they had to say about our designs. I loved that they liked my work and I will use their feedback to improve my work in future.'

Teacher of Textiles, Mrs Bone, said, 'It's been very rewarding for the students to able to develop their skills on this project. They were pleased with the dresses they created and enjoyed receiving feedback from the St Mary's pupils about the unique features of the dresses they were wearing. Seeing someone wearing a dress adds so much to the design experience and will help them think about wearability for their future designs'.

The dresses are a project which the students have been working on as practice for their final GCSE pieces, which will be submitted and assessed before being awarded a grade.



Primary Cross Country competition

We were delighted to welcome St Mary's, St Sampsons, Lydiard Millicent, Lyneham, Broad Hinton, Brookfield and Noremarsh primary schools to take part in our Cross Country competition. From the Year 3/ 4 teams Lydiard Millicent came first with Ashton Keynes second and Noremarsh third. From the Year 5/6 teams St

Mary's yellow team were first with Noremarsh second and St Mary's green team third. All the children took part with enthusiasm and commitment braving the cold weather well. Support and encouragement was provided by Bradon Forest Sport Leaders.

Year 7 Maths competition

Bradon Forest hosted a Year 7 Maths Enrichment competition with Malmesbury School, a sister school from the Athelstan Multi-Academy Trust in December. The event was for the most able mathematicians from both schools with a mixture of different fun activities on shape and space, number and logic puzzles. Some were physical activities, like building a dodecahedron, there was an interactive computer quiz using the ipads, a traditional countdown activity and problem solving. Congratulations to Malmesbury Team One of were the overall winners!



Mr Widdop, Head of Maths at Bradon Forest, said the event had been organised to give the students the opportunity to take part in activities that they might not be able to in class. It also brought closer cooperation between the Maths departments in the Trust.

Sports Presentation Evening

We were delighted to have a guest of honour at our Sports Presentation Evening, Kelly Morgan, who has won a Commonwealth medal in the javelin, represented her country in netball and latterly become a boxer. It was a tremendous evening reminding us of students' achievements beyond the classroom. Kelly gave an impassioned and inspirational speech about her desire and determination to be the best despite various setbacks on her journey. Our students were captivated by what was said and Kelly has encouraged them to persevere



with their goals and ambitions whether in sport or another aspect of their lives.

Quote from a parent: "I've just got in from a most enjoyable and inspiring evening at the Bradon Forest Sports' Awards and felt compelled to email to say thank you to your dedicated PE team. PE at Bradon has helped to give [my son] confidence, maturity and more belief in himself and this evening it was evident that he is extremely fortunate to go to a school with a real sense of community, passion and dedication. The students tonight were a credit to the hard work of your team; it was a pleasure to hear about their achievements and see them collect their awards and what a motivational speaker!"

Golfing Guidance for Year 7 and 8

We were delighted to welcome Greg Davies, from the South Cerney Golf Course, in school earlier this month. Greg spent the day providing students from Years 7 and 8 with golf taster sessions. He showed them how to hold the club and how to control the ball. Greg set up a series of fun activities for the students to enjoy; for many of our students this was their first experience of handling a golf club. Greg has experience in delivering Tri-Golf sessions with many schools in the Gloucestershire and Swindon areas.



World Challenge - Training Weekend

The 2018 World Challenge Team spent a weekend training in Symonds Yat. The challengers went on two training walks, took part in numerous team building activities, cooked an evening meal and porridge breakfast on Trangia stoves and spent the night in tents... in December! Brrr! Assistant Headteacher, Mr Heathcote said: "The students were a credit and dealt with all aspects of the weekend exceptionally well. Roll on April next year!"

Visit to Cirencester Corinium Museum

On Friday 24 November, Miss Mazelin from the History Department and Mrs Stevens from Learning Support took Year 7 Historians on a half day visit to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. The group met with Caroline Lawrence, author of the Roman Mysteries and P.K. Pinkerton adventure series of children's books, to find evidence and decide how far the Romans were ahead of their time.

Caroline talked through how she developed a successful book series, including how the historical context and use of objects from the time were incorporated into the mystery and journey that the character went on. Students then toured the museum with our History Ambassadors Fin Young and Sam Davenport-Banks to debate how far the Romans were ahead of their time – an idea they will have to analyse as part of their current unit of work.

Drama Festival Success for Kieran and Tom!

Congratulations to Kieran Jeffries and Tom Keen who won their Duologue section at the RWB drama festival on Saturday 18 November 2018. Their extract was from Blood Brothers, when Mickey and Eddie first meet. It was a very well executed piece, gaining them 86 marks! Well done!

Purton Village Diary - January 2018

1 M		New Year's Day bank holiday
2 Tu		Purton Parish Council office re-opens
	2.00pm	Poetry afternoon with Carol Gleed at Silver Threads Hall
4 Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
7 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
9 Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus 'The Kyber Pass or bust' at Red House Lounge
	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
10 W	10.00am	& 7.00pm Demetia Friend session at Purton Village Hall
11 Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
12 F	8.45am	Age Concern minibus to Devizes £5
14 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
15 M		Primary school admissions deadline for September 2018 entry
16 Tu	8.00pm	After 8 new year quiz led by Helen at Sandra's
17 W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI 'Living in a commune in Paraguay' at the Village Hall
19 F	9.00am	Age Concern minibus to Malmesbury markets and Waitrose £4
	7.30pm	Wiltshire Sight 100th Anniversary Concert at St Mary's School, Calne
20 Sa	6.30pm	Purton Age Concern Burn's Night Celebrations at the Village Hall
21 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Family Communion at Purton Methodist Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School
23 Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus 'The Unknown Warrior' at the Red House Lounge
	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild AGM at Silver Threads Hall
24 W	7.30pm	to Sat 27th Phoenix Players present 'The Ladykillers' at Swindon Arts Centre
25 Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society 'The Great Trek and the growth of Afrikaner Nationalism' at the Village Hall

26 F	9.00am	Age Concern minibus to Cirencester £3
	2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall
27 Sa	3.00pm	Purton PPG Vintage Tea Party at the Village Hall
28 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.00am	to 12pm Friends of Peardrops Pre-school baby and children's nearly new table top sale at the Millennium Hall
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church

Every week

Tu	9.00am	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	to 5.00pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church
Th	9.00am	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	2.00pm	to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.20pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	to 11.30am: Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
Sa	10.00am	to 12.30pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

Every month

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

February

3 Sa 2.00pm Age Concern Jumble Sale at Purton Village Hall

Moon Phases

○ 26 December ○ 2 January ○ 8 January ● 17 January

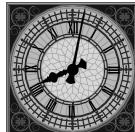
If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Health & Wellbeing Champion

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

*Ellen Blacker, Health & Wellbeing Champion
Tel: 07557 922020 Or Email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk*

After 8



The subject of our November meeting was “Canals”, when members presented their findings about some of the canals in England. It was probably the Romans who built the first canal, the Fossdyke, in 120 AD, to link the River Trent and the Mersey. In succeeding centuries various rivers were made navigable for boat traffic. The Industrial Revolution was the driving force of “canal mania” in the 18th Century, when a means of transporting heavy goods was vital to industrial development. The Bridgewater Canal was the first canal of this era to be built which did not use an existing waterway. Named after its instigator Frances Egerton, the Duke of Bridgewater, and designed by James Brindley, it was constructed to transport coal from the Duke’s mines in Worsely to Manchester. Some unique features were the underground sections in the mine, the Barton aqueduct over the River Irwell, and the fact that Brindley’s expertise eliminated the need for any locks. Completed in 1761, it was followed by many more.

The Manchester Ship Canal was opened by Queen Victoria in 1894 and was at that time the largest canal in the world. It enabled Manchester to become Britain’s 3rd largest port despite being 40 miles inland and 60 feet above sea level. It connected the city to the Mersey estuary, near Liverpool, allowing sea-going vessels to avoid the prohibitive dock charges of Liverpool and those of the railway companies. It is now the only canal which is increasing its commercial traffic on a large scale. The current owners, Peel Ports, have plans to increase freight to 100,000 containers by 2030. Now used by well-known companies such as Tesco, Shell (20% of its petroleum products), and RHM (over 100,000 tonnes of wheat), this is a remarkable project for an “outdated” mode of transport.

The Royal Military Canal was built on the landward side of Romney Marsh in Kent and Sussex as a line of defence against the French. Napoleon’s armies were amassing near Boulogne in readiness for the invasion, but suffering set-backs in Europe, Napoleon had to deploy these troops elsewhere. In World War 2 the canal was again fortified, but again the invaders’ plans were abandoned.

The Leeds and Liverpool canal was the holiday destination of one member, who described her family’s experiences, travelling at 4mph, working the locks, passing through the 1 mile long Foulbridge Tunnel, and rescuing her son after he fell into the water.

We then heard about some local canals. The Wilts and Berks Canal was a late arrival to the canal scene, opening in 1810. Its principal traffic was coal from the Somerset coalfield to towns such as Swindon and Oxford, but it also carried agricultural produce and building materials. As coal output declined so did canal traffic, but the canal revived when Brunel’s GWR required vast quantities of construction materials. As with most canals, freight then transferred to the new railway. The canal was finally abandoned in 1900.

The North Wilts Canal also had a relatively short life, being opened in 1819 and largely disused by 1900. Its function was to link the Wilts and Berks to the Thames and Severn Canal.

The Kennet and Avon Canal eventually opened in 1810. It took 16 years to overcome serious engineering problems, the final one being the flights of 29 locks at Devizes and Caen Hill. Barges could then travel between Bristol and London. However the GWR, which opened in 1841, soon captured the canal traffic.

Many canals today provide peaceful havens for wildlife. These green pathways through the countryside offer opportunities for walking, fishing, observing nature, and leisure boating. Due to the incredible efforts of enthusiasts and thousands of volunteers, who are not deterred by seemingly impossible obstacles, the canals now have a new lease of life.

Mary Smith

Swindon Volunteer Centre

Involve Swindon is a successful network of businesses that encourage their employees to volunteer in the community, whether this be on traditional team volunteering days or offering their skills to support a local charity with a short piece of skilled work. Involve operates in Swindon and the surrounding area but is happy to consider projects from other areas. We are always looking for new projects that employee volunteers can get involved in such as:

Team challenges: Include One-off practical tasks like nature conservation, gardening or decorating to improve parks or outdoors areas, community centres, village halls, scout or guide huts or schools; or organising trips or parties for a charity's users or undertaking one-off fund-raising challenges or cleaning, clearing, sorting stock and anything in between.

Providing business expertise: Completing a short project for a charity such as providing support with Excel, designing new fundraising projects, mentoring charity staff or supporting beneficiaries

To help Involve to help you, please contact us with your ideas for how employee volunteers could support your organisation or community during 2018. If you wish to discuss any project prior to submission, please ring Jo Banks at Volunteer Centre Swindon on 01793 420557 or e-mail involve@swindonvolunteers.org.uk

Jo Banks, Employee Volunteering Advisor

Purton Profferings

New Epson printer ink cartridges T0801 (black), T0803 (magenta) and 2 x T0806 (light magenta) available owing to change of printer. Contact 771018.

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.



The Royal British Legion 2017 Poppy Appeal

A total of £9326.91 has been sent from Purton and district to the 2017 Poppy Appeal, and I 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 collection or at the West Swindon Centre.

*Shirley Lawrence, Poppy Appeal Organiser
Tel 01793 771084
the_lawrences@btinternet.com*



Band Concert raises funds for military charities

Chedworth Silver Band played a lovely selection of music at Purton Village Hall on 1 November and the music was enjoyed by all who attended. £250 was raised for Combat Stress and Help for Heroes and I'd like to thank everyone who came on the evening and donated so generously.

Doreen Freegard



Views from Purton Walks – Notelets

Once again, a very big 'Thank you' to everyone who has bought the re-launched packs of the 'Views from Purton Walks'. They really have sold well and, together with sales of some of the original artwork, you have helped raise over £450 for St Mary's

Church this year! And a big 'thank you' also to Heather at In Touch for the professional production work; and to Hair by Val, Flawless Floors, The Pear Tree, the Farm Shop and the Bell for kindly providing sales outlets during the year.

We have a few packs left and also some of the original watercolours (mounted and ready to go into standard size frames). Just contact Paul (770826) or Christine (771563) if you are interested in any of these.

Paul Dempsey and Christine Gill



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Our ever popular American Supper was the focus of the November meeting and, as usual, members came up trumps arriving with a mouth-watering array of goodies for the table.

Before partaking of the delicious offerings on display, we were entertained by 'Merry Folk', a group of musicians, who having met as members of Swindon U3A, discovered a shared love for music and entertaining and so the group was born.

A medley of old favourites, interspersed with humour, was well received by one and all and merrily led us to the moment when, diets forgotten, it was time to tuck into the delicious mix of Yuletide favourites and member's creations with plenty on offer for return visits to the table! This was a lighthearted end to our 2017 programme.

Our new year begins with the AGM on 23 January at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall. This is a brief affair and will be followed by our speaker for the evening.

The 2018 programme features talks on a range of topics including Gladiolus, Trees of Purton, Honey and Plants for the Winter garden.

If you have an interest in gardening why not come along and join us. We are a friendly group of 60 plus members meeting every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall.

Our annual subscription for 2018 will be £15. Visitors £3 per meeting. A very happy new year to one and all.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

St Mary's Primary School

The children are preparing for all the Christmas activities at St Mary's and as you read this, they will have performed their Christmas Nativity Plays to parents/carers, sung at Carol Concerts in Church and performed songs for the residents of The Cedars and Ashgrove. 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.

Our Wildlife Watchers took part in an initiative to improve Wiltshire. In November, the club were joined by Ash from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Ash led a litter picking session around our school grounds, which led to an interesting discussion about how we could reduce the amount of litter we produce.

The travelling book fayre came to school the week of 14th November and as part of our Friday buddy reading sessions, Class 3 and Class 13 came to have a little look at the selection of books which were available to buy. Children had great fun browsing and sharing favourites with each other and parents were able to buy books after school all that week. All money raised went towards re stocking our libraries.

One of our Year 4 children proved that suffering with type one diabetes is no



barrier to success after organising a profitable onesie day at school, raising over £600. Eight-year-old 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 a onesie or something blue to school 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.

JDRF funds go to research type one diabetes in the hope of finding a cure and every penny raised could help diabetics like Isaac lead a more normal life. As well as organising the onesie day, Isaac also did a presentation in front of the entire school to talk about type one diabetes. In assembly, there was a video message from Sky News presenter Steve Dixon, who also has type one diabetes, where he personally congratulated the youngster on his courageous efforts of organising this event. There was also a letter from 10 Downing Street after writing to Prime Minister Theresa May, who also suffers with diabetes.

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

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

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

Swindon, December 12, 2017

Youngster organises fundraiser to aid cause

A photograph of three young boys standing behind a tray filled with cupcakes. The boy on the left is wearing a grey and white patterned onesie. The boy in the middle is wearing a yellow t-shirt. The boy on the right is wearing a blue t-shirt. They are all smiling. The newspaper clipping includes a headline and some text below the photo.

Onesie wonder fights diabetes

Youngster organises fundraiser to aid cause

By Naomi Clarke

Youngster Isaac Purton, 8, has organised a onesie day at his school to raise money for diabetes research.

Isaac, from St Mary's Primary School, Purton, organised the event after being diagnosed with type one diabetes at the age of four.

He said: "I have told him that diabetes won't stop him from doing anything in life."

Isaac, from St Mary's Primary School, Purton, organised the event after being diagnosed with type one diabetes at the age of four.

He said: "I have told him that diabetes won't stop him from doing anything in life."

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Church Floodlighting



- Dec 3 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on his 27th birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- Dec 9 The Church was floodlit in loving memory of our Mum **Elsa Trotter**, on what would have been her 89th birthday. Always very much loved and missed by her daughters Jude, Deb, and Steph and families
- Dec 14 The Church was floodlit in loving memory of **Carole Carey** (aka Tonte) a very special, wonderful auntie, recently deceased, on what would have been her 74th birthday.
All our love Jude, Deb and Steph.
- Dec 27 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Ron Slade** on what would have been his 94th birthday. Dearly loved and so sadly missed Dad, Gramps, Great Gramp and Great Great Gramp. Always in our hearts.
- Dec 31 The Church was floodlit in memory of **Barbara and Nelson Woolford**. From all the family
- Jan 7 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Dale Herbert** on the 10th anniversary of his passing. Always Loved.
Sadly missed by Mum, Dad and family.
- Jan 8 St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate what would have been the 107th birthday of **Bob Wightman MBE** Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family.
- Jan 14 St Mary's will be floodlit for **Dale Herbert** whose 60th birthday it would have been today.
Love and miss you always. Mum, Dad and family
- Jan 17 The church will be floodlit to celebrate the 95th birthday of **Mary Woolford**
- Jan 20 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on the 6th 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 £18 for one evening and it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a month before the chosen night. A short announcement can also be published in this magazine at no extra cost.

Where our donations go

Many of you will have attended a charity buffet put on by Kalique at the Maharajah as an annual event over the past few years. The two sittings are normally well attended and the proceeds go towards Christian Aid and a children's charity in Udaipur. Photos of the Indian charity are displayed on a laptop and you may have met Dr Garg, a retired professor of botany, who supports and fundraises for the charity. I was holidaying



in Udaipur in October and contacted Dr Garg in order to arrange to visit the charity; he picked me up for a 20 minute drive through teeming colourful streets, avoiding cows in the road, to a quieter suburb where the charity building is, floor space about the size of the village hall. As I arrived, the approximately 40 boys and 3 girls were eating a mild curry appreciatively, looking slightly bemused for at the far end of the room was a small delegation from Lions International who presumably had also donated something. Before I had a chance to talk with a Lions member, I was presented with a readymade turban and a scarf in front of the children, still bemused, and introduced to an elderly lady who started the charity about 30 years ago by taking in 5 young abandoned or orphaned boys; a sort of minor Mother Theresa. She spoke no English but showed the international sign of appreciation – a tight hug.

I was shown around the building, which consisted of the main dining room, a small office, kitchen and store rooms and a small sitting room with, of course, a modern TV. Then upstairs to the current building project, a second floor for a boys' dormitory made of a concrete frame and bricks, a donated marble floor, a shower/toilet room with a variety of donated tiles, dust and debris. It did not seem that a structural survey or building regulations were utilized, but I may be wrong. The projected cost was £2,000.

The children looked very smart in school T-shirt representing one of 4 schools attended, some taken by minibus to the furthest. It seems that is preferable to all going to one school, so ideas and teaching subjects can be compared and contrasted. The plan is to gain enough qualifications and skills to get a job when they leave the charity's family at age 15 years.

The children are well integrated into the local area, playing with local children and supported partly by those families. About 200 meals a year are sponsored by individuals and businesses. Unfortunately, my photos were taken on a phone in poor light, but it was a very worthwhile visit and most pleasing to picture the place in my mind when eating at the Maharajah. Having been dropped off by Dr Garg, I walked a short distance through narrow streets; my turban was appreciated by local passers-by – I learnt later it was back to front.

Nick Yerbury

Wiltshire Sight

100th Anniversary Concert

World renowned pianist supporting 100 years of sight loss charity in Wiltshire



Wiltshire Sight celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2018, to start a year of events marking this great milestone, the President of Wiltshire Sight - the Marchioness of Lansdowne - is delighted that St Mary's School in Calne will be hosting a concert in aid of the sight loss charity.

The charity was established in 1918 as Wiltshire Blind Association to help soldiers returning from WWI whose sight had been damaged. It was renamed Wiltshire Sight in 2014 to reflect that it supports people across the sight loss spectrum and has won multiple awards for its innovative services and training programmes.

World renowned blind pianist, Derek Paravicini, will be performing a unique concert to celebrate the charity's 100th year. Incredibly, Derek plays entirely by ear, has memorised thousands of pieces including pop, jazz and classical as well as taking requests from his audiences. He has played across Britain, America and Europe and will be playing at St Mary's School in Calne on Friday 19th January 2018.

Wiltshire Sight Chairman, Mike Weston commented:

"Everyone with sight loss suffers in different ways; the advice we give to people reflects this. We do not receive any funding from our local authorities and therefore we rely on donations and fundraising activities such as this concert, to help us support our increasing numbers of end users."

Doors open at 7pm, with the concert starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £35 each, including refreshments, available from www.calnefoundation.org/wiltshiresight. Call Wiltshire Sight on 01380 723682 for more information.

Peardrops Pre-School

Happy New Year to you all. As I write we are getting into the seasonal spirit with lots of lovely craft activities and decorations. We are preparing



to put on a Christmas Performance featuring all the children from both pre-school sites singing, dancing, dressing up, and a bit of Makaton signing too. The pre-schools have been getting together every week for welly walks, park visits, library story times, and a wonderful museum visit - thank you very much Marion.

We would like to thank everyone who has been helping us since we joined together in September; all the toy and art/craft donations, volunteer helpers for our regular sessions and for our welly walks and library visits, the fantastic story tellers at the library and pram service leaders, and of course all the lovely families we are privileged to work with, we really appreciate each and every one of you!

We have started a new fundraising group known as the 'Friends of Peardrops Pre-school'. Our first group meeting was well attended and we agreed to firstly target our fundraising to provide artificial grass (astro turf) at the Playclose site, to cover the rubber bark areas. Please do let us know if you'd like to join this group, and get involved in fundraising and social events in the future. Lots of fantastic suggestions were discussed and we are arranging the following events:

28th Jan – Children's nearly new table top sale at the Millennium Hall, Purton. 10am till 12pm. Please contact the pre-school to book a table for £5 and come and sell children's toys and clothes. Or come and pick up a bargain to take home, 50p entrance for adults, children free. Hot and cold refreshments available to buy.

14th Feb – Half term family fun afternoon - Disney inspired sing along and fancy dress afternoon at the Millennium hall 2-4pm, please save the date, more details to follow in the New Year.

Contact details:

Peardrops Pre-school

Playclose Pre-school

St Mary's School Site

The Methodist Church

College Road, Purton

Playclose, Purton

SNS 4AR

SNS 4DP

01793 978536

07759 583566

peardropschildcare@hotmail.co.uk

playcloseplaygroup@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: [@peardropspreschool](#) and/or [@playclosepreschool](#)

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Wind in the Willows or "A Toad in a Hole" will be on 8th, 9th, 10th February at the Village Hall. Tickets on sale from January from Purton Library, Flawless Flooring or 772581, 771890, 771442. Book your tickets to avoid disappointment.

Lindsey Hall 771890

Purton Evening WI.



In November the ladies of Purton Evening WI welcomed Jan & Angie from Royal Wootton Bassett Flower Club. Jan demonstrated how to make a simple but effective Christmas Table Decoration and also showed us how to make a spectacular bow out of florist ribbon. The ladies then had a chance to be creative themselves and produced some very attractive displays. This was a busy and fun evening, made even better by mulled wine and mince pies!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Food Festival at the beginning of November, this was a very successful event for the WI and PIPS community café.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our December meeting - a joint birthday and Christmas celebration. We plan to have a sit down meal followed by Amanda Gibson from Lydiard, guiding us through our steps of the Valetta, waltz and cha cha cha.

Our January meeting will be on Wednesday 17th January at Purton Village Hall. The subject will be about living in a commune in Paraguay. If that sounds interesting and you would like to come along you would be most welcome. It is an open meeting so absolutely everyone is invited - including husbands/partners!

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

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Purton Historical Society



Annual Christmas Social

On Friday 1st December 50 members and guests attended the Christmas Social in a beautifully decorated Silver Threads Hall – thank you to those involved in making the hall look so festive.

The evening commenced with an excellent quiz compiled by Marion which really did make us all think about our local area. This was followed by a buffet supper and entertainment provided by the Whitehorse Folk Group who provided an enjoyable selection of music which ended in a medley of Christmas carols. Altogether a very special occasion to conclude the Society meetings for 2017.

Thursday 25 January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall ‘The Great Trek and the Growth of Afrikaner Nationalism’ – Jacky Parker

The official guide to the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria describes the Afrikaners as ‘A Nation of Heroes’. In many ways the Voortrekkers were a nation of heroes in that five thousand Trek-Boers braved a new world and dramatically influenced the course of history in South Africa. In constant peril in their movement away from the British sphere of influence, they clung to their faith and a belief in their destiny.

Could a spirit of independence have grown into a spirit of nationalism which was so strong that by 1960 two and a half million Afrikaners ‘imposed their will upon ten times that number of other South Africans’?

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

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

New Members and visitors always welcome

Tony & Janet Neate,
e-mail: tjneate57@gmail.com Tel: 01793 770117

Museum News

The museum is closed until 7th April 2018 although work is in progress behind the scenes. The South West Museum Programme for WWI Commemorations have six museums taking part. Curator Beth Farnham is heading up Purton’s involvement. Your help is needed to create a grand display of artefacts associated with WWI.

Do please consider if you have anything relevant that you would like to loan for inclusion in these displays. We promise that anything loaned to the museum will be very carefully looked after. Further information at a later date.

Marion Hobbs, Chairman

On Thursday 23 November the Purton Historical Society enjoyed a brilliantly illustrated talk on the Battle of Agincourt - given by Martin Collinson. The battle was held on the 25th October 1415 (Forever known in England as St.Crispin's Day) in Northern France - the throne of which England laid claim. Henry V led his troops in hand to hand fighting. Vastly out numbered by the French, but famously included the English and Welsh bowmen who won the day. Surprisingly England did not give up its claim to the French throne until 1801. So this was not the last Battle, but certainly the best remembered. Questions and refreshments followed and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all!

The Society welcomes you all to our monthly events and we hope to see many of you in the New Year. Details will be in Purton Magazine and look out for our posters.

Jill Watts, teddington1940@gmail.com

Purton Tennis Club

19 of us went along to Marlborough Golf Club for the Swindon & District Tennis League presentation evening to collect our trophies.

Results were:

Winter League Division 1 winners with Ben Langley being top player in the stats

Summer League:

Mens Runner-up Division 7

Mens Winners Division 1

Ladies Winners Division 5 - top player Lindsey Hall, closely followed by Anna Taylor

Mixed Runner-up Division 4 - top player Janet Saunders

Mixed Winners Division 1 - top player Rachana Patel Well done everyone!

This years' Winter League has got off to a good start with positions as follows:

A team currently top as I write this, B team battling to stay up, C team mid table.

Coaching update - PK Tennis has stepped down from being coaches for Purton Tennis Club. We would like to thank Phil and Matt for all they have done for us with the coaching programme. We are currently interviewing new coaches and hope to have something in place for February and apologise for any disruption (although playing in winter weather can be a bit chilly!)

Follow us on facebook & twitter or for information: www.purtontennisclub.com

Purton Tennis Club



Purton Placard

PURTON SURGERY

Vintage Tea Party

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

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS PRESENT

The Ladykillers by Graham Linehan

Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27
January 2018 at Swindon Arts Centre
Tickets £10, concessions £9 available
by calling 01793 698083
Email: bookings@phoenix-players.com
Card payments:
www.swindontheatres.co.uk

New Year's Eve Party at The Red House

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Burns Night Celebration

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

Jumble Sale

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

FRIENDS OF PEARDROPS PRE-SCHOOL

Table top sale of children's clothes, toys, books etc

Sunday 28 January
at Millennium Hall, Purton
Entry 50p for adults, children free.
Somthing to sell? book a table in
advance for £5.
Tel: 01793 978536/07759 583566
email:
peardropschildcare@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection changes



Normal collection day	Revised household waste, black box, plastic bottles and cardboard collection day	Revised garden waste collection day
Mon 25 December	Wed 27 December	No collections
Tues 26 December	Thurs 28 December	No collections
Wed 27 December	Fri 29 December	No collections
Thurs 28 December	Sat 30 December	No collections
Fri 29 December	Tues 2 January	No collections
Mon 1 January	Wed 3 January	No collections
Tues 2 January	Thurs 4 January	No collections
Wed 3 January	Fri 5 January	No collections
Thurs 4 January	Sat 6 January	No collections
Fri 5 January	Mon 8 January	No collections
Mon 8 January	Tues 9 January	Tues 9 January
Tues 9 January	Wed 10 January	Wed 10 January
Wed 10 January	Thur 11 January	Thur 11 January
Thur 11 January	Fri 12 January	Fri 12 January
Fri 12 January	Sat 13 January	Sat 13 January
Mon 15 January	Back to normal	Back to normal

There will be no waste or recycling collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

There will be catch up collections on Saturday 30 December, Saturday 6 January and Saturday 13 January.



Garden waste collections will be suspended from Monday 25 December for two weeks and resume on Tuesday 9 January. Collections will be one day later than normal during this week.

All collections, including garden waste, will return to normal from **Monday 15 January 2018**.

If you have paid for a garden waste collection you can leave your real Christmas tree alongside your garden waste bin on your first garden waste collection day in January, and we will ensure it is composted.

Check your collection days at:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days

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**saturday
3rd Feb 2018**

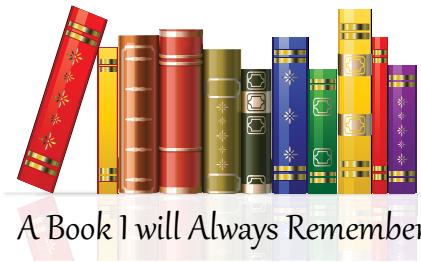
Purton village Hall

Tickets £6

Call Debbie: 07990 563115

contact: debbie.barlow1969@outlook.com

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



A Book I will Always Remember

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

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

As soon as I was asked the question “Have you read a book that you will always remember?” I should have suspected something. I replied, “Treasure Island”. “Jolly good; copy deadline is the 10th of the month – and thank you!”. So here goes.

For as long as I remember I have always read books. It was never a problem for my mother getting me to go to bed, particularly in the summer, because the days were long (and always sunny of course) and there was sufficient light to read in bed until I fell asleep naturally. A typical boy, I gravitated to adventure stories and exciting characters; in the wild west, in space and in magical faraway lands (real and fictional). Treasure Island fitted the bill perfectly.

The narrative is fast paced, the chapters are short and the characters are larger than life (my life as it was then anyway). It is written in the first person which seduced this young reader into believing that I was actually there. I still favour first person narrative to this day - you wouldn’t believe how many heroes I have been in my life!

In fairness, it has been some years since I last read it, so to do it some justice I decided to re-read it on holiday last month. It did not disappoint but it did produce a few surprises - there were some parts I didn’t remember!

The headlines were still there - the Admiral Benbow, Blind Pugh and the black spot, Long John Silver with one leg and a parrot(!) on his shoulder, Jim Hawkins hiding in the apple barrel and, of course, the Island itself with Ben Gunn - but some chapters and incidents had mysteriously disappeared (like the treasure does initially) in the mists of time. For instance, Jim Hawkins kills two pirates and single-handedly steals the ship and hides it in a secluded cove. What, on his own??? Who knew?

Reading it now in a modern context I am struck by what it unwittingly tells us about society in the 1880s. There is a strict hierarchy within the “goodies” and “baddies” (things were always black and white as a pre-teen, so much simpler than being a grown up isn’t it?). Everyone knows their place and defers to their “bettters” as each situation requires. (Oh, and there are no women characters in the book either other than a fleeting glimpse of Jim’s mother in the first couple of chapters).

They don’t write ‘em like that anymore me hearties!

Of course, good triumphs over evil in the end. Only casual mention is made of the fact that of the original 25 crew members, 22 died one way or another during the adventure and, indeed, the three that remained alive were marooned on the island by the “goodies” who sailed away with the treasure. Like I said earlier, black and white times.

On reflection I find I am grateful for being asked the question in the first place and giving me this opportunity to go back in time and re-visit myself as a child. Of course, if I was asked the same question again, this time I might well reply “The Flapdoodle who always knew best” but that’s another story.

Roger Entwistle

The Lydiards Link

The 14th AGM of the Lydiards Link was held, as advertised, on November 30th at 2.30 pm, at the Jubilee Clubhouse.

We were pleased to welcome a number of parishioners, volunteer drivers and clients, as well as our local Health & Wellbeing Champion, Mrs Ellen Blacker, who gave a resume of her excellent work in the community, helping and advising those in need, in the ways she can help them improve their standard of living.

The Link scheme has had a good year, and we are now especially pleased to be able to invite calls from Purton residents in need, to enable them to attend local medical appointments and social events or necessary journeys, such as shopping. Usual visits to Purton surgery for them are of course still available from the Age Concern bus, with whom we are very happy to work

Our finances are still healthy, thanks to grants from Community First, who operate the 50 odd Wiltshire Link Schemes, and who we are proud to be part of.

We are grateful for the financial contributions from our clients, and the hard work of our Co-Ordinators, Sheila & Avril, and our cheerful volunteer drivers.

We are pleased to award certificates to volunteers when they have completed 25 (or multiples thereof) client responses. The following certificates were awarded: one for 125, one for 225, one for 250, and one for 325 trips (some calculated from as long ago as 2003).

Our meeting was well rounded off, as usual, with tea & lovely home-made cakes, thanks to our committee. Do make a note to join us for next year's AGM.

We are a very small committee, and are now looking for new members, and clients, to help keep the service going, especially now that we also cover the Purton parish. We currently meet on a quarterly basis. Any offers of help would be much appreciated – just call John, our Recruitment Officer on 770787.

If you need a lift, do call Sheila & Avril on 854219.

Happy Christmas & best wishes for 2018 from us all.

Tom Pepperall, Chairman, The Lydiards Link

The Great War Project

Part 54: January 2018

Yet another new year in the “War that would be over by Christmas”... of 1914.

War at Sea

On 4 January, a British hospital ship HMHS Rewa, with wounded from Salonika, was sunk by submarine in the Bristol Channel. 4 engine room ratings were killed in the explosion, but all others were evacuated to lifeboats. German destroyers bombarded Yarmouth on the Norfolk coast on the 14th.

The keel of HMS Hermes, the first ever purpose-designed aircraft carrier, was laid down on the Tyne on the 15th.

In a naval action (Battle of Imbros) outside the Dardanelles, the German cruiser Breslau and two British monitors, HMS Raglan and M28, were sunk. A Turkish cruiser struck a mine and was beached, but refloated on 27 January.

Herbert Ernest Martin, son of George and Bessie Martin, The Square, Purton, was serving with the Royal Navy on board HM Submarine K4 as a Stoker. K class submarines had been specially designed to operate with a battle fleet. They were large boats for their time, at 339 feet (103 m) long, powered by steam turbines, and could make 24 knots on the surface, to keep up with the fleet.

On 31 January, a night-time naval exercise was held by the Grand Fleet (Operation ECI) near the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth. It was misty with only stern lights on each ship, which maintained radio silence. Two K class submarine flotillas were involved: the 12th led by a cruiser HMS Fearless (K3, K4, K6 & K7) and the 13th led by a destroyer HMS Ithuriel (K11, K12, K14, K17 & K22).

Off the Isle of May, the 13th Flotilla encountered the outbound 12th. Fearless collided with K17 which sank in 8 minutes, though most of her crew escaped by jumping into the sea.

The submarines following Fearless turned to avoid their stationary leader, but the battlecruiser HMAS Australia narrowly missed K12 which turned to get out of the way, and headed towards K6. K6 turned but hit K4, which was nearly cut in half and sank with all hands. Herbert had been on board K4 on 31 January 1918 and was among those that died.

Other warships, unconnected with the exercise, passed through the area unaware of the accident and cut through the survivors of K17 struggling in the water. Only nine of the 56 of K17's crew survived and one of these later died of injuries.

This self-inflicted naval disaster became known, with black humour, as the Battle of May Island. Within 75 minutes, two submarines had been sunk and 4 damaged as well

as the damage to HMS Fearless. 104 men were killed on K4, K17 and K14.

Herbert is commemorated in St Margaret Pattens Church, Eastcheap, London, together with rest of the K4 crew. The memorial was erected by K4's Commanding Officer's widow. Herbert is also remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

The accident was kept secret during the war, and a memorial cairn was finally erected 84 years later, on 31 January 2002, opposite the Isle of May.

Western Front

William Jordan, husband of Elizabeth (Netta), 9 Clarence Cottages, The Square, Purton, was serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry. In October the Battalion had been in action at Passchendaele before being withdrawn to Ypres.

On 1 January 1918, the Battalion was in support near Villers Plouich, supplying working parties for consolidation of the defensive line. Under incoming fire, William was killed in action and is buried in Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery, British extension, France.

The Chief of the General Staff, British Expeditionary Force, Lieut-Gen. Kiggell resigned on the 24th and replaced by Lieut-Gen. Sir Herbert Lawrence.

Prisoners of War

Herbert Fisher, son of Albert and Mary Fisher, Church Path, Purton, had been serving with the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment when he was taken prisoner by the Germans on 24 October 1914 at the 1st Battle of Ypres. He had been successively held at POW Camps at Gottingen, Celle and Hameln. It was at Hameln that Herbert died of consumption (tuberculosis) on 10 January 1918, aged 24.

Herbert is buried in Niederzwehren Cemetery, Hessen, Germany and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

War Aims

On 5 January, the Prime Minister David Lloyd George published a demand for a unified peace in a speech to Trade Union delegates. However, the Russian Soviet Government was already in talks with the Central Powers for a separate peace.

On the 8th, US President Woodrow Wilson outlined to Congress his Fourteen Points for peace, broadly in line with Lloyd's George. Many of these points concerned freedom of the seas and trade, arms reductions and independence after breaking up of empires. Other specific statements covered national boundaries after the war and the 14th Point called for the creation of a League of Nations. The speech was translated into many languages and copies were dropped behind German lines. Ten days later, on 24 January, the German Chancellor Count Herling and Austrian Foreign Minister Count Czernin made public replies to both Wilson's and Lloyd George's speeches calling them mere propaganda.

However, Austria and Germany were disrupted by strikes on 16 January amid

national impatience with the continuing war. Between 25 and 28 January there were strikes in metals and ammunition factories in Berlin, inspired by revolution in Russia. 400,000 workers went on strike and the action spread to other industrial centres across the country. The army arrested the strike's leaders and dispatched many of them to the front.

Air War

On 2 January, the Air Ministry was formed in Britain and, the following day, the Air Council took over the functions of the former Air Board.

Russia

On 4 January, the Bolshevik Government recognised the independence of Finland and France, Sweden and other countries followed soon after. On the 12th, Finland granted Finnish Jews full civil rights.

The left-right split in Finland resulted in Civil War at the Battle of Kämäärä Railway Station on the 27th. Leftist (red) rebels seized control of the capital, Helsinki, and members (white) of the Finnish Senate fled to safety.

The Russian Constituent Assembly met on 18 January in Petrograd and proclaimed a Democratic Republic. But the Bolsheviks yet again forcibly dissolved the Assembly and declared Russia to be a Republic of Soviets on 25 January.

The peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk were delayed first when the Bolsheviks demanded the talks be moved to neutral Stockholm, but later withdrew the demand. Another delay was caused by the Russians accusing the Central Powers of falsifying reports of the negotiations, but again resumed.

As the month progressed, the British government sent a note to the new Russian Government supporting the creation of an independent Poland. Latvia and Estonia declared independence and, on the 22nd, Ukraine proclaimed itself a free republic though it was really a German puppet state. The Bolsheviks declared war on Ukraine (Ukrainian-Soviet War) with the Battle of Kruty on 29 January.

Palestine & Mesopotamia

On 4 January, the British government wrote to the King of the Hejaz (Hussein bin Ali) confirming Palestine would be removed from Ottoman control following the war.

Arab regular forces under the command of Jafar Pasha al-Askar began actions against Tafileh (southeast of the Dead Sea) on 1 January 1918. The battle of Tafileh itself (23-28 January), was a defensive engagement that turned into an offensive rout, and was described as a brilliant feat of arms. T.E. Lawrence, who was British liaison officer with the Pasha's forces, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his leadership at Tafileh and was promoted to lieutenant colonel. 400 Turks died in the battle and 200 were taken prisoner.

Arab camel forces seized the Turkish Dead Sea Flotilla at El Mezran on the 27th.

Horrors yet to come ...

In January, a disease later to be known as “Spanish ‘flu” was first observed and diagnosed in Haskell County, Kansas. This was to become pandemic around the world and as big a killer as the Great War itself.

Other News

In the US, in the face of worldwide food shortages, Herbert Hoover, then the US Food Administrator, on 26 January called for “wheatless and meatless” days for the US war effort.

The first Tarzan film, “Tarzan of the Apes”, premiered on Broadway in New York on the 27th.

Rick Dixon

Chancel roof repair at St Mary’s Church – Job done!

After six months of hard but fruitful work, the scaffolding around St Mary’s Church came down before Christmas revealing the newly repaired chancel roof. We now have a beautiful mosaic of old and new slates which will gradually weather over the years and blend in with the other roofs. More important than appearance though, we now have a structure which is sound and watertight and will hopefully remain so for many decades to come.

So, many thanks to West Country Tiling -Toby Pitt (director) and Joe Stradling and the rest of the team – for a very professionally executed job. (Congratulations to Joe who was awarded the Redland “Apprentice of the Year” accolade during November). A big thank you also goes to the National Heritage Memorial Fund - Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund and to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust for their generous grants without which the work would have been very difficult to finance.

Finally, we thank everyone in the local community who have joined in with our fundraising events and donated so generously. We really do appreciate your support and commitment to looking after St Mary’s Church for generations to come. With this support, we are very close to meeting the target for local fundraising (to replenish the reserves used to allow the contract to proceed). Further donations, large or small, would still be most welcome – you can send a cheque payable to “PCC of Purton Roof Fund” to The Vicarage, 2 Kingsacre, Hyde Lane, Purton SN5 4DU or donate online using this link: www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/stmaryspurton/chancel-roof-repair



St Mary’s Church Wardens

Ten Years Ago...

In the January 2008 issue there were some reflections on how communities can be different and we were reminded of the different things that made Purton special enough for us to stay here. Indeed there was a sizeable contribution from Dave Martin entitled "Welcome to Purton – our history, our foibles, our generosity in a three minute read. Although only a three minute read, it did amount almost to three pages and thus too large to reproduce here but can be accessed on page 32 here: goo.gl/R6tbPd

Perhaps more objective comments were included in a letter from Devon which read "I admire the jaunty style and lovely variety of contents in Purton Magazine. It really makes the reader feel 'Yes, Purton sounds a nice, lively place to live'" and who are we to argue? Certainly several live to a good old age in Purton and 10 years ago we were remembering Mabel Goodings who had died in November 2007 but only after achieving the very impressive age of 107. That's yet another good advertisement for Purton.

Special Area Board meeting: Wednesday 10th January

The next meeting will be an interactive session led by public health specialist Karen Spence. With mental health issues affecting the lives of 1 in 4 people each year, that's 7,500 people living in this community alone, who are living with mental health issues every day. Please come along and explore what we can all do to help. There will be information from the Alzheimer's Society and a short presentation from Launch to Learning on their mental health-themed filming project at RWB Academy.

Networking from 6.00pm for a 7.00pm start at: Royal Wootton Bassett RFC, Ballards Ash Sports Ground, Malmesbury Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8DS.

Purton and District Probus Club

On the 14 November, W/Cdr Paul Morris addressed the meeting with "Going to the Falklands". During the conflict of 1982, Paul was stationed in Ascension Island, flying in a Nimrod Aircraft. Nimrods, initially operated in a Radar Reconnaissance role, but were urgently converted at very short notice, to Inflight Refuelling A/C, to accompany those Vulcans and Victors going South to The Falklands. Paul is currently contracted by BAE Systems to support a number of military defence activities for the islands and makes frequent trips there. Previous talks covered Inflight Refuelling over The Gulf and "Black Buck", the Vulcan raid on The Falklands.

The talk commenced with a brief history of the islands. The first map of part of the islands is Portuguese (1504), and in 1521 Magellan passed that way. In 1600, Sebald de Weert, a Dutch sailor, named them "Sebald Islands", although Britain and Spain both claim earlier discovery. Early in 1690, English sailor John Strong was inadvertently driven onto the islands and landed at Bold Cove. He sailed down the main channel



which he named “Falkland Channel” after his boss, Viscount Falkland. Frenchman, Louis de Bouganville founded a colony (1764) on the East coast named Port Louis and the islands became Les îles Malouines. In 1765 John Byron, father of the poet, claimed Saunders Island (N/West corner) for the British and established Port Egmont.

The Falklands Crisis of 1770 was nearly the cause of a war between Britain and Spain who had hoped for the backing of France which never came. The Spanish government's claim to the islands was continued by Argentina after the latter's independence in 1816. The United Kingdom took control of the islands in 1833, following the destruction of Puerto Luis by the Americans. The Royal Navy built a base at Stanley as a strategic point for navigation around Cape Horn. In WW1 a naval battle beat off the Germans in December 1914, and in WW2 Port Stanley serviced the ships that took part in the Battle of the River Plate.

Sovereignty over the islands became an issue in 1982 when Argentina invaded South Georgia and then the Falkland Islands. On 21 May 1982, British troops landed at Port San Carlos and began to move towards Stanley. Success at the battle of Goose Green laid the foundation for the victory that was to come. After an intense air and artillery barrage and the capture of the high ridges around Stanley, the Argentine Commander surrendered all his forces on 14 June.

Having regained the territory, Britain received a 99.98% vote from the 2900 inhabitants to remain British. After the 1982 conflict the United Kingdom established a garrison on the Falkland Islands which has led the way for the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Airforce to work closely together. The Islands have become a useful training ground for proving the latest military technology. However there are still Argentine minefields which need to be cleared. In spite of this, there is a thriving Tourist Industry and it attracts many visitors from Britain and South America. Sea Lion Island boasts the furthest South hotel in the World, where a great variety of wildlife can be observed at close quarters including some birds that are unique to the Falklands.

95% of employment is in Sheep farming and Fishing largely for export, but other activities include wool preparation and oil exploration. Weather conditions can vary greatly and Paul tells of a Hercules landing at a ground speed of 11 knots against one of the frequent high winds. One can also experience unexpected sunburn due to thinning of the ozone layer so close to the Antarctic. It was interesting to learn that the Falklands are not just hanging on, but have an active self-governing and thriving community.

At the meeting on the 28 November we were entertained by great grandmother Linda Dowsett from Southwick, near Trowbridge, with “My Journey to the Weakest Link”. The journey began, in 2009, with a telephone number written, on a piece of junk mail, by one of Linda's grandchildren who encouraged her with the comment; “You could do that Granny. You know all the answers”. When tidying up the house, Linda saw the number and decided that there was nothing to lose by phoning. Soon afterwards she received a letter and an application form, with 26 pages, requiring

every detail of her education, lifestyle and interests.

Her audition would be at the Grand Hotel in Bristol and although she could share a double room with husband Gordon, only the contestant would be catered for. Poor Gordon had to fork out £6 to park the car, £4 for a small coke and a lot more for an evening meal of bangers and mash. A man with designer stubble/5 o'clock shadow, purporting to be Anne Robinson, conducted a personal screen test, asking 20 questions in 3 minutes of a half-circle of would be contestants. Linda's first question: - "Where is Tuscany", she got right. Olly, on her left, answered "Web" when he should have said "Cobweb", and got a roasting from the compere. At the end of the round, Olly tried to retire by voting himself off. When Linda said "that's not allowed", he rubbed out 'Olly' on his slate and put 'Lynda'.

Half a year later, in August, Linda received a telephone call saying that she was on the Short List. At the time, Linda was busy transporting the grandchildren to school. Well, said 'Designer Stubble' from the BBC, when can you fit me in? He called later, as arranged, with instructions to report to the Sheraton Hotel, Heathrow, on a certain day with three alternative outfits; No check, No logos and No stripes, the cameras can't handle it. Linda would be called for the first of 3 broadcasts that would be recorded on the same day. Gordon shared the hotel room, but again it cost him money.

On the Big Day, in the London Studio, Anne Robinson was her usual self, "The Queen of Mean". Linda related vividly her introductory spat with Anne Robinson; A.R. – "I understand that your husband is in the audience today, can you tell us how you met, was it love at first sight". Linda - "We actually first met on a Zebra Crossing". A.R. – "Oh! Did you bump into each other"? Linda – "Well not exactly, he was driving a bus, I nodded to him and he smiled at me". A.R. – "Well, if he was driving a bus, how did you track him down"? Linda – I spent a lot of money on bus fares!". The audience reaction indicated to Anne that it was time to move on to the next contestant. Linda was only voted off from the last five. Her greatest disappointment: "Who is the famous sportsman known to Splash it all Over". Linda knew the answer, but it just didn't come out; "Henry ? Henry ?" No Dear, not Henry Higgins. A few days later, in Trowbridge, a man called across the street, "I saw you on Tele, Henry Cooper!! You're not going to forget that, are you?"

When Linda's husband Gordon, was alive, the couple supported the training of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Unfortunately he died of an illness in 2011. At his committal the collection yielded over a thousand pounds. Linda's wish was to name a Guide Dog after Gordon, but it was pointed out that it costs £5000 to train a Guide Dog. This was Linda's incentive to embark on the Speakers Circuit. She has raised £20,750 in the six years since, enough to train 4 or 5 Guide Dogs. Gordon, a Black Labrador, died only recently. Granny Dowsett is a lady full of humour.

Probus meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am, at the Red House. January Programme: 9th The Kyber Pass or Bust, 23rd The Unknown Warrior.

Bob Stevens

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Unsurprisingly, Christmas preparations and activities were a staple of the units' programmes last month. 1st Purton Rainbows made nativity wreaths and 2nd Purton Rainbows have been working on a Reindeer challenge badge. 2nd Purton Brownies took Christmas into the community with carol singing at Ashgrove House, also delivering a wreath they'd made for the residents to hang on the wall. Both the Guides and 2nd Purton Brownies made and decorated Christmas cakes and the Guides made Christmas puddings too. 1st Purton Brownies worked in teams to make Lego vehicles which they then used for a relay transporting chocolate reindeer to chocolate Santas.

It wasn't all Christmas though. The Guides celebrated UK Parliament Week. This is a festival of events and activities which connects people with the UK Parliament and democracy in the UK. As well as learning facts about parliamentary history and law-making, the Guides debated topics such as: Should Guides be compulsory for all girls? Should voting in a general election be mandatory?

The two Brownie units, along with Oakhurst Brownies, spent a night at Boomerang Soft Play Centre in Melksham. After wearing themselves out on the equipment they bedded down for the night on the mats at the foot of the slides before breakfast and more play the next morning. Many Brownies were very quick to drop off in the car on the way home!

1st Purton Rainbows have been preparing some new members for making their Rainbow Promise whilst 2nd Purton Brownies held a Promise celebration for Daisy and Ruby. This coincided with saying goodbye to Sarah who has now moved house and is hopefully now settling into a Brownie unit near her new home. Thanksgiving provided another celebration opportunity for 2nd Purton Brownies who made Thanksgiving turkeys and tasted different types of bread; the favourite was French baguette.

1st Purton Brownies have continued with the Cupboard Technology badge, completing activities linked to various areas of a house. They made treasure boxes for their bedrooms, had a go at invisible ink writing (study), dyed bunting using natural dye (garden) and made traditional cup and ball toys (playroom).

2nd Purton Rainbows planted bulbs and also decorated 60 rocks. These rocks were hidden around Purton, Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon for people to find. This is part of the latest treasure hunt craze spreading around the country, getting children out of doors (think Pokémon Go without a phone) as well as promoting positivity and kindness. If you find a rock you have the choice of keeping it or rehiding it. You also take a picture of the rock you've found and post that photo on the special Facebook group so that those who've painted the rock have the pleasure of knowing their rock was found and enjoyed. Have you found any of the Rainbows' rocks in the village?

The New Year is often when thoughts turn to new opportunities and fresh challenges. If you're interested in volunteering with Girlguiding as something new for you in 2018, do get in touch. Volunteering is very rewarding and the Leaders get as much out of it as the girls. For more information, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/

Cricklade Country Market



Our first market of 2018 will be on Friday 26 January 26, 2-4pm at The Jenner Hall Cricklade.

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

Future MARKET DATE: 23 February 23

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

The Phoenix Players Present 'The Ladykillers'

The Ladykillers is a classic black comedy; a sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing...

Posing as amateur musicians, Professor Marcus and his gang rent rooms in the lopsided house of sweet, but morally strict Mrs Wilberforce. The villains plot to involve her, unwittingly, in the Professor's brilliantly conceived heist job. The police are left stumped but Mrs Wilberforce eventually becomes wise to their ruse and the Professor concludes that there is only one way to keep the old lady quiet... With only her parrot, General Gordon, to help her, Mrs Wilberforce is alone with five desperate men. But who will be forced to face the music?

The play is based on the original, hugely successful 1955 film of the same name starring Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers and Herbert Lom amongst other famous names. The play is equally successful in its own right and is a joy to watch. Directed by Colin Wilkins and starring: Sandra Gilbert as Mrs Wilberforce, Nick Gratton as Prof. Marcus, Vern Dunkley as Maj. Courtney, Martin Lawrence as Harry Robinson, Alex Barrett as One Round, Mark Harris as Louis Harvey, Jean Belt as Mrs Tromleyton and Chris Coleman as Constable Macdonald .

Come and join us for a great evening of drama and blow away those post-Christmas cobwebs. At Swindon Arts Centre from Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 January 7.30pm (Tickets are priced at £10 (£9 concessions; Group bookings: 1 free for every 10 booked.) Available by telephone on the Phoenix booking line: 07517 698093; by E-mail: bookings@phoenix-players.com or www.swindontheatres.co.uk