

Purton. Magazine

October 2017



The Purton BOWLS CLUB ladies who will be representing England next year after winning the National Triples competition final, see page 39 for details.

50p

owl.

Purton Contacts

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

Schools & Playgroups

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Bradon Forest School | Secretary | 770570 |
| Pear Drops at Playclose | Sarah Grigg | 07759 583566 |
| Pear Drops Pre-School | Sarah Grigg | 771723 |
| <i>(formerly Under 5s')</i> | | |
| St Mary's Primary School | Secretary | 770239 |

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

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

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

| | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Wardens | Sandra Horsnall: | Jane Smith: |
| | 770157 | 772422 |

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

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

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

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

www.thesacredheartparish.uk

Parish Priest: Tel: 852366

Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues

Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell Tel: 325681

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

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

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

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

Contents

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|
| 10 Years Ago | 43 | Jean Cook Tribute | 38 |
| A Book I will always Remember..... | 48 | John Blackwell Tribute..... | 25 |
| Advertiser Index..... | 66 | Knit-a-square | 49 |
| After 8 | 41 | Lifting the roof on St Mary's..... | 31 |
| Age Concern..... | 14 | Mad March Hare quiz | 31 |
| Age Concern Minibus | 22 | Nikki Webb | 45 |
| Amateur Dramatics (PADS)..... | 30 | Open Gardens | 43 |
| Bradon Forest School..... | 36 | Parish Council News | 6 |
| Bowls Club..... | 39 | Patient Participation Group..... | 28 |
| Carer support Wiltshire | 13 | Pilgrimage to Winchester..... | 33 |
| Church floodlighting..... | 42 | Prayer for Purton | 44 |
| Crib Festival..... | 32 | Probus Club..... | 56 |
| Cricket Club..... | 64 | Profferings | 13 |
| Cricklade Band | 45 | Purton Artists Society | 49 |
| Cricklade Country Market..... | 38 | Purton Contacts..... | 3 |
| Diary Pages | 34 | Purton Horticultural Show..... | 29 |
| Food Festival | 49 | Purton Placard..... | 46 |
| Gardeners' Guild | 64 | Purton Postbag (letters)..... | 44 |
| Girl Guiding in Purton | 63 | Richard Bartlett..... | 55 |
| Great War Project..... | 50 | Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal | 41 |
| Health & Wellbeing Champion..... | 33 | Tennis Club..... | 45 |
| Historical Society..... | 40 | Walking netball | 60 |
| Housing developments | 30 | We Record..... | 32 |

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

Purton Magazine committee:

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey,
Sheila Fowler, Sandra Horsnall, Francis Sheppard,
Liz Stephenson.

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

Advertising enquiries: Liz Stephenson

Email: advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Copy & advertising deadline: 10th of each month, please to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR
Tel: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries: Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2017

INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

The three smiling ladies on our front cover have won “the ultimate prize” according to the report on page 39. Julie Jones, Chris Mitchell and Alison Fail representing Purton Bowls Club, won the National Triples Championship at Victoria Park in Royal Leamington Spa. That achievement is the first for any club in Wiltshire and is the pinnacle for a club like Purton. Winning the National Championship also means that those ladies will represent England at the International competition in Ireland next year – how special is that? Many congratulations.

Another very special story – but from a sad set of completely different circumstances was highlighted in the national news recently and it is a perfect introduction for a talk on organ donation at Purton Surgery on Monday 30 October – see page 28. Five years ago, 13 year old Jemima Layzell from Somerset died from a brain aneurysm but by donating her organs she was able to help 8 different people – a world record.

Her parents said that they had spoken with Jemima only a few weeks before her death after someone their family knew died in a crash. Although that person was on the organ donation register, their organs could not be donated because of the circumstances of the death. Jemima had not heard of organ donation before and found it a little unsettling – but completely understood the importance of it all.

After Jemima’s untimely death, her parents still found it quite difficult to come to terms with their daughter’s decision. It was a television programme about children at Great Ormond Street hospital in London just waiting for heart transplants that finally convinced them that their 13 year old daughter’s wishes were both brave and correct.

Jemima’s heart, small bowel and pancreas were transplanted into three different people while two people received her kidneys. Her liver was split and transplanted into two further people and both her lungs were transplanted into another patient. Jemima’s parents have highlighted that all families should talk very seriously about organ donation.

With some shops already advertising their Christmas ranges, readers might be interested to learn about a Crib Festival that is being planned at St. Mary’s church during the first weekend of December. It will be a collection of many different Nativity scenes that families might usually display at home as part of their domestic Christmas decorations. Contributions are requested with more details on page 32.

3Bs x2

Is on 6 October
at Silver Threads Hall
– see page 21

£2,200

Raised for charities by
Purton Open Gardens in
2017 – see page 43

<500 people

In the UK died awaiting
an organ transplant in
2016 – see page 28

Purton Parish Council News



Councillor Surgery

Saturday 2 December 2017 10am – 12 noon at Purton Village Hall, Station Road – Councillors will be available to talk to residents regarding issues that matter. Come along have a coffee and slice of cake and meet your Councillors.

Responsible Walkers

Sadly we have had several incidents where live stock have been killed by dogs and also cattle let out of fields due to gates being left open. Please can I remind those who enjoy the countryside, that you do not have the “right to roam” and can only use the designated footpaths. A full list of designated footpaths within Purton is available on the Wiltshire Council website and also through the Council Offices. Please act responsibly and do not access private land or leave gates open. The police are aware and the farmer will be taking the necessary evasive action to stop this from happening again.

Footpaths

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

Parish Walk 3 September 2017

On Sunday 3 September nine intrepid walkers, suitably attired, turned out for the Annual Parish walk. It was raining! Nevertheless they set off across the fields to Mouldon Lake. Nearing The Pry, across the newly installed bridge by Wiltshire Council making the previous locked gate unnecessary. Ignoring the ‘beware of the bull’ warning sign, well he did keep his distance, and on to Trotmans Wood and Berriman’s Wood to the Parish boundary at the River Ray. Crossing this border and around the lakeside to the end of the Blunsdon railway at Taw Valley Halt, unfortunately no steam train to admire but a train did turn up on cue pulled by a diesel engine. Next along the old railway line to the North Wilts Canal, a pleasant walk canal side to the aqueduct which took



the canal over the river, this now being the end of the canal in water. George pointed out that near here stood the old Ridgeway Mill (renamed Newman's Mill), no remains to see but the original mill stones can be seen on plinths outside The Institute building, how many people know this? And so back to Purton, around the lakeside and back into our Parish towards The Pry again, past the old Pill box, more fields and the view of the church spire inviting us home.

Many thanks to all those who turned out, the weather wasn't kind but hopefully all enjoyed the company and exercise! Thanks to David Arnold who took the photo and who is the missing face.

For anyone interested in doing this walk themselves in more favourable conditions a new style route map is available from the Council offices titled 'Walk 5, Canals and Railways', the distance is a little over 5 miles. (50p each) For next year's walk we'll try to arrange a bit of sunshine!

Charities

We have set up a "giveasyoulive" site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and lets raise some pennies. <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

Councillors 2017-18

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

Purton Parish Council are pleased to welcome a new Councillor onboard as co-opted on 11th September 2017 – Jamie Hurwood. We still have 4 more spaces available. If you are passionate about the area you live in and want to be involved, please contact the Clerk.

Community Speed Watch

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

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

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff. If you are interested in knowing more and how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Grigg on chezneymb@hotmail.com or Debbie Lawrence on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call the office on 01793 771066.

Planning

Approved with conditions

- 17/03840/FUL 16 Greenhill. Proposed two storey rear extension plus first floor to garage and front porch.
- 17/04266/FUL 39 Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent. Erection of Bungalow for an ancillary accommodation associated with the residential use of 39 Stone Lane.
- 17/04629/FUL 12 Church Path. Two storey front and rear, single storey side and rear extensions.
- 17/04738/FUL The Garden Cottage, Church Path. Proposed single storey orangery with balcony over.
- 17/04694/FUL 10 Station Road. Proposed detached garage with first floor playroom/hobby room.
- 17/03069/FUL Land at Ridgeway Farm. Proposed erection of 6 residential dwellings, D1 community use facility and associated parking, drainage and landscaping.
- 17/05624/CLP 13 Jubilee Estate. Loft conversion with dormer to rear. Approve.
- 16/07507/FUL Existing Garage Site, Dogridge. Demolition of 12 x Residential Garages and Construction of 6 x 1 Bed and 2 x 2 Bed Flats, together with Associated Parking and Landscaping. Re-Modelling of 4 x Existing Flats and Provision of Additional Car Parking and Bin Storage.
- 17/05061/FUL Sparswell Farm, Bagbury Lane. Erection of barn.
- 17/05425/FUL 56 Reids Piece Proposed two storey extension.
- 17/05843/FUL 7 Pear Tree Close. Proposed single storey rear extension.
- 17/06005/FUL Bradon Forest School. Replacement EFAA building/block.
- 17/06965/FUL 1 Vastern Hill. Proposed detached garage.

Appeals

17/00252/FUL 9 HOGGS LANE. Dismissed.

How to contact the Parish Council

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

Who are you today?

Mother, husband, grandmother, brother? Teacher, office manager, student, electrician? If you are looking after someone who couldn't always manage without your help: someone with a physical disability, long term health condition, mental health issue or a problem with substance misuse you may also be a carer.

Juggling a caring role around work, studying, seeing friends or spending time with other family members can be challenging. And sometimes it can feel lonely.

Carer Support Wiltshire are a local charity supporting unpaid carers in Wiltshire. Our Carer Cafes and Support Groups are held throughout the county and offer information, advice and the opportunity to make new friends over a cuppa. Visit our website to find one near you www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk or call us on 0800 181 4118 or 01380 871690 from a mobile for a copy of our What's On Guide.

Purton Profferings

OFFERED: FREE TO COLLECTOR: Well rotted compost made from horse manure, vegetable matter paper etc. No perennial weeds, no wood based bedding. Has been well heated during making. Plastic bags available or call with wheelbarrow. Hazel Woodbridge Hoggs Lane, 770862 or hazeldwoodbridge@yahoo.co.uk

OFFERED: Trampoline to suit child age between 3 and 5, approximate size 4ft x 4ft. Contact Des on 01793770812.

Purton & District Age Concern



The following two tributes have been written by Tony Price:

How do you start when we have lost several people who, over the years have contributed so much to our village to make it a lovely place to live in. What is so refreshing as well as sad is that they are all people who moved into Purton and became part of it, joining in with community life.

Beryl White was a neighbour of ours, living in Church Path, and she had been in Purton for fifty years. She was born in Swindon and attended Pinehurst School. She was the youngest of five children but sadly her mother died when she was very young and Beryl, along with another sister, was fostered out. Later her dad remarried and had three more children. Beryl and her sister went back home and now there were eight children. What a happy family they were, all united and they did have some fun with the parties they had. They continued with these parties for years, numbers increasing with all the nephews and nieces and Beryl was always there to support anyone in the family who needed it. Beryl's family were Salvationists – I wonder if she ever played the tambourine or any other instrument. What a marvellous organisation to belong to.

When Beryl left school she worked at Wills – was it while she was there that she became interested in ballroom and Latin dancing – actually winning medals when she was eighteen. Beryl was a hard worker – she also worked at Garrards and Triumph – this was after she was married. She used to cycle to work but this came to an end when she fell off one day and broke her ankle. Her daughters tell me that, although she had a plaster up to her thigh and came home with crutches, she just carried on around the house as though nothing had happened but I think it put her off cycling to work. She got a job in the village at Bridies, the greengrocer who used to be at the Pavenhill shops and her daughters remember the delicious puddings she used to make with the fruit that she brought home that was getting too ripe to be sold.

Beryl first lived in Whitfield Close before she emigrated to Canada with husband Eric and daughters Yvonne, Mary and Sarah but this didn't work out and they came back to Purton. In 1967 the family moved into a house at the top of Station Road. This was when the Age Concern street warden scheme was getting started and Beryl was the first person I thought of. She loved doing this job and was very kind and caring to her people. When she began work at Ashgrove House she was our contact with them as well. She worked at Ashgrove well past retiring age and really loved that job. She also did cleaning at Bradon Forest School and at the Silver Threads Hall. When she moved to her cottage in Church Path she had about four jobs to help her but she always said it was worth it to have her own place and her independence. She loved her little cottage (and the neighbours are quite friendly! - I can vouch for that). We pinched Beryl's cat – Mickey made his home with Sheila's mum and dad when they were living in our granny flat.

Beryl had a dog which Mickey didn't get on with and he decided to move out. He used to sit on Sheila's dad's head on the back of the chair and this meant that we knew where dad was.

Beryl was very hospitable, always had the kettle on for anyone who called. A cup of tea was her favourite drink – any time of the day or night. When the Sea Cadets were in Purton for the Remembrance Service or for anything like the Carnival, Beryl would welcome them into Station Road with tea and biscuits and she was like this with everyone.

Beryl helped at Luncheon Club and liked to be involved in the village. She was part of a team called the Nondescripts who took part in 'It's a knock up' for the Carnival when it was at Purton House (winning it one year) and she founded the Purton Follies with a group of friends. This was a spin off from a keep fit club held upstairs at the Angel. They were soon putting on variety shows at the Village Hall, raising money for local groups and charities. Beryl loved to entertain and had a great sense of humour. The Follies entered many floats in the Carnivals and she enjoyed dressing up and getting up to all sorts of antics with the sole purpose of making people happy. Thank you Beryl for all the happiness you gave to the village and let's thank John and Brenda Lilley for all the kindness they showed Beryl. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jean Cook was our street warden for Jubilee Estate and part of Vasterne Close – do not ask me for how long because it is more than I can remember but what I do know is that she will be a big loss to Age Concern and sadly missed by many. Unfortunately during the last year Jean has lost her brother and her daughter-in-law which must have been a dreadfully sad time for her and for the family. Jean was born in Carshalton, Surrey and moved to High Wycombe, living in Totteridge Road, going to Hatters Lane School – this was an all-girls school and it was quite a long walk all uphill – alright if you had roller skates to come home. There are a couple of names I never knew which refer to Jean's dad's work – a cordwainer is a shoe maker and a boot clicker is one who cuts leather. Sadly Jean's dad was blinded in the Second World War – he used to have holidays at St. Dunstons in Brighton – and he ended up working at a telephone exchange. Bob can remember the braille playing cards he used – he enjoyed a game of cards.

Jean was married when she was seventeen to Andrew and moved to Cheriton near Folkestone where Mark was born, followed by Brian (Aspen Fencing). The family moved to Swindon in the 1970s and their first home in Purton was in New Road. It was here that Jean became interested in gardening, living next door to Ernie Matthews. She would not have had much choice about this as Ernie's brother Bert was next door but one and both brothers were excellent gardeners, almost in competition. Ernie would give her all the help and advice she needed – even if Alan Tichmarsh or Monty Don was on tv and did something different, Jean would always stand by Ernie's way (I think I would have been the same!). One of Jean's specialities was hanging baskets, all nicely lined with moss which was

a job to find. Bob, her partner, tried to do one which looked alright until watered, then all the plants, soil etc. came out. Jean had to repair that one and I don't think he has tried since.

Jean was a worker, always at work one way and another, like being an 'egg lady' delivering eggs for the chicken farm at Lydiard Green. She cleaned for Andy at the Royal George in the 1980s, she served behind the bar at the Red House and the Workman's Club, worked at the Spar shop for twenty years. She enjoyed doing deliveries on the egg round and for Best One and she must have made such a difference to people who were housebound and lonely. She then moved on to work at One Stop where I know she was very happy. You get that sense when you go into that shop – everyone friendly and helpful with a smile on their face. Mind they have some fun behind the scenes, but it doesn't affect the excellent service. They also enjoyed nights out together and Jean certainly loved this. I expect there would be one or two stories about customers. While Jean was still at school she worked in a greengrocers' shop – I wonder if it was here that she learned how to treat the customers because she certainly knew how to do that. She would have been the ideal lady to teach this skill in school.

Jean had a lot of interests besides her gardening. She had researched her family tree on her mother's side back as far as 1809 and traced and met some relatives. (I hope she didn't find any shifty characters like the ones we found in our family!). Jean collected salt and pepper pots – she had a collection of two hundred, many of them really unusual and rare and also fifty pence coins because they change the back quite often, featuring things like the Olympic Games and Beatrix Potter. Another of her loves was baking and her specialities were cheese cakes and madeleines. These were always in great demand, not only by Bob but the staff at One Stop. In fact the staff renamed the madeleines Jean's booby cakes (hope this is alright for the magazine!) They even had a 'bake off' at One Stop and the finalists were Jean, Pearl Lait and Zita Tuck. I don't know who won because there were too many judges and all the cakes were eaten by the staff.

I was trying to sum up Jean's kindness and I think it best to repeat what several people have said to me that if Jean had not seen a customer for a few days she would make enquiries about them and, if they were laid up, she would go round and see what she could do to help and get any shopping they wanted, all out of the kindness of her heart. Jean, thank you for being you and such a great asset to Purton Age Concern and the village. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and all the family, her friends and especially her friends at One Stop, at this sad time.

TONY PRICE

Our 2018 calendars are now on sale at a cost of £5.00. Each calendar contains thirteen beautiful photographs taken by local people of views of Purton plus the dates of all our events and activities to remind everyone of what Purton Age Concern is getting up to each month. The calendars will make great Christmas presents, they are ideal as stocking fillers and are easy to post to family and

friends who don't live in Purton. Calendars can be bought at Andrew Hiscock's butchers shop or by contacting Louise on 772558 or Tony on 770696. They are proving to be very popular and at £5.00 they are a bargain! Our grateful thanks go to Carole and Steve at Artworking Limited in Purton for all the time and effort they spent producing such a high quality calendar.

The Tai chi classes have started again after the summer break. The classes are held at the Millennium Hall on Thursday afternoons from 2-3pm and cost £3 per session. Spaces are available, please contact Louise Tidman on 772558 for more information.

Future Events

October Mystery Tour - Our final mystery tour of 2017 is on Wednesday 4th October with an 11am start. Cost including pub lunch is £13.50 for village pensioners and £15.00 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please contact your street warden to book your place before Monday 25th September.

3Bs x 2 Evening - Our second 3Bs evening this year is on Friday 6th 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!

Christmas Voucher & Newsletters - Christmas vouchers will be delivered by your street wardens before the end of November. If you think you could be eligible for one of our vouchers please contact Louise on 772558 for more information.

Christmas Party at the Silver Threads Hall - This party is on Saturday 25th November from 3pm-5pm at the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £3.00. Wheelchair users and their carer's will be made very welcome. Please book your place with your street warden and book transport if required with Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator on 770862.

Christmas Party at the Village Hall - The main Christmas Party is on Saturday 2nd December from 5pm-8.30pm at the Village Hall. The cost is £6.00. Please book your place with your street warden and book transport if required with Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator on 770862.

Christmas Market Stall - Our Christmas Market outside the Pavenhill shops will be on Saturday 9th December from 9am-12noon. More details next month. Put these Christmas dates in your diary, more details will follow next month.

Past Events

Jumble sale - Our jumble sale was on Saturday 2nd September. We had a very successful couple of hours. Thanks to everyone who donated items for us to sell

and donated raffle prizes and thanks you to all who came along to support us. We made a profit of £377.64

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 (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

Purton and District Age Concern Mini Bus

The Age Concern Mini buses are a regular feature around the village, with at least one bus out on duty everyday and although it is relatively easy to keep the outside clean the inside takes a little more time. I was therefore wondering if anyone or a group of friends would consider taking on the inside cleaning of the bus. It could be anytime including the weekend and dropped off anywhere in the village. If each bus could be cleaned once a month that would be truly wonderful and a great help.

The mini buses are kept quite busy, and all the drivers and shotguns are voluntary, if you think you may be able to help either as a driver or shotgun then please make contact to find out more. It does not have to be a regular commitment as many of our trips are 'specials' like the coffee mornings, concerts and bingo.

You will have read elsewhere in the Magazine of the amazing support that John Blackwell gave to the Mini Buses both as a driver and as the Co-ordinator, my current role and that of my husband Richard, a few years ago, when he took over from John. He was always so helpful, with nothing being too much trouble, including looking after the bookings when we were on holiday. Always a cheery smile- thank you John we will miss you but always remember you.

HAZEL WOODBRIDGE, Minibus Co-ordinator

John Blackwell

We have lost one of our great stalwarts in John Blackwell. John had been part of Purton and District Age Concern for almost thirty years and when I say 'part' I mean a big part, mainly with the minibuses. It was about two years after we had our first bus that he joined as a driver and he finished up as a shotgun but still involved. In between this he became our co-ordinator. When that happened it brought tears to my eyes as we were struggling at that time. My brother Godfrey, who had been co-ordinator, had died suddenly and sister-in-law Diana took it on. To be honest it got in a bit of a mess and, chatting to John about it, I can remember it as though it was yesterday, he put his hand on my arm and said "Tone, don't worry about it, I will do it". When you get somebody like John saying that, you knew it would be alright. Along with another great friend of Age Concern, Joe Ricketts, who was secretary things started to run more smoothly and we so much thank them for this.



When you mention John's name to people who use the minibuses they always say how kind, patient, helpful and understanding he was, helping them on and off the buses. This was not only said by them but everyone in general. It seemed a natural thing for him to do. I often wonder if his motto was 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can'. To me this sums up John's attitude to life. What a marvellous place this world would be if everyone was like John. Mind, we are very lucky in Purton because I could name a few more like John!

I have heard about people singing for their supper but never about playing for your tea. When he was on the minibus serving the Silver Threads they would always get John to play the piano for the closing hymn, which was The Lord is my Shepherd – then he could have his cakes and tea. John learnt to play the piano when living at Coln St. Aldwyns where he was born. I wonder if he ever played in the New Inn. His real love was organ music and, while at Purton, he had organ lessons from the blind tutor from Swindon. I think his name was Dennis Hunt. John had purchased an organ and he used to go and pick Dennis up and bring him to Purton for the lesson, then take him back home. If you had never been to John and June's for an evening of 'the organist entertains' you have missed a treat, mind the food was equal to the playing!

John was born in that lovely village of Coln St. Aldwyns. His mum and dad were the hosts at the local called the New Inn. John was born at home so I bet there were some celebrations that night. He went to the local infants' school then on to junior school at Hatherop, qualifying for a place at Cirencester grammar school, leaving at the age of sixteen. John enjoyed his school days, helping on farms

at weekends mainly driving horses and tractors, earning a bit of pocket money. Then in the winter, with all the gentry in that area, he would go beating – this I know he got paid twelve and a half pence a day.

During the war, like everyone else, evacuees went to Coln St. Aldwyns. I expect they thought they were in heaven, except being parted from their parents. Some had not seen a cow or other animals before, but the locals looked after them and they all intermingled well. John had a silver cigarette case that belonged to his dad which had a big dent in it and this saved his life during the first world war, as he was hit by an enemy bullet which hit the case - this was very precious to John. On leaving school he joined the staff at Fairford station as a junior clerk. After a while John was transferred to Oxford as a booking and enquiry clerk. He worked there for eight years before moving to Brize Norton Station. He remained there for four years before being promoted to Station Master at Purton Station where he remained until it closed in 1964.



When he moved to Purton he would have had Joey Martin and Bert Jerome as his porters, Frank Grinnal and Walt Wynniatt would have been in the signal box with Reg Theobald delivering parcels. Then, of course, you had the coal trucks coming into the sidings. I would imagine there would have been three as the three coal merchants of the time were Clarks, whose garden came right up to the station at Widham House, then there was Dodsons in Station Rd. and Billy Read who also ran the Royal George – his wife had a little shop there as well

and he was the smartest coalman I ever saw. I mentioned Joey Martin and Bert Jerome, well in between the 12.10 pm train arriving and the 1.30 pm going the other way, they would crawl on their hands and knees past the Station Master's window into the Railway Hotel, later known as the Ghost Train, have a couple of pints and crawl back. Knowing John I bet he knew what was going on. Sadly the station closed in 1964 and John then went to work at Swindon Station, later moving to Reading Station where he became personnel manager. This is where he stayed until taking early retirement in 1988. However, whatever his job, role or title was, he always wanted to be known as a railway man.

John and his wife June were married for sixty two years and were courting for four years before that. They met at Bibury village hall where they used to have village hops and subsequently had two daughters Susan and Julie. When they moved to Purton the family lived in the Station Master's house in New Road and they had the most beautiful garden that he and June had created. There was a lovely pond with a waterfall. I believe they had a good arrangement – John did the fruit and veg and June the flowers and they opened the garden for the first Purton open gardens weekend. Sue and Julie could remember watching the steam trains passing when they were little and watching all the men coming off the workmen's train and speaking to them as they walked past. I wonder if Alec Kinnett was one of them – he would have more time than in the morning as he

was always the last from that way in the morning and Jack Osborne was always the last from Station Rd. way. If you were far behind them you were going to miss the train!

After retiring, to fill his spare time, John worked at Swindon Football Club, first on the turnstiles, then in the ticket office. I know in those days speedway would be on a Saturday and John would go from the football ground to Blunsdon Abbey to be on the turnstiles there. You could understand them wanting John – he was so precise and honest in all that he did. John was so good with figures – accountancy would be the best word as he audited Age Concern's books for many years, at least forty I would think and they only had to be a penny out and you had to look into it. Mind, we have been very lucky since I have been connected with Age Concern, with the treasurers we have had and still have. At Purton Workman's Club he sorted things out when everything wasn't going too well and he was elected treasurer. I think he might have been secretary for a while and I know that he served on the committee at the Red House where I believe he was treasurer or he could have been secretary.

John did love a game of bowls. I wouldn't say it was relaxing because he was very competitive – in other words he loved to win. He was captain of a 'tea and biscuit' side that won their league on a Monday afternoon. Also he got to the final to finish runner up in the Wiltshire over 60s triples. What about the time John and Graham, my cousin were invited to play in the men's county friendly on the Isle of Wight. They decided to drive themselves and take their wives with them. Everything went well and, when they got over to the Isle of Wight they stopped to have some lunch, ordering and paying for it. While waiting for the food to come, they asked how long it would take to get to this bowls club, thinking it would be about a quarter of an hour. They were told that the venue was the other side of the island and it would take them an hour and a half at least. It was 1.00 pm and the match started at 2.00pm so they got up and left without any food, drove as fast as they dared and when they got to the bowls club the players were all outside looking for the missing two bowlers (now with empty stomachs) I hope they had a good tea! John loved going down to the green in the week, having a cup of tea and a chat in good company.

John, with all your input into the minibuses over the years, you must be as pleased as I am to see it being run like it is. Remember when we were thinking of replacing our first bus. Who was it who said 'Why don't we keep the old one and have two for a trial period to see if we need two?' Yes we did need two. Thank you for your kindness and friendship. Sue and Julie are chips off the old block because they want donations in lieu of flowers to start off our appeal for Purton and District Age Concern's new minibus for which we thank them. To Sue and Julie, you are in our thoughts and prayers, especially with the difficulties you are having with your dear mum. John cared so lovingly for June in her long illness and you cared for them both. Take care.

TONY PRICE

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

**Next Information Evening - Monday 30 October
7.30 - 9pm**



Would you accept an organ from someone if you needed it? To quote Malcolm Watters, South Central Regional Lead for Organ Donation 'Nearly 500 people across the country sadly died last year while waiting for a transplant. At GWH there were nine organ donors in 2014/15 but this dropped to just four between April 2015 and March 2016. The organs from the four deceased donors helped nine patients on the transplant waiting list. Signing the Organ Donor Register is only half the solution as a major obstacle is gaining consent of a person's family after their death. Many families have refused consent for donation even though their relative carried a donor card. It is important for a donor to sit down and discuss their decision and feelings with those closest to them.'

Our next Information Evening will be on the subject of Organ Donation. This is a subject which some find difficult to think about while others are so grateful that it exists. Our speakers are Dr Mark Yeates, Anaesthetic Consultant and Clinical Lead for Organ Donation and Allison Salmon, Specialist Nurse Organ Donation and it should be an interesting and informative evening.

As usual tickets will be needed for this, though there is no cost. Tickets are available from Purton Surgery.

'Flu Vaccinations – Saturday 14 October from 8am, Purton Surgery

The Department of Health has recommended that vaccination is offered to patients over the age of 65 and also to patients who suffer from a 'high risk' condition regardless of their age. This includes: diabetes, chronic heart disease, chronic renal failure, COPD, those who have undergone a splenectomy, severe asthma (taking inhaled steroid – not seasonal), carers and those who are pregnant. Vaccinations will take place on Saturday 14 October from 8am so if you are eligible then call in or phone to make your appointment.

As we did last year, the PPG will be holding a raffle that day – this year for two hampers. Tickets will cost £1 for a strip of 5. However, please be assured that it is your choice to buy raffle tickets, there is no compulsion.

Practice Nurse appointment

The practice has appointed nurse Judy Maxfield, who will be starting at the beginning of October.

Vintage Tea Party, Saturday 27 January 2018

We will be holding another Vintage Tea Party on Saturday 27 January 2018 when Breeze will once again be playing for us. Reserve the date!

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, Purton PPG

Purton Horticultural Show

The show this year surpassed all our expectations with a record turnout of 57 adult and 25 children's entries. It really was fantastic to welcome lots of new exhibitors from Purton and further afield. A big thank you to all the local business for displaying posters and schedules and the numerous organisations for their help in publicising the children's events.



Although this year has been particularly challenging for us growers, the majority of classes had a good level of competition. All the Judges worked hard in awarding prizes. The industrious judges had over 40 cakes to taste - A challenge in itself! The Potato Challenge results were as follows: From 25 pots distributed, we had 12 pots returned, 2 of which were unfortunately not planted.

Heaviest Single Potato at 364g was grown by 1st Purton and Lydiard Scouts.

Greatest Weight Grown in a Pot:

1st place: 1st Purton and Lydiard Scouts. **2nd and 4th place:** 1st Purton Guides. **3rd, 5th and 10th place:** 2nd Purton Brownies. **6th and 7th place:** Lydiard Millicent Pre-School. **8th and 9th place:** St Mary's C of E Primary School.

Most importantly, we hope to have made a great profit for The Royal British Legion, so thank you to everyone for your support.

Onwards and upwards for 2018. We would love to hear your thoughts of the day, and welcome suggestions on how we can improve next years' show. Please contact me on the details below. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4 October. New committee members are always welcome.

LORNA ROBINSON-WARDLE, secretary
Tel: 01793 778013 or
3rwardles@gmail.com



A Cautionary Tale - in a field far, far away...

Eight years previously...

A developer wanted to build 250 homes at Moredon Bridge (on the extreme south-eastern edge of the parish). Wiltshire Council refused. It went to appeal and 200 were allowed with the express exclusion of a small area which was a protected site ~ a County Wildlife Site, called Bradley's Meadow.

At the time the Planning Inspector said:

"Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, details of a management plan to secure the protection and enhancement of the Bradley's Meadow... shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. The developer went away to build and to plot. They built and sold their 200 homes. There was no management plan for Bradley's Meadow.

Fast forward five years

The developer came back for the other fifty. On Bradley's Meadow. Wiltshire Council refused. It went to appeal. A different planning inspector presided.

At the appeal it was a given the houses were going to be built and the discussion was about how to "offset" the development. That is, destroy the existing site and build on it, and create another of equal (ecological) value somewhere else. A site at Bradford-upon-Avon was discussed that had significant constraints, yet a Wiltshire Council officer, disagreeing with the main Wiltshire Council representative at the enquiry said "...I know it well [the site]. It's definitely at the richer end of semi-improved calcareous grassland... It's ideal..."

The planning inspector noted that whilst this person did not know the site "in a professional capacity" he gave the person's viewpoint "substantial weight" in conflict directly with the planning officer giving the evidence. Unbelievable.

Present Day

Bradley's Meadow was destroyed and the additional fifty houses were built and sold. Not a single blade of offset grass has been grown to date on the new site at Bradford-upon-Avon

To keep up with this sorry tale, and other parish matters join for free at www.CarbonBrake.com

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Autumn play as we do not have sufficient actors to cast it.

Therefore, our next production will be the pantomime in February and we will be holding auditions for this – Wind in the Willows - on 3rd & 5th October at The Red House at 8pm.

LINDSEY HALL 771890

Lifting the Roof on St Mary's

We are excited to announce that Dr Jonathan Foyle is coming to Purton on Thursday 9th November to speak at St Mary's Church from 7.30 pm.

Jonathan is an award winning presenter of history programmes on television. His programmes include Climbing Great Buildings, Henry VIII: Patron or Plunderer, People's Palaces: Civic Architecture in the North and Hidden House Histories. He has even appeared on the One Show!

If history is not really your thing, just come to be entertained. The University of Cambridge International Summer Schools describe his talks as follows: 'Excellent preparation, command of subject, fun, good use of media, very professional, good pace and extremely interesting content.'

We have invited him to speak on 'Lifting the Roof on St Mary's: Medieval Meaning and Construction'. Elsewhere in the magazine you will read about the repair work on the Chancel Roof of St Mary's Church and this meeting will take the opportunity of the exposed skeleton of the roof to understand more about how and why St Mary's was built as it is. This special meeting has been organised to help us raise funds for the repair by increasing your understanding of the church and its importance.

Jonathan is uniquely qualified to teach us about the architecture of St Mary's as the author of books on church architecture: Lincoln Cathedral: The Biography of a Great Building and Architecture of Canterbury Cathedral.

So, if you like history programmes, value St Mary's Church as a great building or just want an entertaining evening out, please come. Put Thursday 9th November 7.30 pm your diary now. Hope to see you there.

DAVE NETTLETON

Hop to it fast to book your place at the Mad March Hare quiz!

Come and get quizzical with other hare brains at the Mad March Hare Quiz Night at Swindon Town Football Club on Wednesday 1st November and help kick off fundraising for the 2018 event.



Come along with your team of 6 to 8 or join one on the night! The first round gets underway at 7.30. Tickets are only £6.50 per person and include a ploughmans supper and a prize for the winning team. Take part in our grand raffle!

Last year's event was a sell-out so to avoid disappointment, log onto www.madmarchhare.org.uk. The 11th Mad March Hare event will take place on Sunday 25th March 2018, starting and finishing at Lydiard Park Academy. The 5km or 10km walk/jog/run is in aid of Breast Cancer Now and has raised over £100,000 in its first 10 years. Registration also opens on 1st November. Clever bunnies will be hopping over to the website to register early! For more information about the event, visit www.madmarchhare.org.uk

Crib Festival 2017

St Mary's Church is looking forward to holding a Crib Festival in church during the first weekend of December. This year Advent Sunday is on December 3rd and it is the traditional time when we are starting to think about Christmas, again!

So, would you like to be involved with our Crib Festival? If so, do you have a Nativity scene in your house as part of your Christmas decorations at home? There are all sorts of cribs, made of clay, glass, paper, even Lego;. Some are bought; some are home-made. There is even a knitted Nativity which does the rounds of Purton playgroups each year!

We would love to have dozens of cribs...all shape, sizes, colours and descriptions in the church, to be blessed at the Advent Sunday services.

Your commitment will be to bring your crib to St Mary's Church on Friday 1st Dec. between 12noon – 4.30pm or on Saturday Dec 2nd from 9am – 10.30am. The Church will then be open to the public to come and see the Cribs for the rest of the weekend.

There will be refreshments available and any funds raised through donations will be for St. Mary's Chancel Roof Repair Fund.

The cribs can be collected from church after Sunday evening service or on Monday morning between 9am -10.30am

If you or your family or any Purton organisation would like to be involved in this Crib Festival please contact Libbie: 771018: libbie@sheppard.org or email janersmith1@gmail.com

We Record ...

Baptisms at St Mary's Church:

20 August 2017 Esme Rose Curtis
20 August 2017 Joshua John Vincent Robbs
10 September 2017 Ayla Rose Green

Funerals at St Mary's Church

21 August 2017 Margaret Alice Entwistle (76)
7 September 2017 John William George Blackwell (86)
8 September 2017 Beryl Mavis White (80)

Weddings at St Mary's Church

26 August 2017 Christopher Joseph Palmer and Sarah Chivers
26 August 2017 Thomas David Dearlove and Lisa Ann Painter
9 September 2017 Callum Brian Stroud and Louise Kerry Maskens

In Memoriam:

4 October 1917 *Percy Thomas Hedges, killed in action, aged 25, south east of Ypres. Percy is buried at Oxford Road cemetery, Ypres, and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial.*



Pilgrimage To Winchester Cathedral

On 19 August 5 intrepid souls from the Friday walking group left Salisbury Cathedral to walk the 25 miles along the Clarendon Way to Winchester Cathedral. The weather was perfect, not too hot, a lively tail breeze and only one brief shower. We were sent on our way by the Reverend Clifford Stride, vicar in the Salisbury diocese, and he would be there to greet us at Winchester Cathedral later in the day.

Ready to go! (right) Louise, Steve, Martin, Sandra & Mark at Salisbury Cathedral



We made good progress to the halfway point at Broughton where we had lunch and a pint in the Tally Ho! Pub, very welcome. The second half was harder work as tiredness set in, but we were rewarded with plenty of panoramic views and a glorious crossing of the River Test near Kings Somborne.



We rolled into Winchester 9 hours after leaving Salisbury, and made our way to the railway station, where we got the train to Salisbury and then drove back to Purton, arriving home around 9:15pm. The total ascent in the day was 2750 feet, so much for the promised 'flattish' route. The 5 'pilgrims' were Martin and Louise Tidman, Sandra Horsnall, Steve Lloyd and Mark Towler-Wilson.

Made it! (above) Sandra, Steve, Louise & Mark at Winchester Cathedral (Martin's taking the photo).

Health & Wellbeing Champion

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

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

Purton Village Diary - October 2017

| | | | |
|-------|----|---------|---|
| 1 | Su | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Joint churches family service to celebrate Harvest Festival |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong at St Mary's Church |
| 3 | Tu | 8.00pm | (& 5th) Audition for PADS Pantomime 'The Wind in the Willows' at Red House Club |
| 4 | W | 10.00am | Age Concern Mystery Tour with pub lunch |
| | | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Autumn course at Silver Threads Hall |
| 5 | Th | 10.30am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| 6 | F | 2.00pm | Friendhsip Club at Silver Threads Hall |
| | | 7.30pm | Age Concern 3Bs night at Silver Threads Hall |
| 7 | Sa | 10.00am | Shoebox Fundraising day at Silver Threads |
| | | 7.00pm | St Mary's Harvest Barn Dance at Purton Village Hall |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 8 | Su | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 4.00pm | Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School |
| | | 6.00pm | Ignite at St Mary's Church |
| 10 | Tu | 10.00am | Purton Probus Club 'Global Warming' at the Red House Lounge |
| | | 11.00am | Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House |
| | | 2.00pm | Musical Companions at Silver Threads Hall |
| 11 | W | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Autumn Course at Silver Threads Hall |
| 12 | Th | 11.00am | Songs of Praise at The Cedars |
| 13 | F | 9.00am | Age Concern minibus to Cirencester |
| 14 | Sa | 8.00am | 'Flu vaccination clinic at Purton Surgery |
| | | 2.00pm | Purton Methodist Church fundraising jumble sale at Silver Threads Hall |
| | | 7.30pm | Wessex Male Choir perform at St Lawrence's Church, Lechlade |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 15 | Su | 8.00am | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Family Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 4.00pm | Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School |
| 17 | Tu | 7.45pm | Royal British Legion Purton Branch at Red House meeting room |
| 18 | W | 2.00pm | Communion at Ashgrove House |
| | | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Autumn Course at Silver Threads Hall |
| 21 | Sa | 10.00am | Coffee Morning at Silver Threads Hall |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 22 | 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 |
| 24 | Tu | 10.00am | Purton Probus Club 'The first 500 years of Trinity House' at the Red House Lounge |

| | | |
|-------|--------|--|
| | 2.00pm | 'London Pride' with John and Margaret Craig at Silver Threads Hall |
| | 2.30pm | Communion at White Lodge |
| | 7.30pm | Purton and District Gardeners' Guild at Purton Village Hall |
| | 8.00pm | After 8 planning meeting and Art Quiz at Barbara G's house |
| 26 Th | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society 'Wool trade and shepherding' with Martin Way at Village Hall |
| 27 F | 9.00am | Age Concern minibus to Cirencester |
| | 2.00pm | Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall |

| | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| 29 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 |
| 30 M | 7.30pm | Organ donation information evening at Purton Surgery |

November

| | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| 1 W | 7.30pm | Mad March Hare Quiz Night at Swindon Town Football Club |
| | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Autumn Course at Silver Threads Hall |
| 4 S | 12noon | Purton Food Festival at the Village Hall |
| 8 W | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Autumn Course at Silver Threads Hall |
| 9 Th | 7.30pm | Lifting the Roof on St Mary's - a talk by Dr Jonathan Foyle |
| 9 Th | 7.30pm | Dr Jonathan Foyle talks at St Mary's Church |
| 15 W | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society Autumn Course at Silver Threads Hall |
| 18 Sa | 10.00am | Purton Methodist Church fundraising coffee morning at 35 High Street |

Every week

| | | |
|----|---------|---|
| Tu | 9.00am | <i>to 11am:</i> 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 | <i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall |
| | 2.00pm | <i>to 5.00pm:</i> Purton Museum open, free of charge |
| | 6.30pm | Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church |
| Th | 9.00am | <i>to 11am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time) |
| | 12 noon | Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s |
| | 2.00pm | <i>to 3pm:</i> 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 | <i>to 11.30am:</i> Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars |
| Sa | 10.00am | <i>to 12.30pm:</i> Purton Museum open, free of charge |

Moon Phases

☉ 28 September ○ 5 October ● 12 October ● 19 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 or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk



Examination results

We were delighted to congratulate our Year 11 students on their results this summer. Their effort, commitment and hard work have resulted in highly impressive exam performances. As a result, many of our students, staff and parents were celebrating on results day.

We were delighted that students across the ability range have been so successful. Whatever their starting points and talents, it is great to see that many Bradon Forest students have achieved so highly.

Special mention should be given to the following students who achieved seven or more A-A* or 7-9 grades: Charlotte Bowdidge, Peter Cresswell, Lewis Fisher, Ben Hartley, Connor Hibbs, Sophie Kell, Fathema Miah, Sami Sawaf, Sophie Sherman, Thomas Silvester, Leon Slade, Sam Sullivan, Finlay Taylor, Adam Thorn and Luke Webster.

Our excellent GCSE results are yet more positive news for the school which was judged 'good' by Ofsted in April 2016 and opened a new Sports Hall last year with Technology block to follow in February 2018.

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Chappell, said 'I am ecstatic for the students and what these results mean for their futures. As a result our students have secured places on their college courses and apprenticeships. It is a joy to see them open their results envelopes and celebrate their successes.'

Dr Morrison, Headteacher, said *"I am pleased to see all those students who worked so hard for their GCSEs rewarded with such good results. Furthermore, I am delighted for our staff and parents who have taught and supported students to achieve these results. The impressive grades speak volumes for the way in which the Bradon Forest community works together to ensure academic success along with developing the mature young adults who we are proud to teach in our school."*

Students achieving grade 4 or above (old grade C):

English Language 74.4%

English Literature 73.6%

Maths 73.6%

Students achieving grade 4 or above in English Literature and/or Language 80.7%

Students achieving grade 4 or above in English and Maths 68%

Students achieving 5 or more GCSEs including Maths and English 63%





Year 7 PGL adventures

During Term 6 Mr Johnson, Head of Year 7, and a team of teachers took 125 Year 7 students on the annual residential trip to the PGL centre at Boreatton Park in Shropshire. Students undertook a range of high adrenaline fuelled activities and despite the really hot weather an amazing time was had by all.



Equestrian Team - New Saddle Pads

The Bradon Forest Equestrian Team are very excited to announce the arrival of their new saddle pads, personalised and branding the Bradon logo! The team have already been competing under the school's name, but now they can show their team colours in style.

Thank you to Team Manager, Mrs Glynn, for arranging these. We can't wait to see them in action!

Science at Kew Gardens

Last term students visited the world renowned glasshouses and gardens at Kew. The trip had a science focus and students completed a 90 minute education workshop led by an expert from Kew. They learnt about different types of sampling and investigated bug life in different ecosystems. It was an opportunity for the students to work scientifically in conditions that are difficult to recreate in school. They then got to spend some time exploring the gardens and even experienced what it like to be in a hive - which was bee-yond amazing!!!

Bradon Forest students visit the Air Tattoo

Last Friday Dr Morrison took 30 students to the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford. The students had completed their Take Every Opportunity pages in their planners and had been lucky enough to have had their names drawn out of the hat for the trip.

Dr Morrison said *"I really enjoyed my day with the students. The trip was a great way to reward students who had been involved in the school community in a variety of ways – arts, sports, charitable work or by mentoring and leading fellow students."*



Our Jeannie

On Monday 14 August our store manager, Zac had the sad task of letting the Purton One Stop team know that our colleague and friend, Jean Cook had passed away in the night.

Jean was a very hard working and much respected friend to us all. Her coconut madeleines were a great favourite, and the cheese cakes she made were wonderful. Every shift worked with Jean was looked forward to, with her dry sense of humour and distinctive laugh. We always had a fun shift and she will be missed by all of us, and our customers alike.

Our thoughts are with Bob and all Jean's family.



With Jean and her love of birds in mind, we decided that our planned fundraiser on 2 September would go ahead and all money raised would go to the RSPB in Jean's memory.

The One Stop team would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraiser. The sale of cakes, scones, raffle tickets and with kind donations, we raised a fantastic £554.50 for the RSPB. Jean, we hope that the birds are singing with you now xxx

PEARL LAIT, On behalf of the One Stop Purton Team

Photo: L-R: Gemma, Zita, Zac & Pearl

Cricklade Country Market

Our next market: Friday 27 October, 2-4pm at The Jenner Hall Cricklade



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

Pop along for a delicious afternoon tea or come in for after school refreshments too! Future market date: 24 November 24

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

Purton Bowls Club



Our ladies triple team have won the ultimate prize! Three ladies from Purton Bowls Club: Julie Jones, Chris Mitchell and Alison Fail have won the National Triples Championship at Leamington and will represent England at the International competition in Ireland next year. This is a first for any club in Wiltshire and is the icing on the cake for these three ladies this year.

I really can't put into words what this means for a club like Purton and we as a club are so proud of what they have done. Everybody believed they could go far and they have been doing so well in all of the competitions they have entered. But we never imagined that they could achieve this amazing victory.

The story was featured in the Swindon Advertiser and we thank them for letting us use the picture from the newspaper on the front cover of the magazine.

Alison Fail said: "We made a great start and were 17-5 up and just managed to hold them at bay and produce a great team effort to win.

"Obviously our win in the final was the best but we had to battle hard to beat England international Amy Gowshall and her team from Cleethorpes after being 11-5 down.

"It is the first national championship win for Purton. It was really pleasing for me as I had been to Leamington on many occasions before but not in the triples or pairs, so to win the triples at the first attempt was brilliant."

In the opening triples round, Purton beat Barradon 24-12 and followed it up with a 21-13 success over Polegrove, Sussex. Day two saw Purton hammer Berkside Sunningdale 24-9 in the last 16 and then in the quarter-finals took the prize scalp of Cleethorpes 18-11.

In the semis, Purton thwarted the challenge from Cumbria representatives Wigton. Purton made a good start and led 6-1 at five ends but had fallen 10-6 behind at nine ends. Purton came back to draw level before moving 15-13 up at 15 ends. However, Alison's trio grabbed a pair of singles on the last two ends to snatch a 17-15 success and a place in the final.

They lifted the title at the Bowls England national championships at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa on Wednesday afternoon when defeating Nottinghamshire's Terrie Wombell, Liz Munro and Janet Eames from the Dukeries BC (Rainworth, Notts) 19-18 in a tense final, Alison sealing Purton's victory on the 18th and last end with the final bowl of the thrilling match.

Forgive me for committing this whole piece to this trio but this is the pinnacle for a club like Purton. More notes on the Club Finals to follow in the next edition.

PETER BERRY

Purton Historical Society



Autumn Course – Speaker Mr Paul Booy

The title of the autumn course this year is “Purton and Wiltshire in English History”. For example in the first week we shall see how the invasion of Britain by the Celts & Anglo-Saxons has consequences for us locally. The course will run from Wednesday 4th October through to Wednesday 15th November with a break on October 25th. It will be held in the Silver Threads hall on Wednesday's at 7.30 pm. Course fees will be £22 if paid on the night or £20 if booked previously. Further details can be obtained from the speaker Mr Paul Booy (tel. no. 01793 770755). Other subjects that will be covered are the journeys of William Cobbett in Wiltshire and also Victorian Gothic architecture.

PAUL AND EVE BOOY, Tel: 01793 770755

The Steam Engine in the Village Hall car park

In the August edition the story behind the engine was revealed. The engine has been recently painted; Henry Fimmers would be thrilled to see it now. We are grateful to Ron Townsend for painting it, thank you Ron.

Mile Stones

There are three village mile stones, the one by the Angel Pub Car Park has been painted in recent years, the one by Mopes Lane is in the process of being painted and the one in the hamlet of Restrop is looking in need of some paint. Roy A'court looked after the mile stones for many years followed by Roger Lawrence.

Would someone consider painting the Restrop mile stone and help preserve a 17th/18th century land mark? If so please contact Marion on 770185.

MARION HOBBS, Tel: 01793 770185

Future Monthly Meetings

Thursday, 26 October 2017 at 7.30pm. in Purton Village Hall, Martin Way – Wool Trade and Shepherding

The wealth of Medieval England is founded on the Cotswold region, the Wool Merchants and the Churches. Traditional shepherding with its practice and tools will be part of the evening presentation. Martin, a very popular speaker, is making a return visit to share his knowledge of this subject.

Thursday, 23 November 2017 at 7.30pm. in Purton Village Hall, Martin Collison – Agincourt

Friday, 1 December 2017 at 7.30pm. in the Silver Threads Hall, Annual Christmas Social - Due to unforeseen circumstances 'The Ukey D'Ukes' are no longer available on this evening. Entertainment will now be provided by the Whitehorse Folk Club. New Members and visitors always welcome

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

The Purton Historical Society Bulletin Issue 43

It is almost two years since the last Bulletin appeared so we are pleased to announce that issue 43 has now been published. It is on sale for £2 at Flawless Floors and can also be found in the Museum, otherwise phone 770185 or 770331 to reserve a copy. They are selling well!

This publication is not just for members of the PHS. It should be of interest to other parishioners and indeed those living further afield, with or without Purton connections. The stories are of times past, describing how people lived their lives in the last century in particular. We hope some of the details will surprise and entertain you, so do consider purchasing a copy for your family or a friend.

JEAN BELT

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017

28 October to 11 November

Can you help with this year's Poppy Appeal? Extra help is always needed both with the house-to-house collections in the village, and also with the collections held at the West Swindon shopping centre on the Thursday and Friday of each week. Please contact Michael or Shirley Lawrence on 01793 771084. We will be very pleased to hear from you.

After 8

Apologies to readers of After 8 in the magazine, I sent in the wrong account. That one was for 2015. I obviously need to clear out my storage folders on the computer! Here is the account for 2017:



How lucky we were for our After 8 Summer Social. It was a beautiful warm summer July evening after several days of very wet cooler weather. We held a BBQ in Christine's garden, enjoyed wonderful food - Chicken, spare ribs, lamb koftas, sausages and burgers wonderfully barbecued by Helen. To accompany the meat were many varieties of salad and home baked (by Peter) Ciabatta Bread.

Puddings were to die for – Blueberry Cheesecake, Rhubarb Syllabub with rhubarb shortbread, Summer Pudding, Strawberry cake, grapes etc etc. No diets for us!

It was great to be able to socialise and we moved around the table so everyone had a chance to chat to each other.

Our plates, cups and knives, forks and spoons were biodegradable provided by and composted later by Yvonne - a very green evening!

Yvonne also provided plastic wine glasses and surprisingly hers was twice the size of those of everyone else and had her name written on it. She did keep assuring us she was only drinking water. A great evening enjoyed by everyone.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH

Church Floodlighting



- Sept 14 St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate 60 happy and special years of marriage for **Eric and Dorothy Collier**. (and congratulations from all of us in Purton village as well!)
- Sept 24 The Church will be floodlit for **Mary Wall** on what would have been her 88th birthday. Always in our hearts. Sadly missed and loved by all the family.
- Oct 2 The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Roger Lawrence** on what would have been his birthday. Loved and remembered always by Vivien and Janet.
- Oct 4 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of dear **Alex Daniel Collier** on his 18th birthday. Remembered always with love by all the family.
- Oct 11 The Church will be floodlit for my dearest Son **Andrew James Totterdell** who passed away on 11 October 2016. 39 years old, you are in our hearts and we miss you every day. Our love always, Mom, Simon and Becca.
- Oct 15 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Derek Giles** on what would have been his 80th birthday. Dad and Gramp, loved and missed so much. Deb, Neil and family.

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

Can you drive?

I love my car! Some of you will know that it has a name and whilst not always in pristine, polished condition, I love it! I've been driving on the road since my 17th birthday; driving around fields long before that too! I cannot imagine how I would feel if I lost that independence, but I know that at some stage, like very many people, I will have to stop driving. The feeling of complete and utter isolation must be horrific, and this is where the LINK schemes are absolutely fantastic. Most of our area is covered by a LINK Scheme, and they are a real success story. Volunteers (like you?) give a few hours per month, either on a regular or ad hoc basis, to offer transport for isolated people to attend various appointments, often health related, but sometimes shopping or social events. The Link scheme gives a mileage allowance to its drivers for motoring costs. Is this something YOU could help with? It is not an onerous task, and it's something which can be

fitted in around our busy lives, and it makes such a huge difference to the users of the area. Think about it!

The Lydiards Link scheme, started in 2003, has now extended itself into Purton, and we are looking to find new volunteer drivers, who can help our new clients in Purton. If you would like to know more, contact our Recruitment Officer John, on 770787.

Ten Years Ago...

10 years ago Purton Magazine reflected on what impressions come from certain names prompted by the exhibit of the month in October 2007 – a branding iron. In years gone by, farmers would mark their cattle with such an iron for simply identification purposes but these days branding has a much more highly developed purpose even with a value sometimes included on major companies' balance sheets.

Across the country 10 years ago there were huge queues that were then trying to withdraw their money from the Northern Rock bank. Before all that banking trouble brewed up, it is fair to assume that the managers would have been quite comfortable with the impressions created by a bank called Northern Rock. By comparison, how many investors would have been just as comfortable investing in a bank called, for example, Southern Sands?

The value of a brand name often takes years to become established yet can be destroyed, seemingly in an instant. One of the latest victims is the Public Relations company Bell Pottinger whose reputation has effectively been trashed following a high profile scandal in South Africa. Even the industry's own regulatory body has expelled the company and many clients are actively moving their business elsewhere – and all because of a misjudged and mishandled campaign in South Africa.

The reputation of roundabouts in the middle of roads in North Wiltshire is often coloured by feelings people have about the famous Magic Roundabout by the football ground in Swindon. 10 years ago, the mini roundabout by the top shops in Purton was created and it would be interesting to know whether it has achieved its purpose.

Purton Open Gardens

We are delighted to announce that £700 will be winging its way to our to each of our chosen charities, Jubilee Gardens and the Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal, in addition a further £800 plus is finding its way to various charities chosen by the individual gardens. These charities include Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Parkinsons UK, the British Heart Foundation and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

A big thank you to everyone, our supporters, gardeners and visitors who have helped make this such a successful event.

NICK YERBURY

Purton Post Bag



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



JOHN BLACKWELL

On behalf of my mum June, sister Julie and myself we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the flowers, cards and messages of sympathy and support, that we have received following the death of dad, John Blackwell. Your kind words have been very comforting at this sad time. Thanks also to everyone who attended his funeral, to Judith Wells for all her support and for delivering such a lovely service, and for the donations we received to Purton Age Concern New Minibus Fund. We are very blessed to live in such a caring village.

Sue Giles



ANNIVERSARY THANKS

We would like to thank all our friends and family for the cards and good wishes on the occasion of our 60th Wedding Anniversary. We had a fabulous holiday in Scotland thanks to our wonderful family.

Reg and Madeline Herbert



DOES THE VILLAGE WANT A FOOTBALL TEAM?

After taking over as Chairman of Purton FC I have been working hard along with John Matthews and Ben Dixon to bring the football pitch to the required standard of Senior Wiltshire football. This included a lot of TLC in the goalmouth areas, which were well worn down from last season and to protect them for this season we erected some Herras fence barriers in the goal areas. Well! What happened next was that they were badly vandalised to the point of no repair at a cost the football has to bear.

This is no doubt criminal damage and I would like to ask any Purton residents if they see this happening to please report it or if possible take a photo on your phone as the police wish to hear from anybody that may have seen these people.

Terry Crumbie

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*

Goodbye and Good Luck to Purton Under 5s' Community Playgroup

Unfortunately I didn't get the opportunity to say goodbye to all at Purton Under 5s' Playgroup. I would like to thank all of the staff, parents and of course the children for 24 very happy years. I have loved spending time with some wonderful children who have brightened up my days. I wish you all the best in your futures wherever it may take you, I will miss you all.

NIKKI WEBB

We would all like to thank Nikki Webb for her hard work, support and friendship during the time we worked together at Purton Under 5s' Playgroup. With love and best wishes for the future.

SARAH, HELEN, JULIE, LISA AND LYNDSEY



Purton Tennis Club

Our Summer Camps for the children were well attended and we are back to our normal coaching programmes. For more information – see our website.

Purton Tennis Club

Our final league positions have been confirmed – congratulations to our Mens A and Mixed A teams for winning the league, Ladies D for winning Division 5, and Mens D & Mixed D for being runners-up in their Divisions. We will be going along to the Presentation evening in November to collect our trophies.

Our AGM and own presentation evening will be held on 1 November at The Red House 7.30pm followed by a curry – come along if you wish to join us.

Social tennis will be on Tuesdays and Fridays once October starts as Winter League commences 2nd October – we have 3 teams entered this year.

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

LINDSEY HALL, Chairman

A 'Get In Quick' Notice!

The Cricklade Band funds all it does in a not-for-profit sort of way – and, as usual, we have our Autumn Table-Top Sale on Saturday 11 November.

There's a difference this time – it's going to be at Cricklade Town Hall – yes, the main hall, where there's plenty of room. Everything else will be as you'd expect, nice people, help if you need it and terrific tea and cake!

So, specially if you're a Table-Top seller, please get in quick and give Val a call on 01793 750516 to book your table at £6. Setting up is from 10am and the Sale is from 11am-1pm.

Purton Placard

Purton Methodist Church

fundraising jumble sale

at Silver Threads Hall
Saturday 14 October,
2pm

Purton Silver Threads

Coffee Morning

Saturday 21 October
10am-12noon
at Silver Threads Hall
Various stalls, raffle and
tombola



The Purton Historical Society

Bulletin issue
43 is on sale
NOW!

In this issue;
Lydiard Millicent
Reading Room,
a memorial in
St Mary's Church,
Cricket, Tennis
and Two Wars,
Purton Cycle
Speedway, the Maskelyne tomb
restoration, and Museum news.



Copies available at £2 each from *Flawless Floors,*
Pavenhill, Purton Museum, 770185 or 770331



PURTON SURGERY
Patient Participation Group

Talk on Organ Donation

Monday 30 October, 7.30 - 9.00pm
Purton Surgery

Speakers: Dr Mark Yeates, Anaesthetic
Consultant and Clinical Lead for Organ
Donation and Allison Salmon, Specialist
Nurse Organ Donation.

Would you accept an organ from
someone if you needed it? This is a
subject which some find difficult to think
about while others are so grateful that it
exists. It should be a very interesting and
informative evening

Although this is a free event, tickets are
required due to limited seating and are
now available.

Please contact Purton Surgery, tel 770207.

Shoebox Fundraising Day

At Silver Threads Hall
Saturday 7 October
10am - 2pm
(Lunch served from 12 noon)
Tea/Coffee £1, Lunch £6

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PURTON

Harvest Barn Dance

Saturday 7 October 2017, 7pm,
Purton Village Hall

All very welcome. Bring and
Share supper, bring your own
drinks. Adults £6, under 14s, £3

Tel: Sandra 770157 or
Jane 772422

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Mystery Tour

Wednesday 4 October, coach leaves 10am
Cost - £13.50 for village pensioners
(Pub lunch included)

3Bs x 2 Evening

Friday 6 October at 7.30pm, Silver Threads
Hall, Cost £7 and includes supper
Ring Jenny Barnes on 770339 for tickets.
Join us for a fun evening!

**And they're off...
to a night at the Races!**

Supporting Tasha & Will in their
World Challenge Nepal fund
raising. Friday 17 November,
at Purton Village Hall. Details
coming soon! Look out for the
posters or message
Nicki 07851 768331

Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Whist Drive

Wednesday 22 November 7.30pm.
at Silver Threads Hall, Purton.

Tickets £2 on the door.

All Proceeds to
Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Please come and support this very
worthy cause.

Raffle & Refreshments

LOVELECHLADE

AUTUMN CONCERT

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, LECHLADE

7.30PM SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2017

Featuring

WESSEX MALE CHOIR



Guest appearances

Tom Graff — Piano

Tunes At The Trout (TATT) — Instrumentalists

In aid of Lechlade Memorial Hall Fund

Tickets £15. £5 under 16yrs old - available from

Lechlade Post Office

Includes a glass of wine or soft drink.

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



A Book I will Always Remember

Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it

need not be very long; 450-500 words. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

The Complete Molesworth, by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle

Down with Skool, How to be Topp, Whizz for Atoms, Back I the Jug Agane.

I can't remember a time before I could read. My own books were not plentiful, usually appearing as birthday or Christmas presents, but there was always the library – even though borrowings were restricted to one (later raised to 3) at a time.

Many books have entertained and educated me, but only a handful are ones to which I return over and over - Jane Eyre, all of Jane Austen, Georgette Heyer's historical romances (excellent for convalescent reading), and Joan Selby-Lowndes's biography of Anton Dolin spring effortlessly to mind.

In my teens I was rescued from peer-group disdain by another book, far from a literary classic, but a life (or more accurately, face) saver. Our English mistress had announced that we should each make an oral presentation to the class next week. Everyone then submitted a slip of paper showing a topic, and we drew our subject at random from someone's shoe bag. We had seven days to prepare. I was at a girl's school. We were, I think, 13 to 15 years old. Perhaps unsurprisingly the most common subject was "boys" – and I drew one of those. I had no brothers, only a younger male cousin, and very definitely no boyfriend! What on earth could I say?

The answer was, of course, found in a book. I was 'friends' with Jennings, William Brown, the Lone Pine and Famous Five boys, Biggles and Stalky, among others, but these wouldn't impress 20+ adolescent girls. I was saved by Ronald Searle, creator of St Trinians, and Geoffrey Willans. Between them they had dreamt up Nigel Molesworth, a prep school boy, ornament of St Custard's. I had read their four volumes on Nigel's school career at least three times. His amusingly illustrated tribulations with the authorities, relationship with parents, scuffles with peers, struggles with the curriculum, and complaints about school food were all familiar to me and would be to my audience. I hoped that what I had found entertaining would resonate with my classmates.

I spoke without notes, "hesitation or deviation" for the required 10 minutes, and was rewarded with a positive response from the girls and an 'A' from my teacher. There was also a bonus lesson from this which was useful in later life: if you are mistress (or master) of your subject, public speaking is not an ordeal!

LYNDA CROWE

Purton Artists Exhibition update

We are desperately seeking storage for the society's screens after this years exhibition. At the moment they are stored in a 6x4ft trailer, if anybody has a spare garage/rodent free outbuilding, please contact us.

We have considered that, in order to provide more variety, craftspeople within the village who are not members, could pay £10 a table to display and sell their crafts. Manning of the tables and sales must be arranged by the crafter. If you are interested please contact us either by email or Barbara Gosden on 01793 770182

ALEX CRUMP, Chair, Purton Artists

Purton Food Festival

The Purton Food Festival takes place on Saturday, 4 November at Purton Village Hall between 12noon and 4pm. Admission is £1 with accompanied under 16s free (there will be some activities available for our younger visitors). There will be an array of stalls showcasing local food suppliers and crafts people and with Christmas you may be able to cross one or two items off your shopping list. We will have yummy homemade cakes and tasty soups available as well as the usual tea and coffee on offer. I suspect that some of our stall holders will have some tempting morsels for us to try. All profits from the event will be split equally between Purton Evening WI and Pips Community Cafe. Pips hope to be able to announce an opening date for this long-awaited and much-needed community facility on the day.

There are still some tables available for £10, so to book your place please ring Helen on 01793 759123 or 07976 546825 or email: helendixonmail@gmail.com

Knit-A-Square (KAS)

If anyone is interested in making items to be sent to South African orphans and Gogo's (grandmothers) who raise their orphaned grandchildren. The items most needed at present are;

8 inch knitted or crocheted squares, Knitted or crocheted blankets size 40 inches x 56 inches, Hand warmers (not gloves or mittens) to fit children aged 3-9 years, Navy blue scarves 8 inches x 40 inches, Hats to fit children and adults, Jumpers for ages 3-9 years, Cuddly toys.

I have patterns for all these items, please contact me on 772558 for more information. We will be fundraising towards future shipment costs at the Silver Threads Table Top sale on Saturday 11 November. Hope to see you there, thank you for your continuing support.

LOUISE TIDMAN

The Great War Project

Part 51: October 1917

The following men with Purton connections were mobilised in October 1917.

To France:

Walter John Selwood, 3rd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

Western Front

The Battle of Polygon Wood ended on 3 October and on the 4th the II ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) attacked in the Battle of Broodseinde. The ANZACs reached the high ground just below the summit of the Broodseinde Ridge overpowering the German 4th Army's defences.

Percy Thomas Hedges, the son of Nelson Thomas and Sarah A Hedges of Locks Lane in Purton, was serving with the 6th (Service) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment near Zillebeke, 2 miles south east of Ypres. The Battalion War Diary records that the enemy shelled their positions on 4 October 1917. During work to strengthen and repair the front line and defensive wire at Fusiliers Wood, two men were killed and three wounded. Percy was one of those killed, aged 25.

Percy was buried at Fusiliers Wood, near Klein Zillebeke. After the war, individual graves and small cemeteries were moved to larger communal cemeteries by the Imperial War Graves Commission and battlefield clearance teams. Oxford Road cemetery (pictured) holds the combined burials from several cemeteries to the east and south-east of the Ypres salient. Percy is also remembered on the Purton

War Memorial and on the Memorial Board and Book held in St Mary's Church.

I have resisted referring to the entire 3rd Battle of Ypres as Passchendaele, which is properly attributed to two battles within the 3rd Ypres campaign. Passchendaele* is village on a ridge east of Ypres, close to a railway junction which was important to the German 4th Army supply system. A dry September became a wet October and much of the campaign was bedevilled with mud. In a preliminary engagement at Poelcappelle, on 9 October, ground opposite Passchendaele was won and then lost again in a battle costly to both sides. The 1st Battle of Passchendaele itself commenced on 12 October 1917 when the allied forces attacked a German defensive position and failed, with the biggest loss of life in a single day for New Zealand forces. Over 845 New Zealanders were killed that day. Considering the small size of that nation at the time, that was about 1 in 1000 of their entire population.

On 13 October, the British called off the offensive in the hope of better weather. The aim became to reach and hold a line for the winter and to keep German forces tied up and away from planned French offensives on the Chemin des

Dames, south of Arras – the Battle of Malmaison. The captured ground made a starting off point for the 2nd Battle of Passchendaele on 26 October.

The 2nd Battle of Passchendaele was fought between 26 October and 10 November 1917. The Canadian Corps relieved the exhausted II Anzac Corps and captured Passchendaele village. The overall battle captured the high ground along the Passchendaele to Westrozebeke ridge but stopped just short of Westrozebeke. The Austro-German victory against the Italian Army at Caporetto (see below) and the planned Battle of Cambrai forced the British to divert forces from the Ypres Salient.

*During the 1920s, Holland (neutral in the war) instigated a spelling reform for the Dutch language which was taken up by the closely related Flemish speakers in Belgium. Passchendaele is spelled Passendale today, and is the way it had always been pronounced (Pass-un-dah-ler). Throughout this series, I have kept to the spellings of the time with notes as appropriate especially for locating war cemeteries.

USA

Major-General Pershing, commanding the United States Army in France, was promoted to General on 6 October. American forces of the 1st Infantry Division, known as the “Big Red One” after the design of their shoulder patch, entered the front lines for the first time (under French command) on 21 October and their first shell of the war was fired towards German lines on 23 October. On the 25th, the 2nd Battalion of the 16th Infantry suffered the first American casualties of the war.

Russia

Leon Trotsky was named chairman of the Petrograd Soviet on 8 October as the Bolshevik party gained control.

German operations in the Baltic provinces commenced. The island of Ösel, in the West Estonian archipelago, was captured by German forces on the 12th and Moon and Dagö Islands on the 18th. The Russian battleship Slava was sunk in the Gulf of Riga on the 16th and the German conquest of the archipelago was completed on 20 October.

During these operations, the Petrograd Soviet accepted the establishment of a Petrograd Military force. Lenin made a speech on 23 October against the political actions of Kamenev, Kollontai, Stalin and Trotsky, and a pan-Russian Congress was opened in Petrograd on the 25th.

On 15 October, the Polish Regency Council was appointed as part of the intended autonomy of that country.

If you're expecting the October Revolution in Russia, you'll have to wait until next month. The name of the revolution was based on the old Julian calendar still operating in Russia and it actually happened in November by the modern calendar.

Italy

The Italian campaign against Austria-Hungary along the Isonzo River valley continued and on 24 October the Austrians with German assistance launched the 12th Battle of the Isonzo. This is variously known as the Battle of Caporetto, Karfreit or Kobarid, depending on whether you are Italian, Austrian or Slovene. Although the battle continued until 19 November, it was obvious early on that it was going to be a major defeat for the Italians. Paolo Boselli's government collapsed as a result of the impending disaster on 25 October. A new administration was formed by Vittorio Emanuele Orlando on the 29th.

However, on the 28th, Austrian forces had already pushed through and retaken Gorizia and Udine, in Venice province.

War at Sea

The cruiser HMS Drake was torpedoed by a German submarine at Rathlin Island off Northern Ireland on 2 October following completion of convoy duties. The ship was beached and the crew taken off before it capsized. In further convoy raids, on 17 October, two destroyers, HMS Strongbow and HMS Mary Rose, were sunk in the North Sea.

War in the Air

On 17 October, the Royal Flying Corps carried out the first British bombing raid on Germany. Meanwhile a squadron of 11 German airships carried out bombing raids on England on the 19th, which proved to be the last such raid.

Mesopotamia & Palestine

Ottoman forces attacked an Arab stronghold at Petra, but the Arab forces repulsed the attack on 21 October. On the 27th, the Turks attacked the Desert Mounted Corps which was holding the el Buqqar ridge. British and Commonwealth forces launched the Third Battle of Gaza aimed at breaking the Turkish defensive line that stretched from Gaza to Beersheba. The battle is best known for the charge of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade, which was the last successful cavalry charge in the history of modern warfare.

Other Events

In line with the USA's entry to the war, Peru and Uruguay cut off diplomatic relations with Germany. A Brazilian ship was sunk by a German U-Boat on 23 October and as a result Brazil declared war on Germany on the 26th.

On 13 October, a large crowd gathered near Fátima, Portugal. The three shepherd children who said they had witnessed the Virgin Mary earlier in the year, prophesied that "Our Lady of Fátima" would perform miracles on that day. People claimed that the sun had danced and was seen in radiant colours. The event known as the Miracle of the Sun was dismissed by unbelievers as the result of staring at the sun too long, but declared a miracle by believers.

On 15 October, the Dutch dancer Mata Hari was executed by firing squad at Vincennes, near Paris, for spying for Germany. The story was introduced in Part 43 of February 1917.

On 30 October, Count Hertling succeeded Dr Michaelis as German Imperial Chancellor.

RICK DIXON

Richard Thomas Bartlett

I was very happy and interested to see your memorial to Richard Thomas Bartlett in the August issue of Purton Magazine. My late wife, Mrs Lynette Ewlyn Hatter (nee Bartlett, youngest daughter of Ewart Bartlett, eldest son of Richard) had always had a keen interest in her Grandfather's grave. No poppy seller would dare approach the house unless carrying a cross for her to place on Purton War Memorial.

At Christmas 2007 there was an envelope under the tree "To Mum" from Ewlyn's three children; Jackie, Keith and James. It contained an invitation to go to France to see her Grandfather's grave.

In the following May they set off and travelled from Portsmouth to Le Havre. My wife, by this time, was in poor health, so a wheelchair accompanied them.

They left the hotel the next morning to go in search of the cemetery, and grave – not an easy task among 4000 others. They also struggled to find someone to help, who spoke English.

They eventually found the grave and Ewlyn was able to deposit a container of Purton soil, gathered from Joy Newman at 63 Pavenhill, on the grave. So although Richard lies in a foreign field, he had a small piece of Purton in his final resting place.

This was the best Christmas present Ewlyn ever had.



Purton and District Probus Club



On Tuesday, 8 August, Nick Baxter of Marlborough Historical Society, an Independent Research Professional, gave a talk entitled "From Hillforts to Pillboxes" or "Episodes from Wiltshire's Military Past". Wiltshire, since times of prehistory, has always been an area of militarily contested frontiers; Celts versus Romans, Romano-British versus Angles and Saxons, Anglo Saxons against Norse and Danish Vikings, Wessex versus Mercia, Normans against Saxon English and sometime later Parliamentarians against Royalists in the Civil War. Salisbury Plain has for centuries been used for military training and it has been said that wars have been won here; indeed, a 1960s MG car was recently unearthed from a WW1 training trench at Larkhill.

Hillforts and Pillboxes, down the ages, identify lines of defence which have either been fought over or anticipated, and Wiltshire boasts in excess of 40 earthworks around the edges of the Downs as well as Pillboxes along the River Thames and the Kennet/Avon canal. Archaeological finds at Stonehenge and Avebury date these sites in the Neolithic Age, while others, such as Old Sarum have been re-inhabited several times. Built in 400 BC during the Iron Age, it became a city until 1226 AD. When the cathedral was rebuilt on its present site in Salisbury, it was occupied by the Romans and named Sorviodunum in AD 43 and in 1003 AD hosted an active Saxon Mint, obviously a safe and defendable enclosure.

In the space of 1 hour and 5 minutes Nick gave us Episodes from Wiltshire's Military Past, in chronological order, from the arrival of Julius Caesar (55-54BC) until preparations for WW2, a span of almost 2000 years. He set the location of a great many battle sights, all of which are on or near a hillfort or castle and identified the adversaries, often by name. Vespasian, commander of the 2nd Roman Legion, in 43-44AD, established his camp at Amesbury, close to Stonehenge.

By 47AD, the Romans had pushed further west and built the Fosse way. In 410AD, with their Empire collapsing from within, the Romans left Britain. There were few Romano-British in Wiltshire to maintain order and it is likely that the population retreated into the Hillforts. Saxons came up the Solent and arrived in Wiltshire in 50AD, the start of the Dark Ages. In 556AD a battle at Beran Byrig, just below the Barbury Castle earthwork saw Cuthbert and Caerwlin, the Saxons, routing the Celtic defenders. There were battles around the site of Adams Grave, above Alton Barnes and at Bradford-on-Avon. By 675 Wessex had become a Nation and Aescwin of Wessex fought Wulfhere of Mercia at the head of Bedwyn Stream. There were battles at Ellendun and Ethendune. Wansdyke would have been the frontier at this time.

In January 878 Alfred the Great lost Chippenham to the Danes, but regained it in May. Aethelstan of Malmesbury, grandson of Alfred, pushed the boundaries and united all England. During The Anarchy, 1139, Stephen laid siege to Marlborough. He also attacked Malmesbury and Trowbridge.

During the Civil War Parliamentarians besieged Royalists in Devizes Castle, but were defeated on Roundway Down by reinforcements and cavalry, losing 600 dead and 1000 prisoners. Cromwell's army returned to destroy Devizes Castle. The last major invasion of Britain was in 1066, but early in the 1900s the government began acquiring areas of Salisbury Plain for army exercises. Larkhill was used for simulating the trenches of the WW1 Western Front.

When WW2 threatened an invasion Churchill recommended Pillboxes with anti-tank guns at all of the bridges across the Thames and along the Kennet valley. Yatesbury Field, near the Neolithic Windmill hill, was one of many wartime Air-strips surrounded by pillboxes. A little known pillbox/shelter hides in the trees only yards from Liddington Hillfort. It was intended as a WW2 Observation & Control Post, should the enemy have landed. Nick's talk delivered a comprehensive history and certainly heightened our appreciation of Wiltshire's role in the defence of our country.

Probus meetings in October (10am in the Red House lounge), Tuesday 10th – Global Warming, 24th The first 500 years of Trinity House. Visitors/New members welcome.

BOB STEVENS

The speaker on 22 August was our own member Paul Booy. His subject was entitled Stealing the Atom Bomb Secrets.

Paul started by explaining the Venona project that was a counterintelligence programme initiated by the United States Army's Signal Intelligence Service that ran for nearly four decades, spanning 1943 to 1980. The purpose of the Venona project was the decryption of messages transmitted by the intelligence agencies of the Soviet Union, e.g. the NKVD, the KGB (First Chief Directorate) and the GRU (military intelligence). Stalin the Communist leader, was a ruthless man whose theory held that given the defeat of all the communist revolutions in Europe in 1917–1921 except Russia's, the Soviet Union should begin to strengthen itself internally. The turn toward national communism was a shift from the previously held Marxist position that socialism must be established globally. In July 1939 three of Europe's leading scientists Einstein, Szillard and Wigner, realised that an atomic bomb was possible and they approached the President of the USA Franklin D Roosevelt, with their theory. With the rise of Hitler and the possibility of war it was realised that if the Nazi regime had such a bomb they would have no hesitation in using it on their enemies. Roosevelt immediately authorised the investigation and construction of such a weapon. In 1940 the building of the bomb started in Los Alamos as the Manhattan Project. Engineering Works, Laboratories and Universities were employed across all of America. Each organisation was given a small part to investigate without knowing the purpose of what their individual section was to be finally used. Britain and Canada were asked to send their best scientists to Los Alamos. The scientist we sent was named Klaus Fuchs. Fuchs attended the University of Leipzig, and became involved in student politics, joining the student branch of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD),

paramilitary organisation. He was expelled from the SPD in 1932, and joined the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). Being a Jew and with the rising of Hitler in 1933 he went into hiding and fled to the United Kingdom, where he received his PhD from the University of Bristol. In August 1944, Fuchs joined the Theoretical Physics Division at the Los Alamos Laboratory. His chief area of expertise was the problem of implosion, necessary for the development of the plutonium bomb. After the war, he returned to the UK and worked at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell as head of the Theoretical Physics Division. With the cracking of the Russian codes in the Venona project Fuchs name was uncovered as a soviet agent, who had passed the atomic secrets to the communists. He had used Harry Gold, a chemist in Los Alamos as his courier. He was interrogated by Intelligence Officer Jim Skardon and was arrested in 1949. Found guilty he was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Another pair working for the soviets were David and Ruth Greenglass. David was a machinist in Los Alamos and stole drawings and details of the bomb passing on his information to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were the only spies that were sentenced and executed by the USA. At this time, there were rallies to support them and a question mark hung over them as to their Innocence. In 1991 the communist files were released to the world which proved without doubt their guilt in the espionage. Two others that were involved but never charged were an American, William Weisband and Ted Hall, a nineteen year old genius. Hall finished his days in Cambridge University researching Physics. In conclusion Paul showed two pictures to compare the Russian RDS1 with the American Fat Man bombs. They were virtually identical in shape and size which proved the Russians were given full details of the original atomic weapon.

DAVID SWEET

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slowed down version of the game of netball, designed for anyone looking to exercise in a relaxed, supportive and friendly environment. A game of walking netball is for all ages and abilities and every sessions contains a gentle warm up. All Swindon Walking Netball activities operate on a pay and play basis, £3 per session.

The target group for the following sessions is females, especially non-netballers: Monday 18:15 - 19:30, Bradon Forest Sports Hall, Wednesday 14:30 - 16:00, Haydon Centre, Thursday 11:00 - noon, Croft Sports Centre, Friday 11:00 - noon, Grange Leisure Centre

The target group for the following session is Netballers that no longer play competitive Netball due to age and/or serious injury: Tuesday 19:00 - 20:15, Dorcan Recreation Complex.

For more details contact Mo Squires, Swindon NDO on 01793 423134 or email maureen.squires@GLL.org You can also visit englandnetball.co.uk/walking-netball for more information

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



By the time you read this the summer holidays will be a dim and distant memory. Summer camp creates lifelong memories though. In August 15 Guides and 2 Rangers joined with friends from 5th Melksham, 1st Neston & Box and 1st Woodside for camp at Deer Park in Gloucestershire. The rain didn't stop the fun of the Harry Potter inspired activities (for the Expelliarmus Challenge). These included playing Quidditch, making potions and care of magical creatures. Of course there were traditional camp activities too: singing round the campfire, cooking on an open fire, sleeping under the stars and wide games. The Guides also enjoyed grass sledging, the traverse wall and caving.

We're very sorry that we had to say goodbye to the O'Brien family over the summer. Kim has been a volunteer with guiding in Purton for over 15 years and will be sorely missed. She has volunteered with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, moving between age groups as the different timings best suited family life. Both Alice and Katy have gone through Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and in the case of Alice also Rangers and being a Young Leader. 1st Purton Brownies will miss Alice as their Young Leader. We wish you all well in your new home in Kent and look forward to hearing about your new guiding adventures there.

In the summer 2nd Purton Brownies took part in the Potato Challenge for Purton Horticultural Show. Each six planted a potato and one of the Brownies from that six took the pot home to look after. The Foxes six were awarded 3rd prize; well done Jess for the care you gave your pot! Guides also took part in the challenge and scooped 2nd prize so there was pride all round.

At the time of writing, only two of our units have started back for the autumn term. 2nd Purton Brownies are focussing on food activities this term. They began by cooking individual pizzas, had a fruit and vegetable feely bag challenge, and a quiz.

Before the hectic start to the term, the Rangers met up to make arrangements for the term. It's an eclectic mix of activities, from a Meerkat Challenge Badge to Christmas crafts and making care packages for Swindon Night Shelter.

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in, Rangers is for all young women aged 14 to 25. It provides opportunities to travel the world, learn to lead, raise your voice and build an incredible CV. Whatever you want to do, Rangers offers a range of unique opportunities. With a programme designed around your personal development, it is all about gaining valuable, transferable skills and standing up for what you believe in.

If you're interested in joining the Ranger unit or in volunteering with any of our units, we'd love to hear from you. For more information about guiding locally, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

In August, in lieu of our usual evening meeting with a speaker, 30+ members enjoyed a mid week afternoon coach outing to Buscot Park to visit the late 18th century property, housing the Faringdon art collection, and to explore the extensive landscaped gardens.



The gardens are situated in outstanding countryside on the edge of the Cotswolds and near to the River Thames.

To the west, mellow red brick walls shelter a garden for all seasons (4 Seasons Garden), trees, climbing roses as well as fruit and all interplanted with vegetables.

To the east, woodland walks lead to one of England's finest water gardens designed by Harold Peto and installed in 1904, an unusual marriage of Italian formality in an English landscape. Canals with bridges and pools lead you down to a large lake.

Judging by the comments, this proved to be a most enjoyable late summer outing. Graham Nicholls will be joining us at 7.30pm on 24 October to present his talk entitled 'Penstemons in the Wild and in Cultivation'. The competition will be 'A carved vegetable'.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, 770906

Purton Cricket Club

Another season is over. It always seems to me that we are too keen these days to put the ground to bed for the winter. In the days before League cricket, the games went on until perhaps the third weekend of September when it is just as likely to be fine as any summer's day. How often we enjoyed regular fixtures against Cirencester and Hungerford, to name just two, when an early start was required to avoid playing in semi-darkness.

In spite of problems both on and off the field our senior teams did well this year with no relegation worries for either team. Indeed the 1st. XI finished third in the Wiltshire Division of the West of England Premier League, behind only Trowbridge and Marshfield. Captain Aaron Lee and his team deserve praise for their effort throughout the season.

The 2nd XI, although often fielding very young teams, came a creditable seventh place in Division 5 of the Wiltshire League. Captain Phil Duffell had to cope not only with many youngsters but also innumerable occasions when players dropped out rather late in the day. Their efforts should be rewarded next season when they will play against at least one more 2nd. XI from the Wiltshire Division of the West of England Premier, probably Marshfield and possibly Devizes as well.

What a lovely picture of Brian Fessey on the cover of the September Magazine. I am sure in his teaching days he played cricket but he continued his interest at Purton and was a Vice-President of the Club until his death in July.

DAVID BISSET