



Purton. Magazine

September 2018

Purton's long hot summer begins to bear fruit as we approach the harvest. Keeping an eye on the produce will be the Scarecrows on display during the weekend of 8/9 September. See Page 28 Photo: Heather Ponting-Bather

50p

Purton Contacts

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

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

With the extended heatwave finally behind us, it is again safe to venture out and enjoy the natural splendour that surrounds us, even if some of it is looking a little parched.

On page 30, Margaret Goodall reports on Keith Mills' talk on the 'Trees of Purton'. In his talk, Keith reveals that one of only twelve veteran yew trees in Wiltshire is located here in St Mary's churchyard and is over 1,000 years old.

It is hard to imagine life for those Purtonians who have gone before us who witnessed the tree's planting and its first signs of growth. What would they make of our village community today? Surely they would have been impressed at the provision we make for both young and old in 21st century Purton.

Our Village Diary for the month gives the dates for no less than three Age Concern outings in September, with trips to Cirencester and Stroud on offer, as well as an exciting Mystery Tour. See page 14 for details.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the Parish Council is funding a new Youth Club for 9 to 11-year olds starting on 5th September in the Village Hall (page 6). Along with the various Scouting and Guiding groups, there should be no reason for children and young people to feel that there's nothing for them to do as the nights start to draw in.

Would our forebears have ever imagined that high-quality education would be provided to all, regardless of income or background? But schools don't run themselves and they need the backing of the whole community to be successful. Could you help by applying to become a Governor of St Mary's Primary School? Details of the commitments required and the qualities needed can be found on page 35.

Pre-Norman Conquest villagers would have marvelled at any tractor, let alone one that can travel at 25mph, but they would have recognised the challenge of keeping the cattle fed during all weather conditions. Read more on page 39.

Above all, the ancients would have been proud to see the enormous generosity of modern villagers and their unfailing support for so many good causes. In this issue, we hear of funds raised for Ben Woods' World Challenge (page 28) and Age Concern (page 15) and four different ways to support Prospect Hospice (page 59). Nostalgia ain't what it used to be...

£780.60

Raised for Purton & District Age Concern at their coffee morning in Bentham – see page 15

5ft.

The diameter of Purton's largest holly tree, located on Church Path – see page 30

£5,800

The price of six good cows at market, adding to the herd at Quarry Farm – see page 39



Dont forget - new youth club for 9-11 year olds

Don't forget to register your child's interest in this amazing opportunity coming soon. Purton Parish Council is working with Community Mentoring Support (CMAS) to trial a youth club provision in Purton. Commencing 5th September at the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm we will be running a youth club for Purton resident children only. All children brought along will have to provide address details and a sub of 50p per session towards activities. A snack bar will also be available so please bring along some pennies. Funding has been provided by Purton Parish Council for this initiative. For more details contact Tel: 01242 224 509; Mobile: 07557 405 675 Email: ben.evans@communitymas.co.uk; Website: www.communitymas.co.uk

Annual Parish Footpath Walk

The annual parish walk is to be held on the first Sunday in September (2nd). Location and route to be agreed, but the normal 4 miler is planned. Meeting at College Road Lay-by at 2pm. Bring suitable clothing, shoes and drinks - let's hope for some good weather but maybe not too hot !

Play Area Revamp

Purton Parish Council are considering options to revamp the play area known as Venture Play Park at Dogridge. If you would like to take part in a fact finding exercise please complete a survey on our website at: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/News.aspx or attend our next Councillor Surgery being held on Saturday 8th September 2018 from 10-12 in the Village Hall and have your say.

Councillors 2018-19

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

Become a Dementia Friend

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

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

14th Sept 10am & 7pm, 22nd October 10am and 7pm, 14th November 10am and 7th December at 10am and 7pm.

Councillor Surgery

Do you have concerns or questions regarding Purton that the Parish Council can advise or help with? Come along and have an informal chat on Saturday 8th September and Saturday 3rd December 2018 from 10am to 12 noon.

September Meetings

10th September 2018

Council meeting

24th September 2018

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity

Memory Stones

Purton Parish Council are delighted to share pictures of our first memorial tribute to Purton residents Mr and Mrs Phillips. The Burial committee agreed to the transformation of this section of land to the front entrance of the cemetery with a view to allowing small memorial tributes for residents of Purton. Thank you to Mr Phillips and family for allowing us to share these pictures in memory of your late parents. For more information please contact the Clerk on 771066 or email clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.



Planning permission granted with conditions

18/04692/FUL The Manor Hill Coach House. Single storey extension to side elevation

Land adjacent to Mardrea, The Hyde. Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 17/01716/FUL to allow for amendments to the style and appearance of the roof.

18/04069/VAR Parkgate Farm Management Facility Mopes Lane. Variation of condition 3 of N/08/07022 relating to operating hours.

18/03799/FUL 7 Locks Lane. Convert existing building to dependant relative annexe.

Refused Application

18/04624/FUL Upper Dudgeamore Farm. Proposed conversion of rebuilt former agricultural building to a two-bedroom annex and Associated work, (Part Retrospective)

18/05078/PNCOU Barn, Lower Pavenhill. Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (use Class 3), and for associated operational development - steel framed Dutch hay barn to dwelling

Footpaths Of Purton

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

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

Charities - Business Opportunity

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

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

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity has been granted permission to erect a sign on the entrance verge displaying all the clubs and amenities. This will be installed as soon as the final design and manufacture has taken place.

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

Community Speed Watch

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

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

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

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

How to contact the Parish Council

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

Health & Wellbeing Champion

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

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

Purton & District Age Concern



Our 2019 calendar is almost ready. Peter has produced a different format this year. There will be far more photos, 34 have been chosen which will be on the left hand side of the calendar leaving more space on the right hand side to fit in appointments, reminders of events, birthdays etc. Steve and Carole at Artworking will be producing our calendars again this year and hopefully they will be on sale at our Jumble Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 1st September and at our other events until Christmas. They will cost just £6.00 for a good quality calendar! If you would like to purchase a calendar please contact Louise on 772558, Tony on 770696 or Peter on 778119.

We have re-scheduled our Annual Auction, see future events for full details.

On the second and fourth Friday of each month one of our minibuses takes pensioners shopping to different destinations such as Cirencester, Marlborough, Malmesbury or Stroud. Please read my future events section and contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus.

Pat Breeds recently contacted Tony to say she was stepping down as our street warden in Ringsbury Close as she will be moving to RWB. We are very grateful to Pat for everything she has done for Age Concern and the pensioners on "her patch" during her time as one of our volunteers. Pat, thank you for your dedicated service to Age Concern, we hope all goes well with your move and that you will be happy in your new home, you will be missed by many friends in Purton. I'm pleased to hear you will continue to help out at lunch club. We are grateful to Herma Flint who has agreed to take-over from Pat. Herma lives in Ringsbury Close so I'm sure most people living there will already know her and her husband John.

At our August committee meeting we discussed the changes the Government have made to the state pension age, which, by November 2018 will be 65 for men and women. We agreed we need to move in line with this new state pension age, so from 1st November 2018 the age criteria for our services will change to 65 for all NEW pensioners becoming eligible for our services.

Anyone under the age of 65 who is already on their street warden's list by 1st November 2018 won't be affected and will remain eligible for our services. The age increase will ONLY apply to NEW pensioners becoming eligible for our services from 1st November 2018. Please contact Louise on 772558 if you need further clarification.

Future Events

Jumble Sale - We will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 1st September at 2pm. Jumble can be left at the Village Hall between 12-1pm and the sale starts at 2pm, so come along, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee/biscuit and bag yourself a bargain or two!

Friday Minibus Shopping Trips In September - Hazel is organising shopping trips on Friday 14th to Stroud and Friday 28th to Cirencester, please contact Hazel on

770862 for more details and to book your place.

October Mystery Tour - Wednesday 3rd October with a 10am start. Cost including a pub lunch is £15.00 for village pensioners and £17.00 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Thursday 20th September.

3Bs x2 - Our second 3B's evening this year is on Friday 5th October at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £7 and includes a two-course supper. Soft drinks will be available but bring your own alcoholic drinks. Admission tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. Bingo tickets will be on sale on the night. There will be no admittance on the night without pre-booking. This is a fun evening and tickets sell out fast so don't leave it to the last minute to get yours, you may be disappointed!

Annual Auction - You may remember we had to cancel our Auction in March due to the heavy snowfall, it is now going ahead on Saturday 13th October at 1pm in the Village Hall. Items to be auctioned will be received between 9am-11.30am. Booking-in forms need to be completed for all items to be auctioned. Please contact Louise if you would rather complete one in advance or you can fill the form in when you bring your items to the Village Hall. Viewing of lots is from 12pm-1pm and the auction starts at 1pm. Roderick Wightman will be our auctioneer again this time. Come and join in the bidding, its great fun!

PAST EVENTS

Coffee Morning at Bentham - At our recent committee meeting Jenny said what a lovely morning everyone had at the coffee morning, the weather was amazing and 132 people attended. Our grateful thanks go to Margaret Carter for making the delicious biscuits we had with our hot drinks, Joan Frost for selling her plants and Joan's granddaughter and her friend for selling toys and books and donating their proceeds to Age Concern. Also a big thank you to Dick & Jacqui for hosting the event again this year and to everyone who helped out during the morning. We made a profit of £780.60, which is amazing! Thank you to all who supported us.

Outing to Weston-super-Mare - Peter was in charge on this outing, he said it was a good day, 36 people attended and all appeared to enjoy themselves. Martin the coach driver from Ellisons was excellent as usual, he managed to get the coach as close as possible to the sea front to save people walking too far.

INFORMATION

Contacting Purton Age Concern - We have street wardens covering every road, street, lane, close etc in Purton, Purton Stoke, Braydon, Greenhill, Greatfield and Hook. The first point of contact for all pensioners in our area is our street wardens. All pensioners should know who their street warden is, it's the person who delivers your Christmas vouchers and newsletters each year.

If you are a new pensioner who recently moved into our area or you're not sure

who your street warden is just ask another pensioner living nearby and I'm sure they will point you in the right direction.

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.

Minibuses - Please contact Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator on 770862 if you would like to book the minibus.

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

Tai chi - The classes will resume on Thursday 6th September at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. Places are available so if you would like to give it a go please contact Steve Rouse the instructor on 07956359924 or email him at wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com. New members get their first week free of charge.

Friendship Club - The Friendship Club (which is run by Silver Threads, not Age Concern) will be going to The Bell for lunch on Friday 7th September. The following two meetings at Silver Threads Hall are on Friday 5th October and Friday 2nd November from 2pm-4pm. If anyone would like to attend who needs transport the minibus is available and can be booked by phoning Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Louise Tidman

Concert for Joe

What a feast of music we had at the concert in All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent given by Neil Ricketts (organ/piano) and Lauraine Phelan (trumpet) in memory of Joe Ricketts, Neil's father. Joe was a great patron of All Saints, keeping his eye on things including people and putting things right when he could and, of course, he was sexton and tower captain amongst his many duties. He was secretary and driver of our minibuses as well for over thirty years, always so reliable and helpful.

We would like to thank All Saints for hosting the event and sharing the retiring collection with our minibus fund. The collection amounted to £1,000 60 so our share was £503.44 which was excellent so our thanks go to you all who came, gave donations and bottles of wine and special thanks to our minibus personnel who used both buses to bring people to the event from Purton. Joe would have been proud of you all but especially proud of Neil and Lauraine. Two pieces from the concert stand out in my mind – 'the flight of the bumble bee' played by Neil on the organ – I shut my eyes and could imagine myself in the garden with bumble bees flying around, then, as an encore, Lauraine played Misty on the trumpet and Neil accompanied her on the piano. They hadn't prepared an encore and this was off the cuff with no music – it was fantastic as was the evening. Thank you Lauraine and Neil, you were brilliant and thanks to David Tapscott and all at Lydiard for organising the event.

Tony Price

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

The PPG will be holding a Cheese and Wine evening on Friday 19 October, 7pm in Purton Village Hall, to raise money for Brighter Futures at GWH. Cat Newman from Brighter Futures will be our speaker. Please reserve the date. Tickets (£8.50) will be available from the beginning of September.

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

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

The new radiotherapy unit at the GWH site will be a satellite of the Oxford Cancer & Haematology Centre which is based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford and specialist OUH staff will undertake the treatment of all those patients who attend the new facility in Swindon. Around £2.3 million has already been raised out of the £2.9 million appeal to provide radiotherapy treatment in Swindon.

Receive PPG information by email

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

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

Purton Profferings

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

- Challenge 'Extreme' Garden Shredder. Good condition & hardly used. Over £100 when new. Free, but a reasonable donation to Purton Minibus or Local 'Dementia Awareness' Schemes would be appreciated. Chris Glead 01793 772314

Ten Years Ago...

On 15th September 2008 there was a talk at the Methodist Church on Birds of Wiltshire. At the same time, a New York investment bank, called Lehman Brothers, filed for bankruptcy. Apart from a touch of schadenfreude for an unappreciated business in a faraway land, the latter event passed unnoticed in Purton yet it led to the financial crash and the austerity the government still follows today. It will be interesting to see just how long it was until its effects were noted in this magazine.

In fact, the main concern during the month was the amount of rain that had fallen during the summer – hard to believe this year. The cricket and tennis clubs were the hardest hit and many other organisations commented on curtailments or narrow escapes. There was even a special poem published about it. However, the Cubs managed to enjoy their annual camp (either they were lucky or just didn't notice the rain) with activities as diverse as choosing their favourite luxury yachts in Poole harbour and eating "camp doughnuts" which are a 50/50 mixture of cholesterol and sugar.

Ps & Qs offered a list of fifteen ways of recycling in the garden, such as laying strips of carpet between rows of vegetables to suppress the weeds. There was also a suggestion to use old bubble-wrap to insulate a greenhouse – I guess that might take a few years.

Barbara Wicks, a former Land Girl, was belatedly presented with a medal from the government. The life the girls led through the War was far tougher than the rosy view we may have of it today but the contribution they made was enormous. It is believed there were others still living in Purton; maybe their names will appear in a later edition.

One contributor complained that the EU – the EU! – had banned the sale of mercury medical thermometers in favour of safer modern digital ones. Maybe the writer was unaware of the dangers of accidental ingestion of mercury.

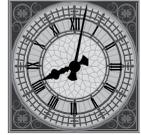
Purton Methodist Church Women's Fellowship

The Methodist Women's Fellowship is planned to resume in September after its summer break. We meet monthly on the second Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm. in Purton Methodist Church and enjoy a time of fellowship together with tea, coffee and biscuits to follow. As a variation from January next year we plan a more interactive programme rather than visiting speakers.

Although this is a Methodist Church activity, our times of fellowship are open to all ladies whatever their denomination or if you are of no denomination at all. All ladies are very welcome to join with us, and the Age Concern minibus is usually available.

If you would like further information please contact Linda Tinson (tel: 771282

After 8



On a beautiful summer evening fifteen of us came together for our annual Social and BBQ. Sausages, chicken, kebabs and burgers were cooked by Helen, Avril and Sheila and looking very professional

wearing her chef's hat was Sandra. A variety of salads and sweets were contributed by all of us, Marion brought along some delicious focaccia bread made by her husband.

The conversation kept flowing with a wide range of subjects from holidays, Purton news, modern names for children, roundabouts and the junctions in Swindon, at one point accompanied by the Purton Library clock bell.

During the meal Avril pulled a colourful caterpillar from my hair, I must have brushed against a bush, but having been passed around the table it was one that no one was able to identify.

Thanks to Christine for being our host and working so hard also to Helen for making all the arrangements. It was a great evening.

Marion Andrews



Purton Methodist Church

Our Coffee Morning on 4th August was well supported. As this was the first time we had held a coffee morning during the summer and other things were happening on the same day we were very pleased with the result. £628.39 was raised towards our refurbishment programme. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

A Harvest Supper with musical entertainment is planned for Wednesday 5th September. Chicken casserole is on the menu followed by Bakewell tart and custard. This is being held at the Methodist Church, time 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. and tickets, £10, are obtainable from Sylvia Freemantle (tel: 770686), Linda Tinson (tel: 771282), Sheila Price (tel: 770696) or Heather Hunt (tel: 771878). Proceeds will go towards our church refurbishment programme.

Looking ahead, a Fundraising Day is planned for Saturday 6th October from 10.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. at the Silver Threads Hall. Entrance, £1, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Lunches will be available at a cost of £6 from 12 noon. The day will follow the usual pattern that we have come to enjoy with cake and bric-a-brac stalls, raffle and tombola, plus children's toys. In the past these fundraising days have been held to raise money towards the cost of transport for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. However, as we are no longer able to support this charity and complications have arisen with Knit-a-Square and Mama Ntombi's Community Projects, we plan to put the monies raised at this year's event towards the cost of upgrading the loop system which is needed at Purton Methodist Church. We do value your support in the past and look forward to your support again on this occasion.

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

Some of you will already be aware that we will no longer be organising the collection or shipping of knitted/crocheted items to Knit-a-Square, Mama Ntombi Community Projects or Operation Sunshine.

If anyone has any items they have made for the children and would like them to be included in the final shipment please contact Louise on 772558 or drop them in Sylvia's porch at 35 High Street by 30th September. They will be sent off in October.

We will not be doing anymore fundraising to cover shipping costs. The coffee morning/lunch fundraiser booked and paid for by Sylvia at the Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 6th October will now be for raising funds to help with the cost of the on-going refurbishment of Purton Methodist Church.

Once our final items have been despatched, if there is any money left in the project fund I will make a donation to the charities in South Africa to assist them with their amazing work with the children. I will update everyone towards the end of the year in the magazine.

I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past 4 years. We have made a huge difference to the lives of 100's of orphaned and vulnerable children in South Africa. We have always received such wonderful feedback and photographs from the charities, which has spurred us on even more... but all good things come to an end!

If anyone would like to continue knitting items for children, parcels of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, jumpers and complete blankets, **NOT SQUARES** can be sent to, Knit for Peace, The Charities Advisory Trust, Radius Works, Back Lane, London, NW3 1HL. A small parcel costs under £3 to send. Knit for Peace will then distribute the items to several charities in the UK and abroad. Please see the Knit for Peace website for more information or contact Louise. Thank you again for all your support.

Louise Tidman Tel: 772558 and Sylvia Freemantle Tel: 770686

Lydiards Link

I am very sad to advise everyone in our 'patch' – The Lydiards and Purton, that the Lydiard Link service will be closing as from August 31st.

There has been very little response to our magazine article regarding our 3 month suspension from June onwards, and we have had to accept that our service is no longer viable.

However, Link6, of Royal Wootton Bassett, have agreed to take over our patch, and will provide a service similar to ours.

If you are in need of transport to medical or other appointments, you can contact their Co-Ordinator on 07879 394666. Great apologies, and best wishes to our previous clients.

T.H. Pepperall, Chairman

Purton Evening W.I.

Our July meeting was 'Ballet for Beginners' and as most of us are mature ladies, we were rather apprehensive about it. We need not have worried as Jan Foskett was a charming lady who told us how she went to college after finishing school, to learn about dance and did a commercial course. She had her own dance school at the age of sixteen and only gave it up a couple of years ago. She also taught pilates for fifteen years on a one-to-one basis and told us she taught Kate and Pippa Middleton. Jan said the key to ballet is posture, elegance and musicality. We then put our chairs in a circle and had our hands lightly on the back of them, we did gentle heel and toe movements, side to side steps, and leg and arm movements, keeping our posture up and looking straight ahead. It was all exercise we can do at home. We all enjoyed it and no one fell over!

After coffee we had the business part of the meeting taken by Jane Smith as our president Barbara Compton is awaiting her knee operation, we wish her well.

Our September meeting is about 'Wartime food and experiences' with Pam Winter and others.

Jill Herbert

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

Holiday on the River Fall

Sailing up the River Fall in Cornwall with egrets, herons and occasionally a seal is always a pleasure. Mooring to one of the pontoons, the one alongside Trelisick Gardens is our favourite spot.

Early July found us in this very place with six other boats of various shapes and sizes. Chatting to our neighbours, as you do if you come from Purton, it turns out they live in Cornworthy near Dartmouth. We informed them we lived in a village near Swindon, "oh where?" they said, "between Swindon and Cricklade" said I, "that will be Purton" he said to a very shocked audience.

As a youngster he and his two brothers took school holidays with their grandfather in the vicarage. He is the grandson of our very long-standing vicar the Reverend Willis who served our parish for a great many years, many of you were christened and married by him.

Peter and his two brothers spent many holidays cycling the roads and lanes of our village. His memories of the old vicarage were of creaky doors and ghostly atmosphere. As you can see by the photo, he has the look of our old vicar. It was very pleasant meeting him and his lovely wife Helen, what a small world we live in.

Bob Stimpson



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.



George is led up the garden path

On Sunday 15 July my wife informed me that we'd been invited to her sister's at Glevum Close, but en route I was led into Peter and Marion Andrews garden to find a barbecue in honour of my retirement from the voluntary footpath gang. This was a very well-kept secret and took me completely by surprise! A big thank you to all the footpath gang and their wives for all the lovely food and wine, and to Debbie and Lesley from Purton Parish Council, who presented me with a Gratitude and Recognition Award from the council with some very kind words that left me feeling very humble.

Thank you all, George Young



Village Voices boost fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported the Garden Concert in aid of my World Challenge trip to Tanzania. It was great to see so many people enjoying the music provided by Purton Village Voices and the delicious cakes that were kindly donated. Thanks to Delicious Delights for loaning us the cups and plates. The biggest thank you must go to Sarah and Paul Grigg who kindly gave over their garden for the event. I raised over £350 towards my trip.

Ben Woods

Purton Scarecrow Trail

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September 2018.

Fun for all the family: as well as the main scarecrow trail we have a mini one for younger children. Prizes to be won and you can vote for your favourite scarecrow as it will also receive a prize. Tickets and trail maps will be on sale and refreshments will be available around the village. For more information visit our Facebook page (and please like it to share the fun) www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Jubilee Estate, Vasterne Close, Hoggs Lane and Vasterne Hill*

Church Floodlighting

Aug 21 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Jean Cook**, our dear friend, who passed away a year ago today. Remembered and missed by all her One Stop family



Sept 6 The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Doris Wadsworth** whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered and so sadly missed. Reg, Jean, Mark and all her dear family.

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

Guide Dogs

I was due to do a stall at 'Lydiard Bark' on the 5th of August, but as it was a Dog Show and due to the high temperature forecast, it was postponed until the 19th, I will report on this in the October magazine. I have received a cheque for £242.20 from Hillier Funeral Service, in respect of donations made in memory of the late Derek John Wheeler of Vastern Close. Many thanks for your continued support.

Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group.

Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group.



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

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

Autumn Open Week:
Monday 1 - Friday 5 October 2018
9.15am - 10.30am
Book your FREE tickets here:
<https://tinyurl.com/279cixk>

www.bradonforest.org.uk



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We welcomed Keith Mills to our July meeting to present a talk on 'Trees of Purton'. Many of those present, as well as other Purton residents, may well have spotted Keith over the past months taking some of the 60 photos of trees that finally made it for special mention in his talk. As a background to the talk Keith explained how trees have become his life, his interest sparked at the early age of 15 and culminating in a career spanning nearly 40 years. He now has his own company, Cotswold Tree Surgeons, based in Purton, managing forestry and woodlands including the 4500 acres of Cirencester Park. From the photos displayed, we were reminded not only of the amazing variety of trees in Purton, but also just how good the spring was this year, producing an abundance of blossoms for us to feast our eyes on including

- Hawthorn in the hedgerows, it's pure white display of flowers, visible for miles.
- Malus (Crab Apple) with its pink flowers.
- Horse Chestnut with its candlestick-shaped flowers.
- Davidia involucrata, often known as the handkerchief tree, because of it's interestingly shaped white bracts resembling handkerchiefs.
- Laburnum with its cascade of yellow flowers
- The purple flowers of Lilac and
- The pink flowers of Kanzan (Cherry)

When it comes to foliage Purton boasts some prize specimens including:

- Ginkgo Biloba. At one time it was thought to be extinct but in the 1940's it was discovered in China.
- Acer Drummondii – Norway Maple with its variegated leaves.
- The Tulip tree, also variegated, growing in Pavenhill.
- Silver Birch – twin-stemmed, growing within a patio specially built to accommodate the tree.
- Chile Lantern tree
- Pussy Willow, the photo taken as pollen was ready to fly on the breeze and set seed.
- The majestic Oak
- Lime tree
- Prunus padus
- The magnificent Copper Beech in the High Street.
- A Whitebeam in the evening sun.
- Western Red Cedar.
- Sycamore. It produces more wildlife in its flowers and leaf litter than any other tree, whilst the Oak produces more wildlife in the tree itself. The Sycamore is also renowned for its ability to withstand extremes of wind and for that reason is often the tree of choice for planting on dales and moors



as it's unlikely to blow over.

- The Portuguese Laurel in the Cenotaph garden.

Keith paid special mention to the largest Holly in Purton, it's trunk an amazing 5 feet in diameter and to the Holly on Church Path, trimmed annually to maintain its mushroom shape. Of only twelve veteran Yew trees in Wiltshire, one of those is the



Yew at St Mary's Church, over 1000 years old, and though not the largest Yew tree at approximately 16 feet high, it remains the oldest tree in Purton.

Having displayed sparse growth in one area, the tree is now slowly recovering following intervention from the Parish Council who are currently carrying out a twice yearly feeding regime using gromore. This entails a system of boring 6" holes, 12" apart in straight lines, producing a star shape from the tree, and then filling each hole with

gromore. Feeding the tree by this method will enable it to withstand future stress and disease.

Finally the Pear Tree from which Purton derives it's name. There are now 30 specimens, non-fruiting, in various areas of the village, planted in the 1980's and capable of reaching a height of 30 feet.

Keith drew our attention to the plight of the Ash and explained how ash die back attacks the smallest trees first, those about 8 feet tall.

In Winter leaf stems fall onto the ground and the following May, June and July, mushrooms form on the stems. Spores are carried on the wind, transferring onto the stalks and then inwards. The tree becomes brittle and prone to honey fungus at which point the tree needs to be felled. Bare ends to branches and a diamond shape on the stem above a twig confirms the presence of the disease, which can take up to 4 years to reach the inside of the tree.

If ash die back isn't the death knell of the tree, he warned us of a forest beetle that has been carried into the U.K. on pallets and plants from Russia capable of travelling 40 kms per year and taking out huge chunks of Ash in its path. On a lighter note, the Forestry Commission say that 20% of Ash trees in Europe have survived and are resistant. Keith's passion and knowledge was evident from his talk and raised our awareness of the amazing variety of fabulous trees within our village. Congratulations to the winners of July's competition, 'A Bunch of Weeds'. 1st Doreen Freegard, 2nd Margaret Goodall and 3rd Jo LeBlond. Our annual mini-show will take centre stage in Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm on 25 September. Given the difficult growing conditions this year, crop entries may be somewhat depleted, but I have no doubt that members will come up trumps with a delicious array of cakes for entry in the domestic class. So all may not be lost! We are always happy to welcome new members or visitors.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

Purton Village Diary - September 2018

1	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Purton Village Hall
2	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		2.00pm	Annual Parish Walk from College Road Layby
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	W	1.30pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour with tea included
		6.00pm	Harvest Supper at Purton Methodist Church
		6.15pm	Youth Club for 9-11 Year olds at Purton Village Hall
6	Th	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
7	F		Closing date for St Mary's School governor applications
8	Sa	& 9th	Purton Scarecrow Trail around the village
		2.00pm	Prospect Hospice afternoon tea at The Gingerbread House, 5 Church End
9	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
11	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
12	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship meet at Purton Methodist Church
13	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
14	F	8.45am	Age Concern Minibus to Stroud
		10.00am	& 7.00pm Dementia Friend training at Purton Village Hall
16	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
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
17	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church 'Beside the sea'
19	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
23	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 Ridgeway Farm School
25	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild annual mini show at Silver Threads Hall
28	F	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
		2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall

30 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

October

3 W 10.00am Age Concern Mystery Tour with lunch included
4 Th PADS Pantomime rehearsal at The Red House
5 F 7.30pm Age Concern 3Bs x2 Evening at Silver Threads Hall
6 Sa 10.00am Purton Methodist Church fundraising day at Silver Threads Hall
11.00am until 3.00pm Pips Community Cafe opening
9 Tu PADS Pantomime rehearsal at The Red House
13 Sa Flu vaccinations at Purton Surgery for under 65s
1.00pm Age Concern Annual Auction at Purton Village Hall
19 F 7.00pm Purton Surgery Cheese and Wine Evening at Purton Village Hall in aid of Brighter Futures

Every week

M 7.00pm to 8.00pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
Tu 9.00am to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
7.30pm Bridge Club at the Red House
W 10.00am to 12 noon: Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
2.00pm to 5.00pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
6.30pm Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church
Th 9.00am to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
2.00pm to 3pm: Age Concern Tai Chi at Millennium Hall
2.20pm Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
F 10.00am to 11.30am: Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
Sa 10.00am to 12.30pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

Every month

1st Wednesday Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children
2nd & 4th Tuesday Purton Probus at Red House lounge
2nd Wednesday (except Aug) 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Monday St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday Royal British Legion meet at the Red House

Moon Phases

☉ 18 August ☽ 26 August ☾ 3 September ● 9 September

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

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



2nd Purton Rainbows finished their final Unicorn Challenge activity which was “giving back to the community”. They chose to collect clothes to donate to charity and the donations went to one of the Prospect Hospice shops. The girls also focused on activities revolving round the promise ceremony held at the end of term. They made table decorations, invitations and planned the party. Congratulations to Beth, Sophie, Izzy, Rhea, Brooke, Rosie, Zoe and Elle on all making their promise and starting their Rainbows journey. The ceremony ended with party food on unicorn plates and games as requested by the girls. Girl-led guiding starts right from the youngest age group, encouraging girls to make their own choices.

There was more girl-led guiding at 1st Purton Brownies when the Brownies organised a ‘Brownie takeover’. The leaders had been banished from the planning of the evening. The Brownies opted for chocolate tasting, biscuit decorating and outdoor play, making the most of the facilities at the Village Centre. Heidi in particular showed great leadership skills and kept the activities on track with timings so they managed to fit in everything they’d planned.

Chocolate is ever-popular with Brownies and 2nd Purton Brownies’ final meeting of the term had a chocolate theme, chosen by Lydia who was moving on. Chocolate games, tasting and of course cake! The unit also said farewell to Janie their Young Leader who had been with them for the last two years but is now moving on to college and unable to get to the meetings. It was a celebration as well as a farewell, marking Janie’s completion of the Young Leader qualification. District commissioner Rachel was there to present Janie with her badge and certificate. She has clearly inspired others as the unit now has two more girls wanting to do their Young Leader qualification. Well done Janie, you will be missed!

1st Purton Brownies closed the term with a trip to a trampoline park which they were lucky to have all to themselves. They had great fun jumping into the foam pit, aiming for the basketball hoops whilst bouncing, playing trampoline dodge ball and generally leaping around and wearing themselves out.

Units take a break from their weekly meetings over the summer, but guiding hasn’t stopped for Purton Guides and Rangers. Twelve of their members spent five wonderful days with 18 others from Melksham, Telford and Neston for Summer Camp in the Cotswolds. The girls cooked on open fires, slept under the stars, went caving, made a swing boat, sang songs around a campfire, completed a challenge course over the river and hiked along the Cotswold Way. Girls and leaders alike have great memories to treasure.

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 www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/. Find us on Facebook too: www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision

St Mary's Primary School

School Governor

St Mary's CE Primary School is seeking to appoint a Co-opted School Governor. The school is located in the heart of village of Purton where you will find our children 'Learning Together' in faith, love and friendship. As governors we aim to ensure that all children, including those who are disadvantaged, feel valued and special and enjoy attending a school which has a strong Christian ethos. At St Mary's, a highly motivated and dedicated team ensure that all children aspire to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially. Commitment: Twelve meetings per school academic year and additional time for dedicated committees, training, school visits and events. Governors meetings are usually held in the evenings however training, school visits and some meetings will take place during the school day.

Salary: This role is voluntary. Closing date: Friday 7th September 2018

Interviews: Week commencing: 10th September 2018

We are looking for someone who:

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

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

- Strategic Management Accountability
- Compliance People Management

We will offer you:

The chance to work with a team of governors, who are highly dedicated, welcoming and receptive to new ideas; the opportunity to support the school Leadership team in shaping the lives of the young people in our community.

Please apply in writing, stating your relevant skills and interest in the position (no more than one side of A4) to the Clerk to the Governors at clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk Further information on being a school Governor can also be found at www.nga.org.uk St Mary's CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.



Saturday 6 October, 11.00am-3.00pm

After many and various challenges, much hard work and the generosity of so many in cash or kind over the last year or so we are delighted to announce that the grand opening of Pips Community Café (at the rear of Purton Club, Station Road) will take place on Saturday, October 6th between 11am and 3pm and regular trading will commence the following week. We will be offering a free coffee/tea or soft drink to all our customers and you will have the opportunity to purchase tasty homemade soup, paninis, scrumptious cakes and other items that will appear on our normal menu.

When the idea of a community café was first mooted you may have completed a questionnaire and many people said they would use the café and others said



they would be happy to volunteer to help in the café or make cakes at home. The success of the café will, of course, be dependent on a good flow of customers but crucially we will need volunteers, so we will be contacting those of you who offered help previously but if there is anybody else out there who would like to join the team we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mary on 01793 772298 or email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, October 6th but in the meantime more details about the café including our menu and opening hours will be available on social media and posters from mid September and there will be more information in the October magazine.



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

for prompt payment, rates for fewer issues also available.

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

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

Purton Remembers

The 11th November 2018 falls on a Sunday, the 100th anniversary to the Armistice that brought an end to hostilities on the Western Front. Since 2014 I have been holding a number of side projects to my research (Purton & the Great War) that have come under the umbrella title of PURTON REMEMBERS.



Part of that work have been my ceramic poppies. Each year since 2014 I have used ceramic poppies, individually crafted to represent the Purton links to die during the Great War to form a growing presentation. PURTON REMEMBERS has been about recording in real time the length of the War & the cost to the Parish, those coming to the annual Sunday service will have seen the display grow year on year.

This year will see a change to how the poppies are used to show the Parish sacrifice. This year will be the only time that the full display of 96 poppies can be viewed at the Memorial. Upto now the poppies have been laid up during the afternoon service whilst a small piece about each of the men and boys has been read out. This year I think it is respectful that the full display of poppies commemorating deaths up to 11th November 1918 is in place in time for the national silence at 11am.

After that silence (the road will not be closed off so care will need to be taken if anyone wishes to join me) I will read out a small piece about the poppies that have joined the display since November 1917/2017. They will remain in place throughout the day and afternoon service when they will be joined by more poppies commemorating those who died after 11th November who are recorded as casualties of the Great War period. This will conclude the PURTON REMEMBERS ceramic poppy element of the project, my other work continues.

At all times I will be there to watch over them and answer any questions people may ask. We (Myself, The RBL & PPC) did look into bringing the service forwards to the morning but unfortunately despite efforts from all parties it couldn't be done, so the annual service will take place in the afternoon as normal.

After the afternoon service the display will not be seen again as a complete collection. Like most of my activities the poppies are self funded, the question of what to do with them was not discussed until quite recently. My decision of what to do with our commission is as follows. The poppies will be offered for sale, relatives of those named on the ceramics having first option to buy them to have a lasting reminder of the sacrifice that has passed beyond living memory. The poppies are offered at a suggested price of £15 each, this will cover my costs providing no profit to myself. If individuals wish to donate more, this will be given to my chosen charity COMBAT STRESS (Veterans mental health charity). I look forwards to speaking with people on the 11th November.

Bob Lloyd, Bobmech03@talktalk.net



The other side of the gate

As predicted, the dry weather continues to dominate our lives and conversations. Of course, we all like the nice weather and enjoy being outside, but the dramatic effect it has had this year on the farm could also have an impact well into next year. The grass has not grown for many months and we have already fed most of the hay (we have 10 days left) and then we will be into our winter silage stocks. We will be praying for a very short and mild winter and a warm and slightly moist spring! As I write this, my weather app promises a wet weekend and unsettled week ahead and I hope it's right!

This last week I've been busy fetching straw from Maisey Hampton, Kempford and Calmesdon on the Stow road. It should all be done by the weekend and I'll only be too glad as it's such a dull job! I enjoy seeing the countryside (you can see much more from a tractor seat) and the friendly acknowledgments from other farmers as we pass each other on the roads – driving 40 minutes in a car is quite different from driving 40 minutes in a tractor. Yes I have aircon, a very comfortable air seat and a radio, but the roads north of the A419 are truly atrocious – it's like riding a shopping cart over cobbles! My tractor will do 25mph, but I rarely reach that north of Cricklade.

The wheat straw this year is much more expensive than previous years. I'm paying £25 a bale (approximately 1/3t) about 40% more than last year. After the serious shortage last year, the cost has risen dramatically. This year, the quantity of straw seems good and the quality is exceptional; a beautiful golden colour and so soft and it will make excellent bedding material. I've also bought some barley straw as a fodder back up, which calves, young stock and dry cows (on maternity leave) are quite happy to eat – it might be a bit dry and we'll have to add some protein and sugar to the diet to improve the nutrition, but it makes a good alternative to hay when you don't have any!

certainly be harder to get pregnant in a month's time after her second cycle, if she cycles at all! Sometimes they need a hand to re-start the oestrus cycle. If we don't see her 'bulling' - showing signs of wanting to breed, such as chin resting or riding other cows/being ridden by other cows and the bull, then she will be given a Luteinising Hormone or a Progesterone Releasing Intravaginal Device (PRID), followed by a prostaglandin injection to stimulate egg release. In case you wondered, bovines follow exactly the same oestrus cycle as humans. I read somewhere that they think humans and bovines synchronised many thousands of years ago when women would have worked closely with cows soon after we domesticated them. The true cost of the caesarean could run well over £1000.

If anyone has any questions about farming or my monthly ramblings, please let me know. Our contact details are on page 7.

We will be on the Scarecrow Trail this year, so please do pop along and see us. You may be greeted by some excited dogs, so don't forget a biscuit or two! If anyone would like to sample our milk or watch the cows being milked, then let us know. Milking starts about 4pm.

Jonathan Cook

We Record ...

Baptisms at St Mary's Church

22 July 2018 Ricky Alan Furze

22 July 2018 Teddy James New

Weddings at St Mary's Church

14 July 2018 Matthew Joseph Jepson and Donna Marie Ponting

28 July 2018 Nicholas Patrick Tickell and Sara Janet Christmas

Funeral at St Mary's Church

16 July 2018 Cyril John Walters (84)

In Memoriam:

18 September 1918 **Ernest Hesketh Harrison**, 8th (Service) Battalion East Surrey Regiment, killed in action at Épehy, aged 26. Ernest is buried in Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, and remembered on the War Memorial in Aston Abbots near Aylesbury and on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

27 September 1918 **John Ranby Brown**, 102nd Battalion, 4th Canadian Division, killed in action at Bourslon Wood. John is buried in Bourslon Wood Cemetery, Pas De Calais, France and remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.



The Great War Project

Part 62: September 1918

The following men with Purton connections were mobilised in September 1918.

To France: Walter Evelyn Ovens, Tank Corps.

Royal Navy: Laurence Leonard Mills, Royal Marine Artillery.

Western Front

By 3 September, British, Canadian and Australian forces had recaptured Péronne, Drocourt, Quéant, Lens, Arras and Bapaume. Canadian troops continued to advance in their sector past the Hindenburg Line and the Allied objectives of the 2nd Battle of the Somme were completed.

The first large-scale Allied offensive carried out separately by the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) on the Western Front commenced on 12 September at St Mihiel. The US forces cleared the St Mihiel salient, during which the greatest air assault of the war was launched by the US with 1,476 Allied aircraft. US forces occupied St Mihiel on the 16th.

A series of Allied offensives to overcome the Hindenburg Line also began on 12 September with the Battle of Havrincourt, and on the 18th with the Battle of Épehy. Ernest Hesketh Harrison (pictured) was serving with the 8th (Service) Battalion East Surrey Regiment. He was the husband of Alice (née Partiger) of Hill House, Purton and the son of the Vicar at St Mary's the Reverend Robert and Mrs Marguerite Harrison, of the Vicarage, Purton. Ernest was promoted to full Captain having been temporary captain. He was Brigade Bombing Officer, responsible for maintaining stocks of grenades in the front-line trenches, and training hand-grenade specialist Bombers within the Brigade.



Ernest was killed in action, aged 26 on 18 September 1918, during the Battle of Épehy, involving the British Fourth Army against German outpost positions in front of the Hindenburg Line. He is buried in Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, having originally been buried at Lieramont near Épehy. He is also listed on the War Memorial in Aston Abbots near Aylesbury and on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

On the 15th, the German Government made a peace offer to Belgium, which was rejected.

The Allied advances on the Hindenburg Line continued through late September with the Battle of the Canal du Nord, the Battle of the Flanders Peaks and the 5th Battle of Ypres, breaking out of the Ypres salient and recapturing Messines, Passchendaele and Diksmuide by the 28th.

John Ranby Brown was serving with the 102nd Battalion, 4th Canadian Division

with the rank of temporary Lieutenant. John was born in Harleston, Suffolk, and was married to Azeela Ellen Brown of Rose Cottage, Purton. His parents were Edward Cyril and Isabel Brown of The Cottage, Church End, Purton.

On 26 September 1918, the Battalion moved to its assembly point prior to “the most glorious operation” in its history, the capture of Bourlon Wood. The Battalion was in the Hindenburg support line from which they advanced to Inchey-en-Artois and into action at 06:00 hrs on the 27th. The Battalion suffered 8 officers and 44 other ranks killed, with 8 officers and 151 other ranks wounded. The Battalion Diary recorded the day a “great success” with 157 Germans captured along with 15 field guns and 18 machine guns. John was among those killed in this action, aged 38, when he was struck by fragments from an enemy shell while advancing his platoon along the south edge of the wood. He is buried in Bourlon Wood Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France and is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorials in St Mary’s Church.

On the 29th, the Battle of the St Quentin Canal was one of the “finest feats of arms” as British forces crossed the canal at Riqueval, and General Haig’s forces achieved a decisive breakthrough of the Hindenburg Line. On 30 September, the German Imperial Chancellor Count Hertling resigned.

Further south, on 26 September, French, Siamese and US forces began the Meuse-Argonne offensive in Champagne and Argonne. This was the final Franco-American offensive of the war but, with more than 1.2 million American soldiers, it was their largest and most costly: 26,277 Americans were killed, 95,786 wounded, 70,000 French casualties and 19 killed from the Siamese Expeditionary Force. (Siam entered the war in July 1917 and Siamese contingent began operations on the Western Front in September 1918. Siamese troops also contributed to the initial occupation of the Rhineland, occupying Neustadt an der Haardt.)

The War in the Air

A German aeroplane raid on Paris on 16 September was the last one of the war.

The War at Sea

HMS Glatton was a coastal defence ship originally ordered by the Norwegian navy but never delivered because of the outbreak of war in 1914. Recently completed and never having seen service, the ship suffered a fire in one of her gun magazines in Dover harbour on 16 September resulting in a massive explosion. The ship was scuttled to prevent an even larger explosion which would have destroyed the harbour. Between 57 and 80 men died on board. The wreck was moved after the war to the north-eastern end of the harbour where it would not obstruct shipping. It was buried under landfill during the construction of the current car ferry terminal.

Austro-Hungarian Fronts

French and Italian forces began an offensive in Austrian-occupied Albania on 6 July, capturing Berat soon after. However, the offensive came to a halt on 22 August and the Austrians counter-attacked on the 26th, retaking Berat.

The Serbian army started a new front against Austria on 14 September in coordination with Allied operations in Macedonia (15-16 September). The Battle of Dobropolje was followed by expansion into Macedonia at Monastir and Doiran, occupied by British forces on 22 September. French forces captured Prilep in south Serbia on the 23rd and the Serbs took back Ishtip and Veles on the 25th. The Italian government recognised an independent Yugo-Slav State on the 25th.

The Battle of the Vardar saw Serb, Czech, Italian, French and British forces fighting Bulgarian forces, Austria's ally, on 26 September. This offensive was so successful that the Bulgarian government asked the Allies for an Armistice on 27 September. Negotiations were swiftly concluded and the armistice was agreed. Hostilities between Bulgaria and the Entente Powers ended at noon on 30 September. King Ferdinand I of Bulgaria abdicated on 3 October and was succeeded by his son Boris II.

The loss of its ally put Austria-Hungary under added pressure. They had already send a note to US President Wilson on 15 September requesting peace discussions. Wilson rejected the request on 16 September.

Palestine & Mesopotamia

The Ottoman Empire also came under renewed pressure from British and Arab forces. The Battle of Megiddo (18-19 September) broke the Ottoman front from the Mediterranean coast to the Judaeen Mountains. The Allied forces moved into the Jordan Valley and towards Nazareth and Beisan which were occupied by the British Indian Army's 4th and 5th Cavalry Divisions on the 20th. By the 23rd, British and Australian forces had captured Jenin, Haifa, Acre and Es Salt in Palestine and the Turkish garrison abandoned Ma'an near Amman on the Hejaz railway to Arabia. British forces cut the Hejaz railway line at Amman on 25 September.

The 3rd Transjordan attack ended on 25 September: the ANZAC Mounted Division was victorious at the 2nd Battle of Amman and captured more than 10,000 Ottoman and German prisoners.

Russia

Further landings were made early in the month by US and Italian troops in the north (Murmansk and Archangel) and in the far east at Vladivostok. The Allied Expeditionary Force made territorial gains in these areas. A Canadian contingent landed at Archangel on 30 September.

The Russian Red Army defeated the White Army at Kazan on the River Volga between 5-10 September consolidating the city under Soviet control and solidifying the Red Army's power in Russia over the White Army and enabling strategic Red Army offensives westwards.

The New Republics

The United States government recognised the Czech-Slovak people as having a de facto government on 3 September.

Rick Dixon

Purton in the First World War

I am finalising a book in A5 format which includes all the articles from a series run by Purton Magazine since August 2013. The book covers the background causes of the Great War and a month by month account of the war and its effect on Purton. The content of the book continues beyond the end of the war in November 1918. Many died later from wounds incurred during the war, and I also discuss how the Great War affected our thinking today, caused the Second World War and the miseries of eastern Europe and the Middle East to this day. The “War to End all Wars” wasn’t that.



The 240-page book will have pictures and maps in colour where possible.

Copies are £15 each - plus postage if not deliverable locally - and I am currently taking pre-orders ahead of publication in October. If you would like a copy, please email me at RickDixonMail@gmail.com or phone 01793 759123. Profits will go to Combat Stress.

Rick Dixon

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Pantomime rehearsals will begin in earnest in October, with readings being held at 8 pm on Thurs 4th and Tues 9th October, at The Red House in Purton. This year’s panto is Jack & The Beanstalk, directed by Caroline Nadin & Lynda Wright. Put these dates in your diary and come along and join us. We are always looking for new talent!

There will be evening performances on Thursday 31 January, Friday 1 and Sat 2 Feb 2019, and the usual Saturday matinee.

Despite all our efforts, disappointingly, we will be unable to stage the autumn play in September, as originally intended. However, PADS is still very busy performing our most recent Murder Mystery play (written and directed by Len Page) for local groups and charities, with several performances scheduled for late September.

We welcome new members (especially between the ages of 16 and 50!). Under 16’s welcome, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult. If you are interested in joining us, and want to know more, please do get in touch, or just come along to one of the panto readings in October.

Kate Bath 771442

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



**Guided Walk around Cirencester - Re-scheduled for
Saturday 15th September 2018**

A local guide will be leading a town walk around Cirencester on Saturday 15th September 2018. There will be a small charge of £2.00 per person which will be donated to Cirencester Civic Society. The walk will last approximately one and a half hours and sturdy footwear is recommended. Arrangements as follows:

The walk will commence at 4.00 p.m. Meet outside the Abbey Church in Cirencester. Queries on the day of the walk only contact Jacky Parker Tel: 01793 772523 Mobile: 07826 349443

If you would like to come please let Marion Hobbs Tel: 01793 770185 email: roy.marion@btinternet.com or Tony and Janet Neate Tel: 01793 770117 email: tjneate57@gmail.com know.

Monthly meetings will resume as follows:

**Thursday 27th September 2018, 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall - Paul Wilkins
'The House'**

If you've ever wondered what life in a workhouse was really like, and how this notorious institution came about, then why not come along to this talk by historian Paul Wilkins to find out more! Based on detailed research into the history of Highworth and Swindon Poor Law Union, you will also hear about its early years, the treatment of children, and what it meant to be an 'inmate'. You might also discover a few new things about our own workhouse in Purton!

**Thursday 25th October 2018, 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall - Martin Collison,
William Marshall – the greatest knight.**

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

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

New Members and visitors always welcome

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

Purton Museum

This year Purton Museum will be commemorating the end of WWI, 100 years on in an extensive, ambitious exhibition. From 6th October until Saturday 24th November the museum will be transforming its contents and be displaying World War I artefacts, objects, photographs and memories. To achieve this we are reaching out and asking for your help ...

If you have a piece of WWI history in your house, or have a story to share please

get in touch. We would really appreciate anything you are happy to loan to the museum for a period of 2 months. We understand that these items will be extremely valuable and we will be taking great care to store, display and look after all objects donated for the exhibition. If interested please email either Beth: bethaney23@icloud.com or Marion: roy.marion@btinternet.com Tel: 01793 770185. Thank you so much in advance.

In order to make preparations for the exhibition the museum will be closed as follows; Wednesday 26th September, Saturday 29th September, Wednesday 3rd October.

Beth Farnham, Museum Curator

Cricklade Country Market

**Our next market Friday 28 September, 2-4pm,
at The Jenner Hall Cricklade**



Locally handmade, home cooked or home grown produce straight from us to you! Find delicious pies and cakes, scones and cookies, jams and pickles, plants and beautiful original gifts. Pop along for a delicious afternoon tea or come in for after school refreshments too!

Future market date: October 26th. Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market.

**Great news – from 30 July you'll be
able to recycle even more plastics
and cartons in your blue lidded bin!**



www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Please rinse and squash your recycling

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters



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

A Book I will Always Remember

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

Marvel's Mutants:

The X-Men Comics of Chris Claremont by Miles Booy

When I was given this book, I said that I can't promise that I would read it but I'll give it a try. Miles' last book I'd enjoyed as it was about Doctor Who* and I re-lived the years when we'd travelled the southern counties to get him to Conventions or comic marts. Also it confirmed that his generation, by studying Dr Who in all its different formats that it came out in, on TV, many times copied videos from Australia, books and DVDs, were so ready for Media Studies when it arrived, as that is what they had been doing all their lives.

But this new book, Marvel's Mutants was totally beyond my comprehension. My comfort zone is historical and crime fiction. To me, although a lot of Marvel comics had come into the house, I had just dismissed them as crash, bang, wallop. But I was able to tell other mothers that all the boys that I know who were into Marvel comics had gone to university.

But when I read Miles' book, I could see why and where several of his fields of research had originated.

I didn't find out how these certain people had evolved as mutants but in the main example Wolverine, we can make a guess. As well as saving humanity, Wolverine has his own personal battles to control his animal instincts (the uncivilised ID) and revert to his moralising ego. All the good mutants try for this balance but it is the villains, e.g. Cyclops, who give into the hunger for power that bring the ID to the fore. I now know why there is a complete set of the works of Freud on Miles' bookshelf and has been since his teens.

When Marvel comics first came out they were aiming at schoolboys' pocket money, but when specialised comic shops began to appear, they realised that their market had grown up and could grasp new ideas. When Thor makes his appearance, Norse mythology becomes a source of interest. Also they had to change the adverts for chocolate bars and spot cream to ones of wider interest.

During the time that Chris Claremont was writing the X-men (1976-1991) it was

a time of change in America and the Western world, so stories where there is prejudice against the Mutants are reflecting the times. In an interview Claremont says “intended or not, it is a book that is about racism, bigotry and prejudice”

After learning about how the set out of a page of a Marvel comic evolved and how an inker is involved in the pictures to capture Claremont’s tales, I still haven’t opened a Marvel comic. As I am writing this whilst sitting at Miles’ house, somewhere in here are boxes of comics, both his and his son David’s collection. I ought to really but I decided to stay a Marvel virgin and I’ve gone back to medieval who dunnits. I’m back in my comfort zone.

Eve Booy

**Love and Monsters the Doctor Who experience, 1979 to the present, Miles Booy*

Hello from The Cedars Care Home

What’s been going on?

New and exciting activities have been happening at Cedars. We have started a singing club (although I can’t sing and neither can Chris) nevertheless our residents have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions so far. However if anyone reading this can sing and would like to help us with our singing club then please do get in touch – see details below.

We have held theme days every month since the beginning of the year and we have just had a very successful Hawaiian Party. Typically the weather broke and we had to have it indoors but we had great fun dressing up in flowers and grass skirts, with the residents making decorations and bracelets during the week before the event. We had a wonderful chap from Royal Wootton Bassett leading the music and several carers and residents enjoyed dancing the afternoon away.

On Wednesday 1st August some lovely children joined us for music and movement. A huge thank you to those who came along, all the children were wonderful and our residents loved it. However the following week it was to be a Tuesday and it seems that we were competing with other activities as we didn’t have any toddlers that morning! I am hoping that we will have a few children over the next few Tuesdays in August. Then we will liaise on what date/dates suits everyone in September. We hope to make it a regular thing starting starting week commencing 17th September allowing a couple of weeks to get back into the school run routine! And I’m on holiday until that week, so please email me if you wish to know more.

As always, we would welcome anyone who feels they would like to join us in keeping our residents happy and fulfilled during their time with us, so do please get in touch.

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



Purton Placard

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Annual Auction

Saturday 13 October, 1.00pm
at Purton Village Hall.

Come along and join in
the bidding!

Purton Scarecrow Trail

Sat/Sun 8/9th September 2018.

Fun for all the family! Main trail
and children's trail. Prizes to be
won and vote for your favourite
scarecrow. Tickets and trail maps
will be on sale and refreshments
will be available around the
village. For more information
visit [www.facebook.com/
PurtonScarecrowTrail/](http://www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/)

MACMILLAN

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 28 September, 10am-12pm at
Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

The Macmillan coffee morning is a good time
to meet to meet up for coffee and cake whilst
chatting to friends and neighbours.

Do please join us in Lydiard Millicent Parish
Hall. You will be helping to raise valuable
funds to help Macmillan provide services for
cancer patients and their families.

Wilma Munro. 771259

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Jumble Sale

Saturday 1 September at Purton Village Hall.
Sale starts at 2pm, items can be left from 12-1pm

Mystery Tour

Wednesday 5 September, coach leaves Purton
at 2pm. £15 for village pensioners, £17 for non-
pensioners, and those from outside the village. Tea
included

Mystery Tour

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

3Bs x2 Evening

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

PURTON METHODIST CHURCH

Harvest Supper with musical entertainment

Wednesday 5 September
6.00pm for 6.30pm at Purton
Methodist Church

Tickets £10 from Sylvia
Freemantle tel: 01793 770686
Proceeds towards Purton
Methodist Church
refurbishment programme.

PURTON METHODIST CHURCH
Fundraising Day

Saturday 6 October, 10.00am-2.00pm at Silver Threads Hall
Lunches served from 12 noon (£6), Tea and coffee, raffle, tombola, cakes, bric-a-brac, children's toys.

Proceeds towards the hearing loop upgrade at Purton Methodist Church

Put the kettle on...
Make a brew, make a difference!



Afternoon Tea

Saturday 8 September, 2-6pm at The Gingerbread House, 5 Church End, Purton, SN5 4EB - immediately next to St. Mary's Church, opposite the entrance to Purton House. Hosted by Christine Seals on behalf of Prospect Hospice.

Join us for an afternoon of refreshments, the opportunity to buy some fantastic local goods as well as the chance to win some amazing raffle prizes while supporting the care Prospect Hospice provides to our local community.

PURTON SURGERY PPG
Cheese & Wine evening

Friday 19 October, 7.00pm at Purton Village Hall. Tickets £8.50 from PPG committee members
Raising funds for Brighter Futures Radiotherapy appeal at GWH.

Speaker Cat Newman



Pips
community café

PIPS COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Grand opening!

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

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

Purton and District Probus Club



At the meeting on 10th July, Gordon Brockman, Auctioneer and Valuer from Marlborough Auction Rooms, gave the members a talk, entitled "The life of an Auctioneer". Gordon's story began with his entry into the business. A spinal injury and subsequent surgery obliged him to seek a change of career. While recuperating from the operation, daytime television such as Bargain Hunt and Flog-it inspired an interest in auctions and antiques. He began visiting car-boot and table top sales and, arriving early at a sale in Sidmouth, he purchased for 75p, some costume jewellery. An 18 carat gold brooch, among the lot, realised almost £200 at a Shipton Bellinger Auction and Gordon thought; maybe I could do a job in this kind of work. John, an acquaintance and an auctioneer, offered him some lightweight work unpacking and collating items for the saleroom. Gordon began to learn the business :- soft paste, hard paste, silver, hall-marks and plate. One day John dropped an item into Gordon's hand; a badge displaying the words "Head Porter" and Gordon felt that he had come of age. A little later he was asked to have a go on the rostrum. "If I go sick" said John "I'll need someone to take over". Fifteen years on, and Gordon is a well-respected Auctioneer and Valuer with Marlborough Auction Rooms. When Phillip Serrell, in recent years published a book – "Sold to the Man with the Tin Leg", it reminded Gordon of the early days and of John, who happened to have a false leg.

Gordon continued with some of the more memorable experiences during his career; An accident, with one of a pair of Murano glass pheasants, came back to haunt him when, a few years later, the same items came back for sale, now at a different auction house. "I paid good money for these, but some inconsiderate so-and-so has glued a head back on" said the client. Gordon could not admit to having previous knowledge. Another embarrassing episode, early on, concerned a box full of brass ornaments brought in by young couple. Gordon recognised an interesting piece of Trench Art, an engraved shell case, but failed to identify a 17th century, trumpet based, candlestick. Luckily, his boss Richard spotted it, and knowing from the makers mark that there were very few made, Richard upped the catalogue price ten-fold. The candlestick sold for £1700; the buyer happened to have a matching example and the pair were now worth 8 to 10 thousand pounds. Gordon also recalled some other pieces that fetched high prices :- a Wedgwood Fairyland lustre bowl that sold for £1400, a Portsall silver cup, sold for £2000, and a 15C document, the price of which, rose steadily to £15,000. The excitement of the hunt, and finding that one piece that puts a smile on the customer's face is what makes the auctioneer's job enjoyable. When dealing with house clearances and inheritance he always advises clients that the first port of call should be to consult a qualified auctioneer. If an auctioneer should tarnish his reputation, he might as well get out of the business.

To test the Probus members' knowledge Gordon displayed seven typical auction pieces and asked that we rearrange them in descending order of value. After a number of suggestions from the floor, no-one got it right and he indicated that the

seven might include a reproduction fake item; For the sake of other Probus Groups, we'll keep his secret.

Gordon's enthusiasm for his job extends to the many charities that he has been able to support through his skills as an auctioneer, and such auctions have raised thousands of pounds for good causes. The speaker gave us an entertaining morning.

On July 24th, Dr Norman Beale, a retired GP, who conducted his surgery in Calne for 30 years, gave a talk on the Life of Joseph Priestley. When Dr Beale retired in 2005, he was inspired to research the background of Joseph Priestley, who for 7 years had a laboratory at Bowood, and about whom there was little evidence on paper. Bob Schofield, an American, had written a history of Joseph Priestly, but it contained a number of errors. The end result was that, in 2008, Dr Beale published his own book "Joseph Priestley in Calne".

Priestley, throughout his life, was a controversial figure, and our speaker suggested that he be compared to Einstein for his intelligence, Ian Paisley for his political and religious fervour, Geoffrey Boycott for his stubbornness and Kenneth Williams for his direct speaking. Joseph Priestley was born in 1733, the eldest son of a Yorkshire wool stapler at Birstall, near Batley in the West Riding. His mother died when he was but 6 years old, but he was already being raised by his Aunt who, with the help of tutors, secured him a place at Batley Grammar School. At 17 years, he attended a non-conformist University at Daventry, where he studied philosophy, science and languages. He embraced Unitarianism and began his career as a not very popular clergyman, first at Needham Market, Suffolk, and later at Nantwich in Cheshire. In 1761, his associates managed to get him a post at Warrington Academy as a lecturer in Languages, and in 1762 he married Mary, a sister of John Wilkinson, the iron master. While at the Academy, he experimented with electricity and the conductivity of materials and published his findings. Mary was not happy at Warrington and, in 1767, they returned to Leeds where Priestley, now fully ordained, became minister at Mill Hill Chapel. The post as Minister gave him the time to experiment on airs and gases, and access to an adjacent brewery provided the opportunity to study the behaviour of 'Fixed Air' (carbon dioxide), above the vats. By passing volumes of CO₂ through water, he produced Soda-water, but failed to recognise its commercial value. Priestly, by now, was widely known as a progressive scientist; he was corresponding with Benjamin Franklin on politics and science. He was also invited to join the Royal Society in London to publish his work. However, his belief in Unitarianism and his sympathy for American Independence made him unpopular with the Establishment.

In 1772, the Marquess of Lansdowne invited Priestley to Bowood Estate, near Calne, to tutor his sons. The promise of scientific laboratories, in both London and Calne, was too much for Priestly to resist, and he was taken on by the Marquess as Librarian at Bowood. Here, he continued to pursue his analysis of Air. He placed a mouse under a bell-jar and noted that it died when a certain fraction of the air was exhausted. A second mouse under the same jar became agitated almost immediately.

By adding living plants under the bell-jar, he saw that something was being added back and the mice lived longer. The plants were absorbing the fixed air and creating breathable air. In 1774 he made his most famous discovery. By directing the rays of the Sun through a large lens, to heat red crystals (mercuric oxide) under the bell-jar, and using a vacuum pump, he obtain something he called dephlogisticated air, but it was his contemporary, Lavoisier, who gave it the name 'oxygen'. His other discoveries included nitrogen, hydrochloric acid, ammonia and carbon monoxide. At this time, 1779, his radical ideas in politics, namely, corresponding with French Revolutionaries, caused more trouble and the Marquess asked him to leave. He settled in Birmingham and, together with Josiah Wedgwood, James Watt and Erasmus Darwin, was a member of the Lunar Society. In 1791, his preaching again caused hostility and inflamed riots. The family left in a hurry for Hackney in London, where they resided for three years before emigrating to America. There, they built their home in Pennsylvania and at first were popular, even receiving a letter from the President. Mary's death in 1796 was a bad blow and Joseph's own health began to weaken. He died in 1804. He had, in his lifetime, become a member of every major scientific society in the western world, discovered numerous substances and published 150 works. Dr Beale gave a comprehensive account of a clever, but radical character.

Purton Probus Club meets in the Red House lounge at 10am, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Visitors & new members welcome. September programme: 11th, Henry, Cloth of Gold, 25th, MOD Police dogs.

Bob Stevens

Prospect Hospice

Make a Brew, Make a Difference - Afternoon Tea in Purton Saturday 8th September 2pm – 6pm

The Gingerbread House, 5 Church End, Purton, SN5 4EB - immediately next to St. Mary's Church, opposite the entrance to Purton House.

Join your fellow residents of Purton for their afternoon tea, in aid of Prospect Hospice. On Saturday 8th September from 2pm – 6pm you can pop along for tea and cake and have the opportunity to buy some fantastic local goods as well as having a go at winning some amazing raffle prizes. All donations will be kindly given to Prospect Hospice and go towards the end of life care and support they provide to our local community.

Prospect Hospice Full Length & Fabulous Ball 2018

2018 will be the fifth biennial Ball for the Hospice, they are held every other year to ensure it remains a sell-out grand occasion. In tradition with previous years, it is at the end of September this year falling on Saturday 29th September.

One of our patrons the talented Jonathon Wilkes is our host for this special evening and will entertain you throughout the evening with his amazing band. The venue is

the Great Western Hall at the Steam Museum, where you can expect a champagne reception on arrival, a sumptuous three-course dinner, and excellent raffle prizes along with our charity auction for you to bid on some fantastic lots.

Tables of 10 are £750, giving you amazing value for such an exclusive event. To secure your table please contact Sheryl on: sherylcrouch@prospect-hospice.net

Become a Super Seller!

We're looking for people who and feel that they have got what it takes to become a Super Seller for our annual raffles! Could you; recruit your friends, family and colleagues to help sell tickets? Sell tickets at work, social gatherings or at your local pub? Set up a stand at your hobby group or summer fete? If you think you could become a Prospect Hospice Super Raffle Ticket Seller, please call 01793 816161 and ask to speak to Sally or Carys

Prospect Hospice's Make a Will Month: September 2018

Throughout the month of September, you will have the chance to have your will written completely free of VAT. Solicitors in Swindon and Marlborough have kindly agreed to waive their fees for making or amending a will in exchange for a donation to Prospect Hospice*. Details of each of this year's participating solicitors can be found at the bottom of this page.

For more information or to register your interest, please call 01793 816161 or email fundraisingevents@prospect-hospice.net.

*The suggested donation amount is the solicitors' fee minus VAT. For your guidance, a basic single will costs around £200 while a double will cost nearer £300.

Hollie Ricketts, Community Fundraiser

