

# Purton. Magazine

October 2018



Mary and David Nettleton, have been the driving force behind Purton's Community Cafe. Five years of hard work will pay off as the cafe opens on 6th October.

See Page 34 Photo: Heather Ponting-Bather

50p

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## Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, <a href="mailto:bethaney23@icloud.com">bethaney23@icloud.com</a>	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020
<b>Schools &amp; Playgroups</b>		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
<b>Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary</b> <a href="http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk">www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</a>		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: <a href="mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk">vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells <i>(on sabbatical until 28 Nov 2018)</i>	email: <a href="mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com">judithwells36@googlemail.com</a> Tel: 770627	
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: 770157	Jane Smith: 772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	<a href="mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk">administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 773035	
<b>Methodist Churches</b> <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
<b>Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett</b> <a href="http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk">www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk</a>		
Parish Priest:	Tel: 852366	
Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues		
Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell	Tel: 325681	
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
<b>Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade</b>		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson	Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church	
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.0pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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# Purton. Magazine

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**INTouch**  
Design & Print

## From the Editors

The photograph on our front cover this month is perfect proof that persistence pays off. In various past issues of Purton Magazine, readers will have seen articles about a proposed community café for people in Purton. Said like that, what could be easier? A simple idea to create a friendly meeting place; a social hub offering tasty food and drinks for Purton people of all ages. The idea was widely supported by many who heard about it and by numerous villagers who signed up to help the project in a variety of ways.

Now turn to page 34 to find out some of the hurdles and harassments that have been overcome before the grand opening on Saturday 6th October from a brand new kitchen serving the function room at the back of the Purton Club on Station Road. You will also be able to read about some of the substantial contributions and donations that have enabled PIPS to open.

Saturday 6th October is also going to be a very busy day in Purton with the grand opening of Purton in the Great War exhibition in the library. As the article on page 30 says, if you cannot make the opening, the museum will be open on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings until the 24th November.

The next fundraising event for Purton Methodist Church is also on Saturday 6th October in the Silver Threads Hall. A full range of refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle and tombola, with cake and bric-a-brac stalls plus children's toys with monies raised going towards upgrading the loop system that is needed at the Methodist Church; see page 55.

Information about the progress of the significant and substantial renewal project at St. Mary's church is announced, reminding us that changes are always needed to keep up with all our changing needs. The overall objective is to provide a more welcoming, flexible and comfortable environment with several new facilities in St. Mary's.

Many in the village will remember our then vicar, Roy Blake, sitting on a toilet at the lay-by in the High Street many years ago to raise enough money to build the toilet near the West door of St. Mary's church. Since then it has been well used but does not allow for access by disabled users. Details of that and so many other important improvements are described on page 21.

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New Year 7 students  
welcomed at Bradon  
Forest School  
– see page 38

About 40%

Of the £35,000 raised  
for Pips Community Cafe  
was given by villagers  
– see page 34

2491

Is the target number of  
electors per councillor in  
the boundary review  
– see page 14

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## **Don't Forget - New Youth Club For 9-11 Year Olds**

Purton Parish Council is working with Community Mentoring Support (CMAS) to trial a youth club provision in Purton. The sessions are every Wednesday in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm for Purton resident children age 9-11 years old.

The Council has invested in providing this positive service for our younger generation of Purton residents, so please promote it and give it a go. CMAS will tailor sessions to the children, listening to their interests and structure sessions around them. There is a very small contribution of 50p per session towards activities.

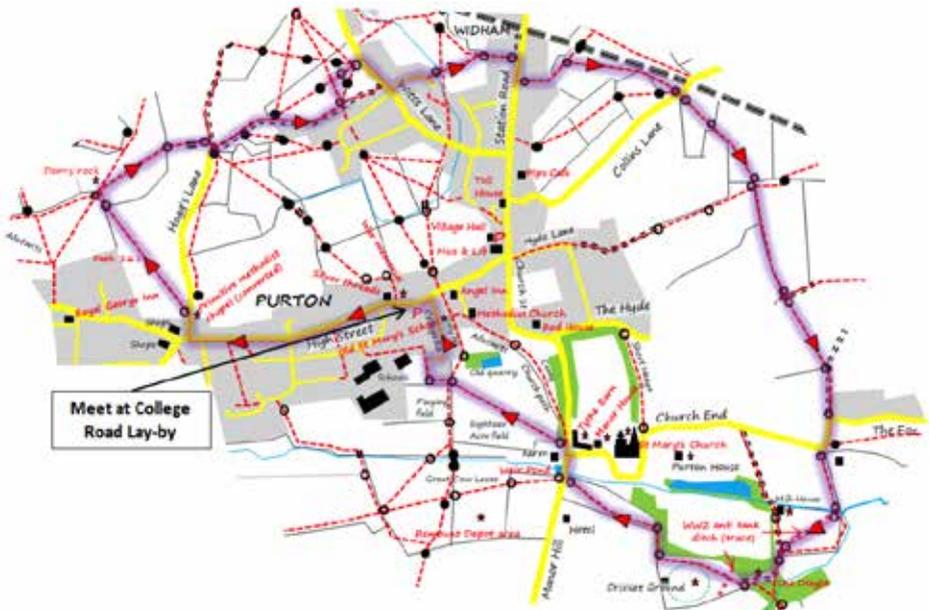
For more details please contact the Youth Leader Jude Deaman Telephone: 01242 224 509; Mobile: 07787821798 Website: [www.communitymas.co.uk](http://www.communitymas.co.uk). A facebook page has also been set up under Purton Youth Club.

## **Welcome**

Purton Parish Council are delighted to announce the appointment by co-option of two new Councillors as from 10th September 2018; Emily and Grant Seabrook. Our Council is now fully subscribed with no vacancies.

## **Annual Parish Footpath Walk**

The annual parish walk was held on Sunday September 2nd. The walk was stile free and went through several of the new kissing gates installed last year. It was a bright sunny day and this was well attended. Below is the route taken. Purton



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Parish Council have a further selection of walking maps if required, including the one below, pop into the office during opening hours prices start at 50p.

### **Councillors 2018-19**

Chairman of Council/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Finance & General Purposes		
Vice Chair of Council/Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Scott Harflett	07920 260222
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Councillor	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Sue Matthews	01793 771091
Chair of Play Areas	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Jamie Hurwood	01793 771066
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Chair of Staff Sub	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Councillor	Sue Relfe	01793 771066
Councillor	Elizabeth Wilson	01793 771854
Councillor (newly co-opted in September)	Emily Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor (newly co-opted in September)	Grant Seabrook	01793 771066

### **Become A Dementia Friend**

Do you belong to a Community Group or business in Purton? Can we come to one of your meetings or premises and run a Dementia Friends Session?

Say YES, make a difference and allow us to show that as a community we care. Make Purton Proud! say yes to 45 minutes of your time to make a difference to those suffering and caring. Alternatively come to one of our Dementia Friends sessions being held at the Village Hall on the following dates:

DATES: 22 October 10am and 7pm, 14 November 10am and 7 December at 10am and 7pm.

### **Councillor Surgery**

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

### **October Meetings**

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

8 October 2018	Council meeting
15 October 2018	Play Area Committee followed by Burial Committee at 8pm
29 October 2018	Purton Institute and Village hall Charity

### **Memory Stones**

We now have two memorial tribute stones in place at the front entrance to the cemetery. If you are interested in a memorial stone to honour a loved one who

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resided in Purton, please contact the Clerk on 771066 or email clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

### **Planning - Determined Applications, approved with conditions**

- 18/04692/FUL The Manor Hill Coach House. Single storey extension to side elevation.
- 17/01716/FUL Land adjacent to Mardrea, The Hyde. Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 17/01716/FUL to allow for amendments to the style and appearance of the roof.
- 18/04069/VAR Parkgate Farm Management Facility Mopes Lane. Variation of condition 3 of N/08/07022 relating to operating hours.
- 18/03799/FUL 7 Locks Lane. Convert existing building to dependant relative annexe.
- 18/05666/FUL Bagbury Green Farmhouse. Bagbury Lane. Proposed erection of attached garage/link and associated works (resubmission of 17/00474/FUL) .
- 18/04900/FUL 10 Waite Meads Close. Single storey rear extension.
- 18/05326/FUL 2 Water Field. New garden room extension to replace existing conservatory; removal of first floor dormer replaced with new window; replacement first floor windows to rear elevation; new window to ground floor side elevation; replacement rainwater goods to rear elevation.
- 18/06091/FUL 4 Shaftsbury Close. Single storey rear extension over existing conservatory footprint.
- 18/06383/FUL 12 Ringsbury Close. Proposed single storey rear extension, loft conversion and front extension and roof extension to garage.

### **Refused Applications**

- 18/04624/FUL Upper Dudgeamore Farm. Proposed conversion of rebuilt former agricultural building to a two-bedroom annex and Associated work, (Part Retrospective)
- 18/05078/PNCOU Barn - Lower Pavenhill Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (use Class 3), and for associated operational development - steel framed Dutch hay barn to dwelling

### **Footpaths Of Purton**

We would like to say thank you to the people who have already sponsored kissing gates in the village in memory of a loved one. If anyone would like to consider sponsoring a kissing gate please contact the office directly.

We are very fortunate in Purton to have a dedicated team of volunteers. Without their support we would not be able to offer the footpath usage that we currently enjoy.

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## **Charities - Business Opportunity**

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

The Kiosk (currently known as Laura's Kitchen) will be coming up for lease and if you are interested please contact the charities secretary for more information on 01793 771824 or email [charities@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:charities@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

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

## **Community Speed Watch**

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)  
Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

## **Facebook, Twitter and Website**

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

On our website you can join up to receive regular updates which will keep you

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informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and sign up today.

Facebook: Purton Parish Council

Twitter: @PurtonPC

Facebook: Purton Youth Club

### ***Purton Neighbourhood Plan***

The referendum for adoption of the plan will take place on Thursday 1st November 2018 at the Village Hall, Purton. Wiltshire Council will issue all residents with a voting card through the post and we hope that all will vote.

This plan has taken nearly 7 years to complete and is vital to the village and future development. The final plan will be available on Wiltshire Councils and Purton Parish Councils website shortly.

## *Electoral Boundary Review – What is this?*

Wiltshire Council Authority is currently under review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England who look at how many Electorate are in each Division/Ward of a Local Authority. The Boundary Commission have indicated that the current number of 98 Councillors is the correct number however they want to see each elected Wiltshire Councillor represent roughly the same number of electorate. The figure they have indicated is 4,291 electorate per councillor. They will allow a variance 10% either side of this figure which equate to between 3,862 and 4,720. Where there are less or more electorate then Divisions/Wards will need to be altered.

### ***What is a Division/Ward?***

This can be a number of parishes or an area in a town that make up the electorate numbers for an elected Wiltshire Councillor to represent. For Purton the Division is all of Purton Parish and Braydon. In our Community Area there are six Divisions represented by six councillors. Some of these Divisions have over the 4,291 and some have less hence the Divisions need to be looked at so the electorate are more evenly spread.

### ***So how does this affect Purton?***

The figures being used are the projected numbers for 2024. In Purton the projected number is 5,226. This is between 601 and 1,459 too many electorate hence the Division will need to have two or more councillors. One councillor who potentially represent Braydon and part of Purton and one or two other councillors to represent the remaining part of Purton and the adjoining parishes to make up the numbers within the variance of 3,862 to 4,720. The part of the parish that will be split has to have a contiguous boundary with the adjoining Division.

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## **Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area**

Wiltshire Council's submission to the Commissioner for 98 Councillors rested on retaining the Community Areas where possible, hence any changes to Divisions proposed will ensure that they remain within their Community Area. Purton is in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area hence any part of Purton that is allocated to an adjoining Division really needs to be either to Cricklade or Royal Wootton Bassett East.

### **Which part of Purton Division should be allocated to which Division?**

It might be Purton could have three Councillors if part of the north of the Division is allocated to Cricklade, however, Cricklade Division is near to the number required so cannot take all of the surplus. The rest of the allocation would have to come from the south of the village. There is a logic that all of the extra Electorate are from one part of the Division. It could be the South East corner of the parish or it could be the South West part of the parish. There would therefore be two Wiltshire Councillors representing the people in Purton Parish at Wiltshire Council and reporting to the Parish Council and dealing with case work.

This review is not about moving parish boundaries hence no part of Purton or Braydon Parishes will be moved to an adjoining parish. It is about Electoral Divisions.

### **Commissioners Consultation on your views**

If you have a strong view on this matter then the Commissioners have a consultation which ends on the 5th November 2018. If you want to comment then the process is online and the link is: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/14518> There is an email address if you need help to fill out their form - [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

The Wiltshire Council Electoral Review Committee would also welcome any views from organisations, communities or the public, as it prepares a submission on behalf of the council. Any representations to the council should be sent to [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:committee@wiltshire.gov.uk)

### **Your Wiltshire Councillor**

I have, as your current Councillor, already commented to the Commissioners, which will be published by the Commissioners on their website after the 5th November. If you want to see what I have said and anything I subsequently add to my comments then please let me know. I can be contacted on [jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 01793 770704.

## *Sing 4/4 Community Choir*

Rehearsals take place weekly on Thursdays at 7.30pm at the Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade. New recruits are most welcome to join us for our two Christmas Concerts. No auditions required – if you enjoy singing this is for you!

*Contact Mary New on 01793 770630.*

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## Purton & District Age Concern



Our 2019 calendars are now on sale at £6.00. Each calendar contains 34 beautiful photographs taken by local people. We have also included the dates of our events and activities in 2019 to remind everyone of what Purton Age Concern will be getting up to each month. The calendars will make great Christmas presents. They can be purchased at Andrew Hiscock's butchers shop or at Val's the hairdressers or by contacting Louise on 772558, Tony on 770696 or Peter on 778119. Peter was selling them at our recent jumble sale and Louise had several orders before the calendars were even printed so they are proving to be popular again this year! Our grateful thanks go to Carole and Steve at Artworking Ltd in Purton for producing such high quality calendars, to Andrew Hiscock and Val the hairdresser for agreeing to sell them on our behalf and to everyone who submitted photographs for the calendar.

At our September committee meeting we agreed to sell packs of Christmas cards again this year too. Each pack will cost £4 and contain 10 cards. There will be 5 different designs in each pack, two cards of each design. If you would like to purchase Christmas cards please contact Louise on 772558 or Peter on 778119.

We are very grateful to the Maharajah Restaurant for holding their annual afternoon tea on Bank Holiday Monday at the end of August. Our thanks go to Khalique, Wendy and the team at the Maharajah for all their hard work putting on such a lovely social event for the community to enjoy and thank you for the donation of £218.00. We really do appreciate your support.

Numbers attending our Tai chi classes have declined recently. If you, or anyone you know, are thinking of trying tai chi then please note the classes take place at the Millennium Hall at 2pm on Thursday afternoons where you will be given a warm welcome by the friendly group. The first class is free of charge, then £3 per week. If you require more information please contact the Tai chi instructor, Steve Rouse on 07956359924 or email him at [wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com](mailto:wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com)

You may remember our minibus service was recently entered into the green token schemes at Waitrose in Malmesbury and Swindon and the Asda Superstore in West Swindon. We received a total of £1229 from these three schemes. I would also like to thank Purton Carnival committee for their donation of £1000 following their recent AGM and Neil Ricketts for the donation of £503.44 following the wonderful concert he hosted in Lydiard Millicent Church and finally Hazel Woodbridge for her donation of £50 through her work with the CDA. All of these donations have been gratefully received and deposited in our minibus service restricted fund which will be used to purchase our next new minibus. Talking of our minibus service, at our September committee meeting Keith Bailey came to talk to us about the band concerts he organises at the Red House on the 3rd Sunday afternoon in the month from May-September. He has requested donations collected during each concert be

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given to our minibus service. Sadly by the time you read this report the final concert of 2018 will have taken place but watch this space in 2019 for more information as I will let you know when each concert will be taking place. We are very grateful to Keith, Neil and team at the Red House for their on-going support.

Finally, our Christmas vouchers and newsletters will be delivered to you by your street wardens at the beginning of December. If you are a new pensioner to our area and think you may be eligible for our Christmas voucher scheme please contact Louise on 772558 for more information.

### **Future Events**

**October Mystery Tour** - Our final mystery tour of 2017 is on Wednesday 3rd October with a 10am start. Cost including pub lunch is £15.00 for village pensioners and £17.00 for people from outside our area. Please contact your street warden to book your place before Monday 24th September.

**3Bs x 2 Evening** - Our second 3B's evening this year is on Friday 5th October at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £7 and includes a two-course supper; soft drinks will be available but bring your own alcoholic drinks. Admission tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. Bingo tickets will be on sale on the night. There will be no admittance on the night without pre-booking. This is a fun evening and tickets sell out very quickly, please don't leave it to the last minute to get your tickets, you may be disappointed!

**Auction** - our re-scheduled auction will be taking place on Saturday 13th October at 1pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9am-11.30am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. Please contact Louise on 772558 if you would rather complete one in advance or you can fill the form in when you bring your items to the Village Hall. Viewing of lots is from 12pm-1pm and the auction starts at 1pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this time. Come and join in the bidding, its great fun!

**Minibus Shopping Trips** - Hazel will be organising two Friday shopping trips in October. The first on Friday 12th to Burford and the second on Friday 26th October to Cirencester. Please contact Hazel on 770862 for more details and to book your place.

**Christmas Shopping Outing** - Due to popular demand Louise is organising a Christmas shopping trip on Wednesday 28th November to Highfield Garden World at Whitminster. Besides a wide range of plants, garden furniture and other gardening equipment there is a food hall, home & giftware department, Pavers shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mill and Peacocks. There will be a wide range of Christmas items on sale throughout the garden centre and I have been reliably informed their restaurant serves good food. The cost is £8 for pensioners in our area and £10 for non-pensioners and for those outside our area. Please book your place as usual with your street warden by Monday 19th November.

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## **Past Events**

**Jumble sale** – Our jumble sale held on Saturday 1st September was very busy, people were queuing around the Village Hall car park before we opened the doors and we had a huge amount of donated goods for sale. We made a profit of £424.80, which is wonderful. Thank you to everyone who donated items for us to sell and donated prizes for the raffle. A special thank you goes to all who helped out at the event and those who came along and spent their money to support us.

## **Information**

**Fire Service & Bobby Van** - If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 0800 038 2323. If you need the Bobby Van please call them on 01380 861155.

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

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

**Friendship Club** - The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 6th October from 2pm-4pm and costs 50p which includes tea/coffee/biscuits. If you need transport please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus.

*Louise Tidman*

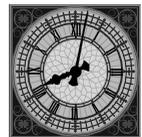
## *After 8*

A small select number of us arrived at "The Three Crowns" in Brinkworth for our annual walk with lunch. Only four people did the walk – the rest of us chickened out.

We were seated at a large table in the sunny conservatory. The menu was very varied and our choices ranged from a variety of filled ciabatta, salad and fries, to lobster bisque, moules et frites and omelettes.

We were able to catch up with everyone's news and discussed our next meeting which will be on Tuesday October 16th (venue tba) "The best laid Plans of mice and men often go astray" - A planning meeting to be followed by a short Halloween Quiz.

*Avril Ainscough*



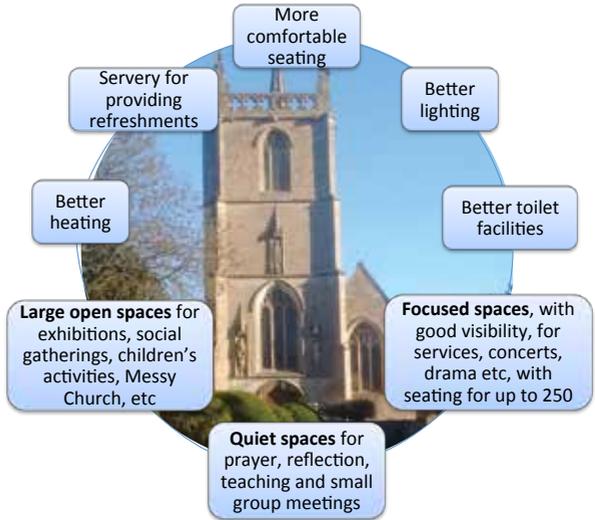
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# St Mary's Church Renewal Project – Update

Great news! Following the exhibition of our plans for St Mary's Church Renewal in May we have now formally submitted our application for a faculty (planning permission) to carry out the work – we hope this will be granted in the next few months so that work can begin by mid 2019.

Our vision is that St Mary's Renewal will be a sensitive enhancement of this beautiful building to help serve and inspire the people of Purton now and into the future. We believe that the internal renewal of the Church Building – providing a more welcoming, flexible and comfortable environment with many new facilities – is vital for the long term sustainability of our village church. In particular, the changes will open up the potential for the building to be used more creatively for church services and also more widely by the community for social and cultural events.

Carrying out work inside a mediaeval Grade I listed building has to meet high standards and it's not surprising that the Renewal costs will also be high. The majority of these costs will be met by the church community through the use of reserves, donations and fundraising. Some, we hope, will be met from grants (e.g. for wheelchair accessible toilet). And, of course, we would greatly appreciate any support for the Renewal from the wider parish community. If you want further information or have any comments please do contact one of the churchwardens - Sandra Horsnall (770157), Jane Smith (772422) or Paul Dempsey (770826).



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## Health & Wellbeing Champion

Where did summer go? I'm here in the office just after the August Bank Holiday and feeling chilly wondering what happened to summer! It was so very hot in June and early July then seemed to cool off when the schools closed for the summer, such a shame for the holiday season! The thermometer tells me that it's not that cold, but even the weatherman used that "Autumn" word yesterday. Hope that this winter has no visits from the "Beast from the East". Watch out next month for details on the Surviving Winter Grant programme – how to donate to it and how to seek a grant to help with the cost of winter fuel. Give me a call for more information or to log your interest now.

I don't want to be a scare monger, but recently, I have been made aware of some more phone scams doing the rounds. I visited a lively group recently who were well up to fending off nuisance phone calls which seem to happen in ever increasing numbers. But these scammers are crafty folk! By introducing themselves and appearing to be "friendly" they can gain your confidence and before you know it you may have told them your full name, address, bank details, PIN number and even the time of day that you will be home and by default, the time when the house will be empty – and emptied of your valuables! Now I don't want to scare anyone, but if you receive an unexpected call from anyone purporting to be from the bank, building society, Council, Water Authority, Microsoft... the list goes on... you have a choice. Put the phone down on them immediately or, if you are concerned that it may be genuine, ask for the matter to be put into a letter. Genuine callers will always respect your wishes and they will have your address on their file without needing to ask you and will be happy to post details of the matter to you. Never be afraid of being rude to cold callers – they have invaded your privacy after all!

Meanwhile, 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 only work part time but will get back to you as soon as possible.

*Ellen Blacker Tel: 07557 922020 or email: [ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk)*

## Purton & District Luncheon Club

Have you any free time to spare? Would you like to Volunteer at our Luncheon Club? Once a month or fortnightly? We work on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 13.30 pm. Providing lunches for the elderly. The lunches are held at the Silver Threads Hall, High Street. We are looking for volunteers and if you enjoy cooking and would like to cook for us that would be fantastic. It's a chance to help in the community, and make new friends.

*If you are interested, please give me a ring, Pat Suddaby on 01793 771331*

**Cheese and Wine evening - raising funds for  
Brighter Futures at GWH Friday 19 October,  
7pm, Purton Village Hall**

Tickets for our Cheese and Wine evening on Friday 19 October, 7pm in Purton Village Hall, are now available from Purton Surgery and from PPG Committee members. We will also have soft drinks available, first glass of wine/drink included in the ticket, more available to purchase. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds will go to Brighter Futures at GWH and Cat Newman from Brighter Futures will be talking about their work. Tickets are £8.50. Don't forget to pick yours up.

A bit about Brighter Futures... Brighter Futures has been raising funds to provide Radiotherapy in Swindon so that patients no longer have to travel to Oxford for this treatment. At the moment around 700 patients a year make the 70 mile round-trip journey to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford for radiotherapy. Treatment usually lasts for a period of 4-7 weeks, made up of daily visits.

The Oxford University Hospitals is investing £18 million in order to bring this much needed facility to Swindon and Brighter Futures is fundraising £2.9 million which will contribute towards the purchase of important clinical equipment within the building.

The new radiotherapy unit at the GWH site will be a satellite of the Oxford Cancer and Haematology Centre which is based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford and specialist OUH staff will undertake the treatment of all those patients who attend the new facility in Swindon.

Around £2.5 million has already been raised out of the £2.9 million appeal to provide radiotherapy treatment in Swindon.

**Table Top sale in waiting room**

On Monday 5 November there will be a table in the waiting room in Purton Surgery selling numerous bric-a-brac items at a small cost or donation. We already have some items for this, including soft toys and would welcome any more. If you have items you would like to donate then please hand them to one of the receptionists.

Money raised will be used to help the surgery purchase a Dermatoscope which is a piece of equipment used for examining the appearance of the skin, ordinary skin as well as moles, to diagnose skin problems.

Although dermoscopy can be helpful in all forms of skin diagnosis, it is particularly helpful for the diagnosis of skin cancer. This will ensure patients are referred timely and appropriately to hospital, if required.

**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

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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.

PPGs are independent bodies, which aim to improve communication between Patients and their Surgeries

### **Purton and Green Gable PPG Committee Members**

Marietta Crockford - Chair	Christine Rawlings - Vice-Chair
Sheila Fowler - Secretary and Treasurer	Trish Baker
Peter Berry	Nigel Massey
Jeanne Perons	Kai Howard - Practice Manager
Jess Knotts - Practice Staff	Linda Hoffen - Practice Staff

Purton and Green Gable PPG hold information evenings, usually twice a year, on a variety of health topics when we have medical staff to talk. Normally these medical staff are from GWH.

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

## Harvest flowers

Harvest Festival this year in St Mary's is Sunday 7 October and we would like to decorate the church with flowers and to make it look its best.

If you would like to help, by providing flowers, or filling vases and pedestals, please contact Libbie or Jane.

Any money donations will be spent on flowers, which will then be re-distributed to people in need around the village after the festivities. We welcome people to help on Friday morning (5th) from 10am onwards.

Hopefully someone will be there to welcome and assist you. If this time doesn't suit you then just give us a call. All contributions will be extremely welcome. Thank you.

*Please do contact Libbie 771018 or Jane 772422 for more details*

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common and Locks Lane*

### Purton Profferings

Unwanted items available free can be recycled here with a two-line classified advertisement; contact details are on page 4.

- Broil King Portable Barbecue. Works with butane or propane gas cylinder. Tel: 771018

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# Ten Years Ago...

The Magazine for October 2008 had a betwixt and between feel, looking back on what had been salvaged from a wet summer and forward, perhaps as an antidote, to the restart of traditional winter activities. One optimist had even started planning the carnival for the following July. More immediate than that, though, were invitations to join the History Society course, sign up for the panto or enjoy tennis – indoors. Purtonians had escaped the country in search of better weather. Two were members of a team competing in the British Hot Air Balloon championships held (for the same reason) in France. Having recruited a further member from our twin village of Héric to help with local communications, the crew guided the pilot in the balloon to a spot where he could drop a sandbag on a marker. The team did so well that they hoped to be invited back to the European championship the following year.

A group of guides and brownies went in the opposite direction – to an international jamboree in Iceland. On one occasion “the weather was awful” but on another they were bathing in a hot spring. It never got dark and it sounded as if partying was thus non-stop. It was noted that Iceland has only five native species, such as the arctic fox and the reindeer. This writer visited the country some forty years ago and if the girls were not conscious of the midge they must have had a good time. Their leader returned home with a black eye.

There was a calm and thoughtful contribution to Purton Postbag in response to an article in the September edition. This latter appeared to have been written by one, to quote a sixth-century sage, “with supercilious air, as if he surpassed in wisdom the rest of mankind”. It had claimed that observation of the letter of the Road Traffic Acts outweighed the innate common-sense of Purtonians driving in their own village. But the letter pointed out that no mention was made of speed. To drive gently and considerately was all that was required. Some verities are eternal.

Last month’s column wondered how long it would be before the effects of the 2008 financial crash would be felt in Purton. The October editorial mentioned it and feared for its effect on professional football. Not exactly Purton, but it did finish with the prescient phrase “where will it all end?”

## Guide Dogs

I did a stall with Swindon Branch at the re-scheduled ‘Lydiard Bark’ on the 19th of September, and raised a total of £68. Following a suggestion from Paul Hewer, I am currently investigating a new venue for the Cricklade Band Concert, I will put posters up around the village when it is sorted out as to when and where it will be. Many thanks for your continued support.

*Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group.*

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### **New Activities prove enjoyable and challenging in equal measure.**

Our singing club still needs structure but our residents have been treated to some joyous songs sung by one of our talented carers, Ronnie, who has had us all bopping along to a bit of Elvis or Motown when we've managed to grab him for the session!

Cooking sessions have also proved popular with homemade bread and cookies going down very well. Although our theme days are testing our creative skills, we have great ideas but then making sure it's something our residents enjoy can be challenging. Thankfully our Bingo sessions are a hit with residents but we do struggle to provide suitable prizes. If anyone has small items that they think might be suitable then please do drop them in to Chris or Jane at Cedars. Maybe you've been given hankies, a hand cream or aftershave that you know you'll never use, little things like that are great for prizes.

### **Trips and outings blow the budget!**

With the lovely volunteer drivers of the Age UK bus and local taxis services we've taken residents who can't do long journeys to Butterfly World at Studley Grange, a fabulous place to spend an hour or two. What a privilege to see the smiles as a butterfly settled on a leaf right in front of one of our wheelchair bound residents. We've also had successful gentleman's lunch trips and a delicious ladies afternoon tea at Marsh Farm this month. All wonderful way to make our residents time with us as enjoyable as possible but it's a costly affair, which can blow our activities budget!

### **Ways to help us not blow our budget**

We are always happy to receive donations of good quality unwanted board games, or equipment. We love our volunteers who help with activities and care and local groups who give their time free or at reduced cost to entertain our residents. Just contact us (see below) if you have something you feel might be useful. In the meantime...

On Saturday 20th October, you are invited to our fundraising bazaar, from 2pm to 4pm at Cedars.

There will be a Tombola stall, cakes & sweets, some of which will be made by our residents. I can definitely recommend the Coconut Ice! We'll have the usual Raffle, face painting, refreshments and lots more. So please put the date on the calendar and we look forward to welcoming you to Cedars for an afternoon of fun, prizes and cake!

With your generous support, we hope to fund further trips out and about. So thank you in advance for helping us not to blow our budget!

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



### **Future Meetings**

**Thursday 25 October 2018 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall -  
Martin Collison 'William Marshal - The Greatest Knight'**

William Marshal was the 4th son of a minor nobleman in the household of King Henry I, who was nearly executed by King Stephen but survived to become a "hearth" knight and rose through the ranks to serve at the right hand of 5 English Kings. He became a celebrated tournament champion, a mighty Earl, knighted 2 Kings, unhorsed the future Richard 1st; a signatory to the Magna Carta and Regent of England to the 2-year old Henry III. At 70 he fought his last battle to save England from invasion by the French in 1217.

**Thursday 22 November 2018 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall - John Dymond  
SNAP – The rise and demise of a Downland Community**

**Friday 7 December 2018 at 7.30 pm in Purton Silver Threads Hall, Annual  
Christmas Social Evening**

Our annual social is always a fun, relaxed evening with a festive spirit. This year the entertainment will be provided by the popular Swindon group 'Merrifolk' who play many instruments and entertain with a variety of music. There will be a buffet supper, raffle and lucky ticket winner. We ask people to bring their own drinks which gives greater personal choice. Tickets will be available in the near future at monthly meetings or from the museum and are very good value at £12.50.

New Members and visitors always welcome

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

## Purton Museum

**Purton in The Great War - Grand Opening, Saturday 6th October, 10am-  
12:30pm**

Purton Museum is proud to present our ambitious exhibition dedicated to commemorating Purton in World War I. We would like to thank everyone who has reached out and lent us personal artefacts so we could make this exhibition possible.

We have a mixture of Wiltshire at War information boards throughout the duration of the exhibition and have been involved in a Wiltshire Armistice project which has granted us the gift of a tablet - giving this project an interactive element.

At Purton Museum we really believe in community and it has been great to involve local people. Everyone is welcome on the 6th for our grand opening and I really look forward to seeing you there. If you can not make the opening we will be open on Wednesdays 2pm-5pm and Saturdays 10am - 12:30pm till the 24th November.

*Beth Farnham, Museum Curator*

# Purton Carnival



We are pleased to announce that the carnival committee will continue to put on events for you into next year as we have had some great new members with fresh new ideas join the committee this month. I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the seasoned committee and the village, to issue a very warm welcome and a big thank you to each new member and to all those who have agreed to help with various events. We hope you look forward to next year and will support our activities, those new and tried and tested. We will announce dates for upcoming events closer to the time.

If you have not been to a committee meeting but wish to join, please contact us for the details of where and when the next meeting is. We always appreciate your thoughts and help even if you feel it is not a lot, it makes a difference to us.

I can announce that Hog Roast day is going to be 1st June 2019. We will keep you up to date with all the details, such as bands booked etc, as the plans progress.

Previously, we have raised money throughout the year and then in the summer we ask for your financial requests and we have chosen who to donate to at the annual AGM. For this year, we request that you send any requests for donations in writing to us between now and the 1st January 2019. We will then have signs and buckets fundraising for your cause at all events, then at the 2019 AGM we will announce how much was raised for each. As always please email [tru.gough@gmail.com](mailto:tru.gough@gmail.com) with any enquiries.

**Future event** 6 October at 7.30pm - Quiz at Red House

*Purton Carnival Committee*



Our village magazine is distributed to households and local retailers within Purton and surrounding communities. To promote your business in a display advertisement please email: [advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk) or call 01793 772954. Community and not-for-profit organisations can publicise their events free of charge. **2018 Annual rates to advertise in 12 consecutive issues: Eighth of a page £100, Quarter page £200, Half page £400.** 10% discount for prompt payment, rates for fewer issues also available.

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

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

## We Record ...



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

- 12 August 2018 Joshua Stephen Woodward  
2 September 2018 Edward Hardy Stanwell House

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

- 11 August 2018 Danny John Baker and Eleanor Elizabeth Woodman  
18 August 2018 Simon John Kingsley Moore and Claire Joanne Maslin

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

- 14 August 2018 Brenda Rose Threadgold (79)

### **In Memoriam:**

- 3 October 1918 **William New**, 'D' Battery, 84th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, died of wounds, aged 24. William is buried at Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France and is named on Swindon's Roll of Honour.
- 4 October 1918 **Herbert Stanley Woolford**, 2nd Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, killed in action, aged 23, at La Pannerie near Épehy. He is buried in Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery, Somme, France and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.
- 5 October 1918 **Mervyn Thomas Webb**, 186th Brigade Royal Field Artillery, died of wounds caused in action, aged 23. Mervyn is buried at Terlincthun Cemetery, Wimille, Pas De Calais, France and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church, and is listed on Swindon's Roll of Honour.
- 8 October 1918 **Herbert Martin**, 13th (Service) Battalion (2nd Rhondda), Welsh Regiment, killed in action, aged 23. Herbert is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Gouy, Aisne, France. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.
- 8 October 1918 **Albert Victor Fishlock**, Machine Gun Corps, killed in action, aged 20. He is buried at Sequehart British Cemetery No.1, Aisne, France and is named on Swindon's Roll of Honour.
- 9 October 1918 **Valentine W Oakley Brown**, 6th Cavalry Brigade of the 3rd Dragoon Guards (Prince of Wales' Own), killed in action during a cavalry charge at Honnechy, aged 22. Valentine is buried in Busigny Communal Cemetery, Nord, France and is remembered on the War Memorial in Cheltenham as well

	as the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.
10 October 1918	<b>Edward George Mills</b> , 'K' Battery Royal Horse Artillery, killed in action, aged 25. Edward is buried in Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, Nord, France and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.
20 October 1918	<b>Charles Henry Skuse</b> , 10th (Service) Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, killed in action, aged 39, and buried in Neuville Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.
21 October 1918	<b>Alfred W Matthews</b> , 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment, died of wounds received in action near Staceghem, Belgium. He is buried in Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Moorslede, Belgium.
24 October 1918	<b>William Charles Eveleigh</b> , 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died whilst a Prisoner of War, aged 30. There is no recorded grave but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Flanders, Belgium. William is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and is the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

## Cricklade Country Market



There has been a Country Market in Cricklade for over 20 years! Some of you might have missed us so here is some brief information...

We are all local people who make, bake, grow, knit and sew. All of our produce is grown or made in and around Cricklade – so no air miles are involved!

We are a co-operative that is governed by the National Country Markets organisation.

Our regular monthly market is held in The Jenner Hall in Cricklade on the final Friday of each month from 2-4pm.

We are always looking for new people to join us so why not pop in and find out more. We look forward to seeing you!

Our next market

Friday October 26th, 2-4pm At The Jenner Hall Cricklade

Locally handmade, home cooked or home grown produce straight from us to you!

Find delicious pies and cakes, scones and cookies, jams and pickles, plants and beautiful original gifts.....

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

Future MARKET DATES: November 30th and December 21st

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## Pips, the community café for People in Purton - Opening 6 October



Pips, Purton's new community café, will open on Saturday 6 October in the Function Room behind Purton Club on Station Road. We will be serving freshly prepared tasty food, homemade soup, baked potatoes, paninis and home-baked cakes with hot and cold drinks, including barista-style coffee. Our aim is for Pips to be a new social hub for the village, run by the people of Purton for the people of Purton.

Big thanks go to all those who have supported our dream to open a community café for Purton. Without your support, both financial and hands-on, Pips could not have opened.

Our aim is for Pips to be open Monday to Saturday, but to achieve this we need more volunteers. If you can offer some time to help at Pips, please speak to Mary: [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk) , 01793 772298.

To keep up-to-date about the opening times for Pips and other developments, look out for announcements in the Purton Magazine, on village notice boards and on our Facebook page [facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe). We hope to meet you at Pips soon.

### ***The Pips story so far***

It was back in 2013, after consultation with the village, that work started on a community café for Purton. We were overwhelmed by the support at our launch event the following year and have since been working continuously behind the scenes to get the café open.

After exploring a number of options for a venue for Pips, in 2015 we signed an agreement with Purton Club to use their Function Room. Unfortunately this did not

have a kitchen or an accessible toilet and so we set about raising the funds and finding contractors and volunteers to build them. We are grateful to the Club for their generosity, both in letting us use their Function Room free of charge and for their patience and understanding while we have worked to get the place ready.

We raised over £35,000 for the investment to get Pips open. About 40% of this was given by villagers (which is amazing



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in itself!) these were in the form of individual donations, interest free loans and money raised at various fundraising events. The other 60% came from grants. We are particularly grateful for two grants each worth £10,000, one from the Wiltshire Council Area Board and the other from The Hills Group Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. Other grants were received from Purton Carnival, Purton Open Gardens, Purton Parish Council and the Sing 4/4 Community Choir. We thank them all for their generosity that has made our dream for Pips possible.

We worked hard to keep down the cost of building and equipping the kitchen and accessible toilet. We obtained a very competitive price to build the structure and we used volunteers to complete the work. This approach kept the construction cost to under £20,000, but has led to delays for our opening. We have also managed to make savings in equipping the kitchen and our remaining funds should be enough to complete the outstanding work to open Pips and make further enhancements once we are up and running.

We are extremely grateful to the team of people who have given their professional services, skills and advice to the project free of charge; John Simpson of HSL who as well as donating much of our catering equipment has also given us valuable advice on the kitchen design and how to run a café! Mike Ferne of MJF CAD Solutions who drew up our plans, John Butcher of Butcher Electrical Services who has spent many hours sorting out our electrics, SRH Heating who helped with some plumbing early on and Steve Grose who has done the later plumbing work for us, and to many villagers who have helped with more plumbing, building, carpentry and decorating.

### ***The future***

As Pips will be run by volunteers our day to day running costs will mainly be the purchase of food and drinks and utility bills, plus insurance. With a steady flow of customers we should more than cover our costs and be able make improvements to the facilities in the future. However, before we start wielding our paintbrushes again our priority will be to pay back those interest-free loans to those brave and generous folk who enabled us to get PIPS off the ground. Ultimately the success of PIPS is wholly dependent on the support of Purton residents as customers and some of you contacting Mary to offer your services as volunteers!

*Contact Mary to volunteer: [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk), 01793 772298*

*The Pips Team*

### ***Opening hours for October will be:***

***Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am-5pm (last orders 4pm)***

***Saturdays 9am-2pm (last orders 1.30pm)***

Once we have more volunteers we will be able to open on Mondays and Fridays.

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## Purton Village Diary - October 2018

3	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour with pub lunch included
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
5	F	2.00pm	Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Age Concern 3Bs x2 Evening at Silver Threads Hall
6	Sa	10.00am	Purton Methodist Church fundraising day at Silver Threads Hall
		11.00am	Pips Community Café opens for business at the function room, Purton Club, Station Road
		7.30pm	Purton Carnival Quiz at The Red House
7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Parade Service at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
9	Tu	10.00am	Purton and District Probus Club meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk on Whales and Dolphins
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Clothes for Autumn with Mandy Hughes at Silver Threads Hall
10	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church 'Funny things children say' with Val Walker
		7.45pm	Purton Flower, Arts, Crafts and Produce show committee meet at the Red House
11	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	8.45am	Age Concern Minibus to Burford
13	Sa		Purton Surgery Flu vaccination clinic for patients under 65 years and 'at risk'
		1.00pm	Age Concern Auction at Purton Village Hall
14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church Anniversary Service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
15	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women talk 'From embroiderer to textile art' at Purton Methodist Church
16	Tu	8.00pm	After 8: 'The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry' Planning followed by a short Halloween Fun Quiz
17	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
20	Sa	10.00am	Coffee Morning at Silver Threads Hall
		2.00pm	Bazaar at The Cedars care home
21	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church

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22 M	10.00am	and 7.00pm	Dementia Friend training sessions at Purton Village Hall
23 Tu	10.00am		Purton and District Probus Club meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk on the Shetland Islands
	2.00pm		Entertainment from Margaret & John Craig at Silver Threads Hall
	7.30pm		Purton & District Gardeners' Guild meet at the Silver Threads Hall for a talk on 'Plants for a winter garden' from Peter Biggs
26 F	9.00am		Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
	2.00pm		Cricklade County Market at Jenner Hall

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28 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
	7.30pm		Murder Mystery night at Bradon Forest School for Harry's World Challenge to Tanzania

### Every week

M	7.00pm	to 8.00pm	Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am:	Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon		Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	7.30pm		Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12 noon:	Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	to 5.00pm:	Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
	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
2nd & 4th Tuesday	Purton Probus at Red House lounge
2nd Wednesday	(except Aug) 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Monday	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday	Royal British Legion meet at the Red House

### Moon Phases

☉ 17 September    ○ 25 September    ☾ 2 October    ● 9 October

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton, Tel: 772954 or email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)



## **New Headteacher at Bradon Forest School and record examination results**



Bradon Forest School have been celebrating another year of record examination results with 74% of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both Maths and English. New Acting Headteacher, Julie Dickson, said: "I am delighted at the successes of our students. It is testament to their hard work and the dedication of our teaching staff under the strong leadership of the previous headteacher Andrew Morrison. I look forward to continuing his legacy of excellent academic success." Our record GCSE results are yet more positive news for the school which has broken examination records in four of the last five years.

### **Welcome to our new Year 7**

We were delighted to welcome 218 new Year 7 students at the start of term. They started a day before the rest of the school allowing them time to explore the site again after their two induction days back in July. Our Year 10 Peer Mentors were also on site to help them find their way around.





### **GCSE Results Day**

Some of our Year 11 students celebrating on results day in August. A record year for Bradon Forest!

### **Maths and Languages trip to Paris**

Sixty Year 8 and 9 Bradon Forest students enjoyed a wonderful four day trip to Paris in July. Highlights included a trip to the museum of science and industry (think French science museum), a tour of the Louvre, a trip down the River Seine past many of the historic buildings of Paris, scaling the Montparnasse Tower which has an observation deck from where we enjoyed views of the city and a final day at Disneyland Paris.

Students also experienced a white-knuckle circuit of the Arc de Triomphe roundabout and tours of the Sacre Coeur Basilica and Notre Dame Cathedral, as well as a quick stop off and a selfie opportunity with the Eiffel Tower. Our students and staff had a great time and were a credit to the school.

### **The Duke of Edinburgh experience!**

Our four teams of Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students undertook their overnight expedition on one of the hottest weekends in July. The forecast said sunny with the chance of an odd shower but very localised. Unfortunately for our students they were victims of a huge downpour. A more detailed humorous account is available on the school website: [www.bradonforest.org.uk/News/The-Duke-of-Edinburgh-experience/](http://www.bradonforest.org.uk/News/The-Duke-of-Edinburgh-experience/)

**BRADON FOREST SCHOOL**

Autumn Open Evening:  
Thursday 20 September 2018  
6.00pm - 8.00pm  
Formal presentation at 7.30pm  
*No booking required*

Autumn Open Week:  
Monday 1 - Friday 5 October 2018  
9.15am - 10.30am  
*Book your FREE tickets here:*  
<https://tinyurl.com/z79cixk>

[www.bradonforest.org.uk](http://www.bradonforest.org.uk)

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## St Mary's Primary School

We welcome everyone back to the start of a new Term at St Mary's after the summer break. It is lovely to be back in school and to see the children settling in so well. We have welcomed two members of staff this Term: Mrs Donnelly and Miss Wickson who have joined us as MDSAs.

The value for our first term of the school year is responsibility. As a whole school community, we will be considering areas such as:

- When do we act responsibly?
- Where does responsibility lie for ethical issues?
- Do we recognise that responsibility for learning and achievement lies with each of us as individuals?
- How do we take responsibility for our environment?
- Are we given responsibility to help make decisions for our school?

St Mary's were delighted to be able to take part in the Purton Scarecrow Trail on the 8-9 September. Several classes made scarecrows relating to the organisers theme and I know some of our local children, really enjoyed doing the trail with their parents.

Please note that the Primary School Admissions application process for September 2019 is now underway. Applications can be made on line via [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://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 2019.

I would be delighted to show you around our school should you be considering St Mary's. We do not hold open events, as we prefer to show parents/carers around individually. We warmly welcome visits should you wish, prior to submitting the application. Visits can be arranged through the school office [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

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

*Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher*

### School Governor

St Mary's CE Primary School is seeking to appoint a Co-opted School Governor. The school is located in the heart of village of Purton where you will find our children 'Learning Together' in faith, love and friendship. As governors we aim to ensure that all children, including those who are disadvantaged, feel valued and special and



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enjoy attending a school which has a strong Christian ethos. At St Mary's, a highly motivated and dedicated team ensure that all children aspire to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially.

Commitment: Twelve meetings per school academic year and additional time for dedicated committees, training, school visits and events. Governors meetings are usually held in the evenings however training, school visits and some meetings will take place during the school day.

Salary: This role is voluntary. Closing date: Friday 19 October 2018. Interviews: Week commencing: 5 November 2018

We are looking for someone who:

- Is keen to support a school where there are high expectations for the outcome of pupils and a culture that enables both pupils and staff to excel;
- Is committed to undergoing appropriate training in order to provide effective support and challenge to the school leadership team;
- Recognises that the need for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is at the heart of the school's work, underpinned by the school's Christian values;
- Is able to be flexible with their time, and fully committed to the role, in order to attend a range of Governor events;
- Has vision to shape the future of the school with a clear strategy that considers the views of all key stakeholders and protects the longer term interests of St Mary's and the community of Purton.

Ideally we would like applicants with some or all of the following skills:

- Strategic Management
- Setting direction, decision making, risk management, working collaboratively with stakeholders.
- Accountability
- Financial management and monitoring, adhering to standards, analysis of data.
- Compliance
- Monitoring of statutory and industry compliance.
- Health and Safety.
- Data Protection.
- People
- Knowledge of the educational system, experience of working with young people or those with special needs.

Experience of recruitment, staff and performance management, assessing and developing personal individual and team effectiveness.

We will offer you:

The chance to work with a team of governors, who are highly dedicated, welcoming and receptive to new ideas;

The opportunity to support the school Leadership Team in shaping the lives of the

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young people in our community

Please apply in writing, stating your relevant skills and interest in the position (no more than 1 side of A4) to the Clerk to the Governors at [clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) Further information on being a school Governor can also be found at [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)

St Mary's CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

It was a trip down memory lane for those of 'a certain age', when local resident, Lynda Warren, joined us at our August meeting to present her talk entitled 'The Wartime kitchen garden', a review of life on the home front.



Describing herself as a 'hit and miss' gardener, Lynda explained how she had based her talk on her father's memories with observations from Kathleen Hey's book 'The view from the corner shop', the diary of a Yorkshire shop assistant in wartime, and a book by Constance Miles, entitled 'Mrs Miles' diary', the wartime journal of a housewife on the war front.

Her father was a typical gardener of the 1930's and 40's, his garden modelled around a lawn surrounded by flowers and a garden shed that, even at the early age of 14 years, he regarded as being important for any man.

In 1939 approximately 60% of our food was imported. We were an island of 45 million people, and when the German U boats started sinking our ships a shortage of fruit and vegetables soon arose. We learned that one enterprising young lad, having eaten his banana, proceeded to charge other children 1d each to lick the skin and onions were so scarce that one was even given as a birthday present. Households were required to register with a butcher and baker and queues became common place as rationing began and fatless pastry, sugarless cakes, mock cream and powdered milk and eggs became commonplace.

In her book, Kathleen Hey, wrote that in the corner shop 'By 11.30am everything was gone' and the shop closed at 12 noon.

It was at this time that Michael Foot coined the phrase 'Dig for Victory', and wasteland, golf courses and parks were commandeered for growing food. Vegetables were even grown in the deep silt around the Tower of London.

Households were encouraged to produce more food in their gardens. One way was to keep chickens, both for their meat and for eggs even though this meant that meat and egg rations had to be forfeited.

Families that kept rabbits, known to be prolific breeders, had a never ending supply

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of meat and there was the added bonus of raising money from the sale of rabbit skins that were used for making winter boots and clothing.

Groups of people were encouraged to set up neighbourhood pig clubs. They would buy, feed and look after pigs and when animals were ready for slaughter, half the carcasses were sold to the government for help with rationing and the remainder were divided between members. Lynda's father had told her that he always had to race outside when a horse was heard approaching to collect any manure the horse had deposited for use as a fertiliser whilst 'night soil', human waste, was collected and mixed with earth and gypsum as another source of fertiliser.

The Women's Land Army, created during the First World War, was re-founded recruiting women who could work in agriculture to replace men called up to the military. Women who worked for the WLA were commonly known as 'Land Girls'. Their work proved vital, making a significant contribution to boosting Britain's food production. It was long, hard work paying just £1.12.0d after board and lodgings. Needless to say, not all enjoyed the work but towards the end of the war there were over 4000 land girls.

County herb committees were setup. This was a national plant collecting scheme established by the Ministry of Health when the German occupation of France and the disruption of shipping lanes interfered with drug supplies. Working with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, there being no room for error, the Ministry of Health published guides for herb collectors in the various rural counties. These provided instructions about how to collect, dry and deliver the collections. Women's groups, the elderly, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides all participated. Many of the herbs collected, Foxglove, mint, thyme, burdock, for example were used to treat injuries sustained during the war, whilst nettles were put to practical use to dye much needed camouflage netting.

To promote good health, cigarette cards advertised how to grow and protect herbs. This was considered to be a double standard as access to the information required the purchase and smoking of cigarettes!

One positive result of rationing was that vegetable gardening and gardening in general became more popular than ever.

As Lynda's interesting talk ended, it became obvious from member's comments that she had triggered many memories of early childhood years lived under the shadow of the war. Our competition 'An Old Garden Tool' produced a good number of unusual entries. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Deb Davies, 2nd Maureen Griffin and 3rd Maureen Carpenter. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 23 October at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall when we will be welcoming Peter Biggs, a popular speaker at our meetings, who will be presenting a talk entitled 'Plants for the Winter Garden'. If this is a subject that might interest you please join us. We are a friendly group and welcome new members and visitors.

*Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)*

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

This year's Show was a very colourful day and extremely successful, despite our concerns about the impact of the hot weather, we had lots of entries. Maybe not so many vegetables, but the flowers were stunning, the baking was overwhelming, the arts and craft section had many original and unique exhibits, the 'Red' entries in photography were particularly striking, and the talents and imagination in the children's section were amazing. The potato pots delivered for weighing looked very healthy, with stiff competition from the individual groups.

It was great to welcome so many new exhibitors this year, and our thanks must go to our judges, committee members, and everyone who helped in publicising, sponsoring and donating prizes to this year's show. It would not be possible to run such a show without all of your support. We have raised £550 for The Royal British Legion, and are grateful to everyone for attending and supporting this annual event.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th October at 7.45pm in The Red House. New and original suggestions for next year's Show would be most welcome, along with anyone interested in joining our Committee. Please contact us for further information. The results for this year's show are as follows:

### **The Potato Challenge**

1st	Freya	1st Purton Brownies	1.545kg
2nd	Sophie	1st Purton Brownies	1.535kg
3rd	Mia	1st Purton Guides	1.415kg
4th	Gemma	1st Purton Guides	1.120kg
5th	Aoife	1st Purton Brownies	1.110kg
6th	Sarah	1st Purton Guides	1.080kg
7th	Group effort	1st Purton & Lydiard Beavers	0.895kg
8th	Caitlyn	1st Purton Brownie	0.830kg
9th	Tommy, Jamie, Kaishem	Lydiard Millicent Pre-School	0.795kg
10th	Charlotte & Anna	Lydiard Millicent Pre-School	0.675kg
11th	No:4	St Mary's Primary School	0.510kg
12th	No:3	St Mary's Primary School	0.455kg
13th	No:2	St Mary's Primary School	0.430kg
14th	Green Lodge	1st Purton & Lydiard Beavers	0.415kg
15th	Ethan & Theo	Lydiard Millicent Pre-School	0.083kg



The Single Heaviest Potato was grown by Freya of 1st Purton Brownies and weighed 31 grams.

### **Cup Winners**

Most points in the Vegetable Section	Edwin Hodge
Most points in the Flower Section	Alan Titcombe
Most points in the Arts and Craft Section	Zoe Williams
Most points in the Onion Classes	David Herbert
Most points in the Industrial Section	Sheila Rumming
Most points in the Floral Art	Maureen Griffin
Most Points in the Photography Section	Zoe Williams
Best Flower in Show	Alan Titcombe
Best Industrial in Show	Carol Airey
Best Vegetable in Show	Miriam Saunders
Most points in all Classes	Edwin Hodge
Showstopper Cake	Carol Airey
Banksian Medal	Edwin Hodge

### **1st Place in Children's Classes**

A picture made from Pasta	Kaishem Wilson
3 Decorated Cupcakes	Harry Oram
A Potato Stamp Picture	Emily Cushion
Recycled Monster	Shannon Fowler

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

## *Church Floodlighting*

October 10 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of my dear son **Andrew James Totterdell**. 10/10/2016. Loved and sadly missed by Mom, Mark, Simon and Becca.



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

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## Purton Tennis Club



Well Summer League has finished now and Winter League will be beginning. Purton only managed one trophy this season – Mens A won Division One and will be going to collect the trophy at the Presentation Evening in November. The other teams mostly finished around mid-table, but well done to the “junior” team for finishing 4th in their first season in senior competitive tennis.

The Junior Singles Tournament took place on 1st September and the full write-up can be seen on our website. Well done to Rebecca Godwin for winning Senior Girls, Luke Mitchell for retaining his Senior Boys title, and to Fin Corcoran for winning Junior Boys. Also many thanks to Nicola Gardner and Teresa Miles for running the junior sessions throughout the season.



Coaching is growing in strength and we have After-School Clubs running as well as coaching at all levels at the club. We have regular slots for adults and children so if you want to come and join in, please contact Ben for details.

We held a social barbecue on the Sunday of Scarecrows – and hopefully all had fun - I hope you enjoyed our scarecrow – Billie-Jean King! As always, check our website and facebook for what is going on.

*Lindsey Hall*

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

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## *The other side of the gate*

Well, what a month! I always wonder what I will have to write about and every month presents something interesting – this month has not failed to deliver!

The dry spell continues to dominate farm life throughout our region. The small amount of rain we had did at least turn the grass green, but growth continues to decline. We've been buying more hay to feed the cows and will be until next spring. Because of our shortage of winter forage and other reasons, we had to say goodbye to five cows. Fertility, due to Neospora, was the main reason. I've spoken about it before, but I can't emphasise enough how important it is to pick up dog mess from fields where cows either graze or from where silage is taken.

It's been a mixed bag of calving success these last few weeks. It started very badly with Luna, a very big Holstein cow, who ate some Laburnum two years ago in July and poisoned herself. She then delivered twin British Blue heifer calves in the November. She was very ill so we kept one of her calves for her to feed. The poison makes the white skin cells photosensitive and she effectively peeled looking like broken parchment paper. Two years on, after lots of services, she produced a lovely little Jersey heifer calf. At 6.15am, I received a text from Alex to say Luna had calved, but the calf's foot was dislocated! I quickly got up and went to investigate – it wasn't a dislocation but a very severe break and the position was just above the hock. After examination by Emily the vet, we took the very hard decision to put her to sleep. The position of the break meant it would not have knitted back together well and I wasn't prepared to put her through that suffering. Luna was quite distressed at losing her baby, her breathing had become laboured, so we left her in the barn to take it easy. Thursday morning Alex found her on her side thrashing about. I suspected milk fever and administered some IV calcium borogluconate and a strong pain killing anti-inflammatory drug. We sat her up against a bale and she seemed to rally for a while. I checked her a short while later and she was having trouble breathing. I've seen it before so knew it was heart failure. I shot her shortly after. This was a week we didn't want to relive.

Jiggy (her face markings look like a jigsaw puzzle) was the next to calve, so I let her out with the cows to get on with it outside. We checked her periodically, but nothing was happening. So I put my hand in only to find another twisted uterus. I immediately called the vet and continued to try to untwist it whilst he was on his way. He arrived about 7.30pm. He continued to try to straighten the twist as I had, but nothing was moving. We tried another technique that involves 'rolling' the cow over the opposite way of the twist. The idea is that the calf will not keep up with the roll and do the work for us. The first attempt didn't work. Now, rolling a cow is a pretty hard thing to do unless they're nice and fat and shaped like a barrel! Jiggy is a boney Holstein so the complete opposite! We tried again and it worked! We had been trying to get the calf out for over 3 1/2 hours by this point and her swelling meant we couldn't get the head of the calf up enough to get it out. I was convinced the calf was dead. I

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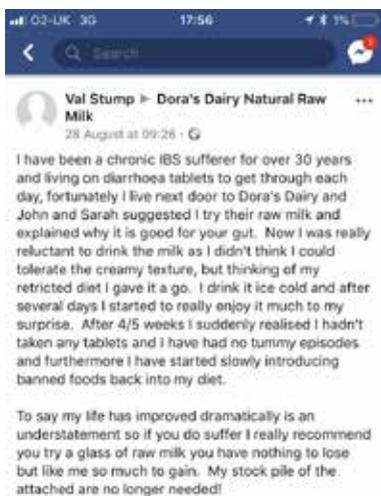


couldn't get a reaction from its feet (if you pinch between the hooves they will pull away), so the priority was now Jiggy; she was exhausted and laying out flat. Tensions were on edge and time was against us, so after a very brief discussion a caesarean was agreed. You may think that a caesarean will be a long operation, but it's not. From the time we started, to getting the calf out, was only 6 minutes! Meg, who was assisting Alex, grabbed one leg and I grabbed the other. As we pulled the calf out and put her on the ground I saw her blink. She was still alive! Meg and I worked on the calf: we hung her up briefly to drain the fluid, then I cupped a handful of water from the drinker and poured it in her ear. It has the same effect as jumping in cold water. She took a massive intake of air and then shook her head. I couldn't believe it! Sarah and I were grinning from ear to ear. I can't express the relief from seeing the calf alive and seemingly unaffected, apart from being exhausted. The first cut to the last stitch only took 40 minutes. By the time we had a cup of celebratory tea and gone back to feed the very lively calf, it was well gone 2am. We slept well that night, as did the vet!

We have had two successful calvings this month. Jester (She has a black tear drop beneath her left eye) gave us a British Blue bull calf and Soupy (Sarah's pedigree Holstein named Normead Baxter Helen – Baxter Soup - Soupy) gave us a beautiful white British Blue heifer calf.

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BBC Radio Wiltshire called me early one morning to ask me to go on air and discuss the drought and the possible implications it will have on food prices and farmers. It had been suggested that the average food shop will go up £7.15 per month and they were asking the question: 'Would you be prepared to pay more for your food?' That statement alone was enough to make my hair stand on end (the few I've got left!). Food has been so undervalued for so long that it seems to be a right to have cheap food! £7.15 per month is 2 pints of beer or a packet of cigarettes. The inference that it was a massive increase makes me annoyed! Good food is cheap. Raw, nutrient dense produce, both meat and vegetables, hold massive value. It's sad that the old adage 'you get what you pay for' doesn't seem to apply to our everyday necessity of nutrition. Why wouldn't you want to put the best in your body? Quality costs more, but you need less! If you buy an own brand lasagne for £1, you'd better believe the supermarket isn't putting much meat in it and if it is, don't be surprised to find it's horsemeat! Anyway, I managed to get my rant across the airwaves in a kindly manner so I may get asked back again!



Irritable Bowel Syndrome can be very serious and have a major impact on lives. Val Stump, our neighbour, sent a very interesting post to our Facebook page. I have taken a screen shot for you to see as I don't think I could say it better.

As a finishing note, I wish to thank the organisers of the Scarecrow Hunt. What a superb event! We had so many visitors, many of whom didn't know there was a farm down the end of The Hyde. We're already looking forward to the next one and at the request of many, we will be doing food next time too!

*Jonathan Cook*

## Join our team!

Almost 850 copies of *Purton Magazine* are hand delivered to our readers every month by our team of nearly 30 volunteer distributors. We aim to deliver the magazines on or before the 1st of the month of publication. However, very occasionally that target slips by a day or two, perhaps through the absence or illness of a distributor. The magazine committee apologise for any late deliveries experienced. However, if you would like to join our team of volunteer distributors, either on a regular monthly basis or just on an emergency contingency basis, please contact Sandra Horsnall on 01793 770157 or [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk) to offer your services. The maximum commitment would be an hour or two a month and would be a really helpful contribution to the service we provide to our neighbours in the village.

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# The Great War Project

Part 63: October 1918

## **Western Front**

It was a dark month for Purton with the deaths of 10 men.

Allied offensives continued on the Western Front. In the north, French forces recaptured Saint-Quentin, and the British took the Canal du Nord and the St Quentin Canal by 2 October. The 5th Battle of Ypres ended on 2 October and British forces recaptured Armentières on the 3rd. William New was born in Purton in 1894, the son of Richard and Annie New who lived at Westcott Place, Swindon by the time of William's enlistment. He was serving with 'D' Battery, 84th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and died of wounds on 3 October 1918 aged 24. He is buried at Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France and is named on Swindon's Roll of Honour.

A new British offensive started on 3 October, the Battle of the Beaulieu Line which lasted until 5 October. Herbert Stanley Woolford was the son of Alfred and Catherine Woolford of Widham. He had served with the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers at Gallipoli in 1915 and later in Palestine. The 6th was absorbed into the 2nd Battalion and by 2 October was near Épehy. On 4 October, at 02:00 hrs, the Battalion was ordered to attack and capture the village of La Pannerie. The Munsters moved forward to Le Catelet at 05:10 hrs and were involved in street fighting that led to heavy casualties. Herbert, aged 23, was among those killed in action. He is buried in Templeux-le-Guerard British Cemetery, Somme and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

Mervyn Thomas Webb was born in 1896, the son of James and Sarah Webb of Upper Square, Purton. He was serving with 'A' Battery, 186th Brigade Royal Field Artillery. Mervyn died of wounds caused in action on 5 October 1918, aged 23, and is buried at Terlincthun Cemetery, Wimille, Pas-de-Calais, France. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church, and is listed on Swindon's Roll of Honour.

British and Canadian troops pushed forward in the 2nd Battle of Cambrai (8-10 October). Cambrai itself was captured on the 9th and British troops advanced to the last line of trenches in the Hindenburg Line. Herbert Martin was born in Hilmarton in 1891, the son of Edward and Annie Martin of Widham Cottage, Purton. He was serving with the 13th (Service) Battalion (2nd Rhondda), Welsh Regiment and was killed in action, aged 23, on 8 October 1918. Herbert was buried at Villers Cotterets, Cambrai. After the war, his grave was moved to a larger cemetery, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Gouy, Aisne, France. Herbert is remembered on the Purton

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War Memorial and in the Memorials in S Mary's Church.

Albert Victor Fishlock was born in Purton in 1898, the son of Henry and Dorcis Fishlock. His Service record shows his father living "somewhere in Swindon" whilst his mother (recorded as Jane Spanerwicke), brothers and sister all lived in Pontnewydd, Monmouthshire. Albert had served with the 1st Battalion (Territorial force) Monmouthshire Regiment at the 2nd Battle of Ypres (1915) where he was wounded in action, with a gunshot wound (shrapnel) to his hand, thigh and chest. By June 1918 he was serving again in France with the Machine Gun Corps. Albert was killed in action, aged 20, on 8 October 1918 and is buried at Sequehart British Cemetery No.1, Aisne and is named on Swindon's Roll of Honour.

Valentine W Oakley Brown was born in Cheltenham in 1896, the son of Mr A C Oakley Brown and Alice Oakley Brown, Norbury, Purton. He was serving with the 6th Cavalry Brigade of the 3rd Dragoon Guards (Prince of Wales' Own). On 9 October, his brigade was ordered to attack and take the villages of Honnechy and Reumont and push onto the ridge west of Le Cateau. Valentine was killed in action during the cavalry charge at Honnechy, aged 22. During the action which lasted only a few hours, 2 officers and 2 other ranks were killed with the loss of 90 horses. Valentine is buried in Busigny Communal Cemetery, Nord, France and is remembered on the War Memorial in Cheltenham as well as the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

Edward George Mills was the son of George E and Mary Mills of Lower Pavenhill, Purton. He was serving with 'K' Battery Royal Horse Artillery and was killed in action on 10 October 1918, aged 25. Edward is buried in Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, Nord and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

On 8 October, in the Argonne offensive (started 26 September) U.S. Corporal Alvin C. York was one of a group of 17 US soldiers assigned to infiltrate German lines and silence a machine gun position in the Argonne Forest. After capturing a large group of German soldiers, the US patrol came under small arms fire killing 6 Americans and wounding 3. York took charge of the patrol. He left his men guarding the prisoners, and single-handedly attacked the machine gun position, killing many German soldiers with his rifle. He was out of rifle ammunition by then and, when attacked by 6 more Germans, he shot them with his pistol. The German officer in charge of the machine gun position surrendered. York and his men marched back to their unit's command post with more than 130 prisoners. York was immediately promoted to sergeant and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, later upgraded to the Medal of Honor. York became a national hero. The Argonne offensive ended on 15 October.

Further advances were made in Belgium with French and British forces recapturing Craonne on the Chemin des Dames ridge on 12 October followed by Laon, La Fère, Courtrai (Kortrijk), Roulers (Roeselare), Menin, Lille, Douai, and Ostende by the 17th. On 14 October, German troops had started to abandon the Belgian coastline.

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Belgian forces recaptured Zeebrugge and Bruges and secured the entire Belgian coast by the 20th.

Charles Henry Skuse was serving with the 10th (Service) Battalion, Sherwood Foresters. He was born in Purton in 1879, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Skuse who are recorded as living in Birmingham. Charles was killed in action, aged 39, on 20 October 1918, and is buried in Neuville Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. 16 men of the 10th Battalion died on that date.

Alfred W Matthews was born in Purton in 1894, the son of Mr Alfred W and Mrs Emily J Matthews of Marston Meysey, Cricklade. He had served with the 5th Wilts at Gallipoli in 1915 and later transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment. On 19 October 1918, the 2nd Leinsters crossed the Lys between Courtrai and Harelbeke, and the following day captured the villages of Staceghem and Steenbrugge. They faced heavy fire east of Staceghem but by 9.20a.m. the Leinsters had gained 5000 yards and captured 40 prisoners, 6 machine guns and 1 field gun. 3 officers and 70 other ranks were wounded and 6 other ranks killed. Alfred was one of the casualties in this action and died of wounds received, aged 22, on 21 October 1918. He is buried in Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Moorslede, Belgium.

### ***Prisoner of War***

William Charles Eveleigh, was born in Somerset, the son of Thomas and Mercy Eveleigh. His father was a railway signalman which possibly brought the family to Wiltshire. William's wife, Eva, lived at 5 Station Road, Purton. Serving with the 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, he had been taken Prisoner of War on 10 April at Wytschaete, while the Battalion was holding trenches east of the Messines-Wytschaete ridge. He was held in Freidrichsfeld POW camp in Germany run by the German 7th Army Corps. William (pictured) died, whilst a Prisoner of War, aged 30, on 24 October 1918. There is no recorded grave but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Flanders, Belgium. The POW records held by the Red Cross in Geneva do not record any details of William's death but family record had it that he was moved by train as the Germans fell back and he was put into a cattle truck for the move. At Potsdam he was found to have died and removed from the train. He may indeed have died of starvation, as many POWs did, due to a general lack of food as Germany was squeezed under the Allied naval blockade. The story is covered in more detail in Bob Lloyd's book.



William is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

### ***Austro-Hungarian Fronts***

Italian forces recaptured Berat in Albania on 1 October and the Strait of Otranto between the heel of Italy. The Albanian coast was closed by an Allied sea mine and

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net barrage, isolating Austrian Adriatic ports from outside assistance. Durazzo on the Albanian coast was bombarded by British and Italian warships on the 2nd.

Major advances were made by Serbian, Italian, French and British forces recapturing Vranje, Pristina, Prizren, Nish and Novi Bazar in Serbia, Elbasan, Durazzo, San Giovanni di Medua and Scutari in Albania and Ipek in Kosovo.

The Battle of Vittorio Veneto started on 24 October on the Italian front, capturing the city on 30 October, and ending on 3 November. (See Part 65.)

On 16 October, the Austrian Emperor issued a manifesto proclaiming a Federal State for the Austrian half of the empire on the principle of Nationality, - this did not cover Hungary which was autonomous.

The last few days of October saw the Empire fall apart. On 30 October the Hungarian government surrendered Fiume (Rijeka) to the local Croats: but the self-styled National Council of Fiume proclaimed the independence of the city and announced their wish for union with Italy while the Croatian Congress (Sabor) held firm to the Yugo-Slav declaration of independence.

There were Revolutions in Vienna and Budapest on the 31st and Count Tisza, a Hungarian pro-Empire politician, was assassinated in Vienna. The Hungarian government terminated the union with Austria, officially dissolving the Austro-Hungarian Empire the same day. Also on the 31st, the Austrian Emperor handed over control of the Adriatic fleet to the Yugo-Slav National Council.

### ***Requests for Armistice***

Germany and Austria-Hungary both sent notes (3-4 October) to US President Woodrow Wilson requesting an armistice based on Wilson's 'Fourteen Points'. The German note was received by Wilson on 6 October and the Austrian one on the 7th.

Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany formed a new and more liberal government to pursue a peace policy. Key to this was the appointment of Prince Maximilian of Baden as Imperial Chancellor of Germany on 4 October with the combined role of Foreign Minister.

President Wilson replied to the German and Austro-Hungarian notes on 8 October demanding evacuation of occupied territories as a first condition of any armistice. The German government replied on the 12th that it would accept those conditions. Wilson added military conditions for talks (14 October) and stated he would deal only with a democratic government. This was accepted by Germany on the 20th and Germany ceased unrestricted submarine warfare on the 21st. On this basis, Wilson replied on 23 October that he would submit the matter to the Allied governments.

Germany's supreme commander General Eric Ludendorff resigned on 26 October in protest against the terms to which the German Government had agreed prior to negotiating an armistice.

On the 27th, the Austrian government asked Italy for an armistice and also asked

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President Wilson for an immediate general armistice “without awaiting the result of other negotiations.”

### ***Ottoman Empire***

Allied forces advanced through Palestine, Transjordan and Syria. Damascus was captured on 1 October by Australian forces of the Desert Mounted Corps and the Arab forces of the Sharif of Mecca's third son Prince Feisal, with Lt-Col T.E. Lawrence as his advisor and British liaison officer.

In the following days, the Allied forces advanced through Sidon, Beirut (taken by French forces), and Tripoli in Syria. On 14 October, the Turkish Government sent a Note to President Wilson requesting an armistice.

Homs in Syria fell to British cavalry on 15 October. British forces advanced on Mosul in northern Mesopotamia and took Kirkuk on the 25th. Meanwhile Prince Feisal's forces captured Aleppo.

Turkey and the Allied powers met at the end of October at Mudros on the island of Lemnos and signed an armistice on 30 October ending the war with the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish army surrendered on the River Tigris and the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen was granted independence from the Ottoman Empire by the Mudros treaty. Hostilities officially ceased at noon on the 31st.

### ***The War at Sea***

Armed merchant cruiser HMS Otranto sank on 6 October following a collision with HMS Kashmir off the Isle of Islay, Scotland, with the deaths of 425 crew. The Mail Ship Leinster was sunk in the Irish Sea on the 10th by German submarine with the loss of 501 lives.

On 15 October the British Q-ship Cymric sank a British submarine (J6) in error. Q-ships were merchant vessels with heavy armaments, intended to lure German submarines to the surface and then sink them. In this incident, Cymric mistook the conning tower identity lettering 'J6' for a German 'U6'. 5 crew on J6 were killed.

### ***Russia***

In the east of Russia, British forces advancing from Vladivostok occupied Irkutsk on 14 October and Omsk on the 18th. The Red Army was more successful in the west when the Russian 10th Army drove the White armies out of Tsaritsyn (later named Stalingrad, now Volgograd).

### ***The New Republics***

The Polish Regency Council declared Polish independence from the German Empire on 7 October and demanded that Germany cede the provinces of Poznań, Upper Silesia and Polish Pommerania. On the 12th, the British government recognised the Polish national army as autonomous and a member of the allied nations. On 28 October, the Poles declared a new government in Western Galicia.

Yugoslavia proclaimed itself a republic on 17 October and the King of Montenegro

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declared his support on the 26th for a confederated Yugoslavia. On 29 October the Yugo-Slav National Council declared the independence of the Yugo-Slavs from Austria-Hungary.

The Czechs declared independence from Austria-Hungary on the 18th and Slovakia was included in the formation of the Czechoslovakian state on the 30th. A short-lived Banat Republic was founded on 31 October in territory on the borders between Rumania, Hungary and Serbia.

### **Other News**

On 4 October, an explosion at Morgan Munitions Factory in New Jersey killed 100 workers and destroyed enough ammunition to have supplied the Western Front for 6 months.

Sir Cecil Chubb, the last private owner of Stonehenge, donated the monument to the British nation on 26 October.

The Spanish 'flu virus killed 21,000 people in the USA in the last week of October 1918 alone.

*Rick Dixon*

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

## *Purton Methodist Church*

Our Harvest Supper on 5th September was a great success. Delicious meals of chicken casserole, potatoes and peas were served, with the option of gluten free and vegetarian for dietary needs. Sylvia's speciality of Bakewell tart and custard followed. Tea or coffee completed the meal. Under the direction of Fiona Fleet, six singers, young people from Bradon Forest School, gave a talented performance, with solos as well as singing as a group. Their own enthusiasm and Fiona's encouragement was evident throughout. A pleasurable evening was enjoyed by all. £499 was raised towards our refurbishment programme.

Apart from decorating, Phase 2 of our refurbishment programme is almost complete with new toilets, wash hand basins, flooring and lighting in the toilet and kitchen areas. Decoration of the area is planned to be done during October Half-Term.

A reminder of our next fundraising event – the Fundraising Day at Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 6th October from 10.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. Entrance costs £1, which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. Lunches will be available at a cost of £6 from 12 noon (no need to buy tickets, just turn up). There will be a raffle and tombola, cake and bric-a-brac stalls, plus children's toys. Monies raised will be put towards the cost of upgrading the loop system that is needed at Purton Methodist Church. We do value your support and look forward to seeing you on this occasion.

*Any queries please contact Sylvia Freemantle (tel: 770686)*



Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very

## A Book I will Always Remember

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

### The History of Mr Polly by H.G. Wells

H.G. Wells is renowned as the “father of science fiction”, thanks to such works as *The Time Machine* and *War of the Worlds*, books which he liked to describe as “fantasias of possibility”. Yet, when writing a number of novels about lives in Edwardian times, his style has been compared to Dickens’s. One of these novels is *The History of Mr. Polly*.

The book begins with Alfred Polly’s outburst “Hole! Oh, Beastly Silly Wheeze of a Hole!” Already, we have met a man who is neither happy nor resourceful. Immediately, Wells shows us how he arrived in that state at “the age of exactly thirty-seven and a half”. He had lost his mother when young but his father took no special interest in him, sending him to a succession of schools, inferior even for that time, where he learnt little, but dreamt. At fourteen, his father apprenticed him in a draper’s shop. Nothing in the book suggests that he was a success but at least he started to make friends until his best one threw the entire contents of the window he was dressing over the managing director and was dismissed.

Already a pattern has emerged of someone for whom nothing turns out well. Suddenly, his distant father dies and leaves him a good inheritance. At the funeral, he meets three female cousins, living not far away. With his new wealth, he buys a bicycle (which naturally he cannot master) and starts to visit them. He decides to propose to one of them but gets it all wrong and finds himself proposing to one of the others who, before he realises, accepts him. Don’t worry, it gets worse!

With the inheritance, they open a draper’s shop. Not Mr. Polly’s idea, of course, but he had acquired a persuasive father-in-law. Not only is he in a loveless marriage but he has no idea of business, save for the fact that he can see he is losing money. At this point we reach the opening statement and he decides to end it all. Briefly, he decides to cut his throat and, at the same time, burn down the shop so that his widow can collect on the insurance. But by the time the building is ablaze, he has mislaid the razor.

And then comes the most crucial sentence in the book: “If the world does not please you, you can change it”. Mr. Polly decides to “clear out”. After a number of

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adventures he arrives at the Potwell Inn, owned by the “plump woman” (who by the end of the story has become “the fat woman”). She suggests he becomes the “odd man about the place”. It sounds simple enough, but it leads to one of my favourite sentences in literature, 350 words outlining his duties.

After this, for me the book flags a bit, unnecessarily tying up loose ends. On the last page, the fat woman and Mr. Polly are looking at, and discussing, the sunset. It gets dark and the last words are, as the first, from Mr. Polly: “We can’t sit here for ever”.

I think that books are memorable for life for one of two reasons. The first is that, like the one on Helen Keller a few months ago, they can inspire one to follow a certain course or, at least, spark an interest. My reason for writing this piece, and I apologise for going into such detail in the plot, is that I can identify with the struggle of the central character. My problems were not identical to Mr. Polly’s but were just as depressing. I took the same road as him; I cleared out. And it works!

*Peter Sharp*

## *Purton Amateur Dramatic Society*

Pantomime rehearsals will begin in earnest in October, with readings being held at 8 pm on Thurs 4th and Tues 9th October, at The Red House in Purton. Put these dates in your diary and come along and join us. We are always looking for new talent!

Following last year’s very successful *Wind in the Willows* production, directed by Sue Richardson, the panto chosen for 2019 is a more traditional one, *Jack & The Beanstalk*, directed by Caroline Nadin and Lynda Wright. There will be the usual three evening performances on consecutive nights, starting on Thursday 31 January, and a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. on 2nd February.

We always welcome new members, especially those between the ages of 16 and 50. Even if you’ve never performed before, and fancy doing a bit of acting, singing or dancing, please come along to one of our readings in October. Having had no previous experience, I personally didn’t start performing until I was 36 (back in 1990) and loved it so much I’ve been involved with PADS ever since. All ages welcome, but under 16’s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We are a friendly non-profit making group, with no membership fees, who have been entertaining Purton for well over 40 years. Apart from acting, there are many other skills required to get the “show on the road”. We cannot put on our performances without the help of all the back stage crew, who should be recognised for all their hard work and support. Without a whole team of people working on props, costumes, make-up, scenery, special effects, lighting, refreshments and front of house, no performance would be successful without them.

If you are interested in joining us, in any capacity, and want to know more, please do get in touch, or just come along to one of the panto readings in October, and tell us how you would like to get involved.

*Kate Bath 771442*

# Purton Placard

HARRY'S WORLD  
CHALLENGE TRIP TO  
TANZANIA

## **Murder Mystery Night**

28 September, 7.30pm at Bradon  
Forest School.

Tickets available  
from  
07795 216764

## PURTON AGE CONCERN

### **Mystery Tour**

Wednesday 3 October, Coach leaves at 10am  
£15.00 for village pensioners (Pub lunch included)  
Book your place with your street warden and join  
us for our final mystery tour of 2018!

### **3Bs x2 Evening**

Friday 5th October at 7.30pm, Silver Threads Hall  
Cost £7 and includes supper  
Ring Jenny Barnes on 770339 for admission tickets

### **Annual Auction**

Saturday 13 October at 1pm,  
Purton Village Hall.  
Come along and join in the bidding!

## ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT ARTS FESTIVAL



### **AUTUMN CONCERT**

**"Celebrating St Cecilia"**

in collaboration with

**Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society**

Featuring instrumentalists from 2018  
Festival Music and other guests

**On Saturday NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>,**

**starting 7.30pm**

**At The Sacred Heart Church,  
Royal Wootton Bassett**

Retiring collection

Refreshments



## ST MARY'S CHURCH **Christmas Market**

Saturday 24 November from 12-  
2.30pm at Purton Village Hall

Lunches served - hot meat baps,  
locally grown and homemade  
produce, children's activities, St  
Mary's School choir, mince pies,  
teas a coffees

## PURTON SILVER THREADS

### **Coffee Morning**

Saturday 20 October  
10am-12pm at the  
Silver Threads Hall

## PURTON CARNIVAL

### **Quiz Night**

Saturday 6 October  
7.30pm at the Red  
House Club  
£10 for teams of 6

# Cheese & Wine evening

## Friday 19 October

Raising funds for

# Brighter Futures

## at GWH

### 7pm - Purton Village Hall

Tickets £8.50

Plus **Cat Newman** from Brighter Futures who will be talking about their work

Tickets from Purton Surgery (01793 770207) or from PPG Committee members

Brighter Futures has been raising funds to provide Radiotherapy in Swindon so that patients no longer have to travel to Oxford for this treatment. The Oxford University Hospitals is investing £18 million in order to bring this much needed facility to Swindon and Brighter Futures is fundraising £2.9 million which will contribute towards the purchase of important clinical equipment within the building.

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



 **Pips**  
community café

## PIPS COMMUNITY CAFÉ **Grand opening!**

Saturday 6 October, 11.00am-3.00pm,  
Purton Club Function Room, Station Road  
Join us for a free coffee/tea or soft drink and you will have the opportunity to purchase tasty homemade soup, paninis, scrumptious cakes and other items that will appear on our normal menu. If you would like to join the team we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mary on 01793 772298 or email: [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk)



## Race Night

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Purton Village Hall

First race 7:30

Licensed Bar and Hot supper

Adults: £5

Under 12's: £3

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

Contact Lorraine: 07729 906 916

Or Rachel: 07585 323 141

## PURTON METHODIST CHURCH **Fundraising Day**

Saturday 6 October, 10.00am-2.00pm  
at Silver Threads Hall

Lunches served from 12 noon (£6),  
Tea and coffee, raffle, tombola, cakes,  
bric-a-brac, children's toys.

Proceeds towards the hearing loop  
upgrade at Purton Methodist Church

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## Purton and District Probus Club



At the Probus meeting on 14th August, John Clark, a member, who has previously entertained us with *The Fast Lane*, *The Pyramids* and *The Joys of Metal Detecting*, gave a talk entitled *Weird & Wonderful Engineering*. John's early career began when he enrolled as a soldier with the REME. His initial activity was writing Service Manuals mainly for Tanks. He was lucky enough to be posted to the Armoured Vehicles Research Establishment (AVRE) at Chobham, the history of which inspired the subject of today's talk.

From 1942 until June 1944, Hitler had been creating a seemingly-impregnable Atlantic Wall, a coastal defensive line which extended from the extremes of Norway, through Denmark and Belgium to the southern end of France. The beaches were defended by submerged ramps, mines, steel hedgehogs, tank-traps and barbed wire, while the cliffs carried gun-emplacements with mortars, and up to 20 inch-bore guns which could out range those of a battleship. The task of the Allies on D-Day would be the breaking down of these defences and AVRE at Chobham was given the job of inventing specialised armoured vehicles to overcome those obstacles in order to establish beach-heads and speed the attack. At the same time, a psychological war was in progress to encourage Hitler to spread his Panzer Divisions as thinly as possible and well away from the invasion beaches. To this end, inflatable rubber tanks, lorries and plywood aircraft were set out across Southeast England.

The *Weird and Wonderful Machines* that AVRE developed under Major General Percy Hogarth were mainly Churchill and Sherman Tanks modified for specific purposes. There was; the Bobbin Tank, which rolled out an artificial road, the Crocodile Tank with its flame thrower, the chain-thrashing Mine Blowing Tank, the Fascine Tank to bridge craters and bogs and a Bridging Tank which could form a ramp for other tanks to climb a sea wall. The most surprising armoured vehicle was the Swimming Tank which had a waterproof rising skirt to give floatation and duplex propellers to drive it through the water. One other tank developed was the Bocage hedge-cutting Tank, much favoured as a friend of the Infantry. History tells us that, without these weird and wonderful bits of engineering, D Day might not have succeeded. During John's 9 years in the Army, it led to the birth of the FVRDE; the Fighting Vehicle Research and Development Establishment. A vehicle that missed the war was the Centurion Bridge Laying Tank. This monster could, hydraulically, cantilever an 87Ft bridge section into position to carry a 75 ton load. The last vehicle John was involved with was nick-named the Pink Panther, a heavily armed jeep, extensively used by the SAS for high-speed and covert work in the desert. Apparently pink gives the best camouflage where mirages in the desert are involved.

When John left the Forces, he launched his own business at Aldbourne, initially to rebuild vintage racing cars. A high point of the company's activity was the landing of a military contract to produce a small number of Truck Fire Fighting Aircraft Crash Rescue Vehicles. This was a small Fire Engine with an extra axle and wheels

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to bear the weight of 200 gallons of water. It was known as the 6x6 Range Rover Fire Engine. John gave an interesting presentation of some wonderful and surprising innovations, which have made a major contribution both to WWII and subsequent battles undertaken by the Army.

For the second meeting of 28 August, our speaker was again one of our own members. Paul Booy gave a talk on a little known disaster; "The Sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff", in which approximately 9000 German refugees and military personnel lost their lives in the Baltic Sea.

Paul began with a resumé of the rise of the National Socialist German Worker's Party (the NSDAP, i.e. Nazi Party), the propaganda and ideology of which had taken Hitler to power. The Party war-cry was "Strength through Joy", state-promoted leisure and culture, part of which was affordable worker's holidays on cruise ships. This particular cruiser (24,484 GRT tonnage), originally destined to be named "Adolf Hitler", was laid down in August 1936 and launched in May 1937. The man Wilhelm Gustloff, a meteorologist, born 1895, joined the NSDAP in 1929 and began printing and publishing Anti-Semitic propaganda. In 1936, he was assassinated (shot) by David Frankfurter, a Croation Jew. Because of his high standing with the Nazis, Hitler Goebbels, Goring, Himmler, Bormann and Ribbentrop attended his funeral and the new cruiser was launched as the "Wilhelm Gustloff". Initially it made several successful cruises, but with the progress of the war, it became first a hospital, and then a floating barracks to house U-Boat trainees.

Operation Hannibal (Jan-May 1945), was the naval evacuation of German troops and refugees from Courland, East Prussia and Danzig as the Red Army advanced. The ship left Danzig at 12.30 pm on 30th January 1945 carrying 9-10 thousand Germans, 5000 of them were children, bound for occupied Denmark. It headed out into deep water to avoid mines. It was not marked as a Hospital Ship and it carried light armament.

The ship was sighted by Soviet Submarine S13, commanded by Captain Alexander Marinesko. The Wilhelm Gustloff was accompanied by a torpedo boat, but its submarine detection sensor was frozen and useless. Marinesko shadowed the German boat for 2 hours, then surfaced on the port side and, at about 9pm, launched three torpedoes labelled Motherland, Leningrad for the Soviet People. A fourth torpedo jammed in the tube. All three torpedoes struck the Wilhelm Gustloff, in the bow, centre and engine room. Some lifeboats were lowered but many were frozen in their davits. Forty minutes later she was listing badly to port and after a further ten minutes she went down, bow first. The sea temperature was about 4 degrees Centigrade. 996 souls were saved from a compliment of approximately 10,000. Compare this with 1500 persons recorded lost from the Titanic. Captain Marinesko was never accused or reprimanded, although he was already facing a court-martial for a drink-related problem. The sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff hardly registered in the West, probably because the Allies had only just dealt with the Battle

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of the Bulge, in the Ardennes, and shortly afterwards Belsen was liberated revealing all the horrors of the Holocaust. Paul's talk brought to us a terrible reminder of the tragedies of war.

Purton Probus Club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10am in the Red House lounge. Visitors & new members welcome. October programme: 9th, Whales and Dolphins, 23rd, the Shetland Islands.

*Bob Stevens*

## Prospect Hospice

### ***Make a Beastly Brew... Join us for a Make a Beastly Brew in October!***

We are holding various coffee mornings in different locations throughout Swindon, throughout the October half term. Come along and enjoy a Halloween themed coffee morning, with all proceeds being donated to your local hospice. For more information about the specific dates and times please visit our events calendar on our website: <https://www.prospect-hospice.net/Events>

### ***Annual Barn Dance***

Join our Wroughton Support Group at their November Barn Dance on Saturday 10th November at Ridgeway School, Inverary Road, Wroughton, SN4 9DJ, from 6:30pm. There will be live music from Melobo and a bar and snacks available on the night. Doors open at 6:30pm with dancing from 7pm – 10:30pm. Tickets are priced at £8 and if you would like join them, we advise you book in advance as March's Barn Dance sold out! For purchasing tickets, please contact Hilary Fleming on 01793 813069 or email [hilaryfleming@live.com](mailto:hilaryfleming@live.com).

### ***Could you become one of our amazing box collectors?***

We are currently looking for some fabulous volunteers to become box collectors in the Covingham, Old Town and Penhill areas. Our box collectors are an extremely important part of our volunteer team, as they collect the household boxes in their neighbourhoods, allowing us to generate more income from within the community. Not only does it make it more convenient for people to donate, it also allows those who are limited in mobility to still be able to collect using their household box.

If you think you are able to help or would like some more information on this role, then please give Alex a ring on 01793 816163 or drop an email to [alexandracooper@prospect-hospice.net](mailto:alexandracooper@prospect-hospice.net).

### ***Remembering someone you love***

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

The Memory Tree leaves are available to anyone who would like to create that

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special lasting tribute to their loved one, even if you have not previously been directly involved with Prospect Hospice.

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

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



### **Marlborough Christmas Fair**

**Saturday 24 November, Marlborough Town Hall, 11am until 4.30pm**

We are looking forward to hosting another fabulous Marlborough Christmas Fair this year at the Town Hall, Marlborough. It promises to be a sparkingly festive event with craft and game stalls, refreshments and eclectic live music including Marlborough Big Band and the Marlborough Concert Orchestra String Quartet.

Santa will be visiting us again this year so this is sure to be a delightful, Christmassy occasion for all the family.

*Hollie Ricketts, Community Fundraiser*

## Hare Brains spring into action to launch Mad March Hare 2019



Thursday 1st November sees the start of fund raising activities for the Mad March Hare 2019.

Come and get quizzical with other hare brains at the Mad March Hare Quiz Night at Swindon Town Football Club on Thursday 1st November. Please arrive at 7 o'clock for a 7.30pm start.

Please come along with your team of 6-8 members or join one when you arrive. There will be a prize for the winning team! Tickets are only £6.50 per person and this includes a ploughman's supper. A bar will be open all evening and we will be running a raffle with great prizes. Please visit [www.madmarchhare.org.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk) for details.

The 12th Mad March Hare event will take place on Sunday 24th March 2019, starting and finishing at Lydiard Park Academy. The 5km or 10km walk/jog/run is in aid of Breast Cancer Now and has raised well over £100,000 since it first began.

The 2018 event was a tremendous success and a hare raising sum of £9,636 was raised for the charity.

Registration for the 2019 Mad March Hare opens on 1st November. Clever bunnies will be hopping over to the website to register early! For more information about the event, either to participate or find out about volunteering on the day, visit [www.madmarchhare.org.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk).

Follow us on Twitter (@MadMarchHareSWN) or Facebook: [facebook.com/madmarchhareswindonbreakthroughbreastcancer](https://www.facebook.com/madmarchhareswindonbreakthroughbreastcancer)