

Purton *Magazine*



*Purton Churchyard
photo: Ian McCarthy*

April 2014

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	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: Jan Walker	770124
	<i>(Saturdays: 10am - 1 pm; Wednesdays from 16 April: 2 - 5pm)</i>	
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	771718
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Maurice Card	770338
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141 or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

<i>Vicar:</i>	<i>Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Priest-in-charge), tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031) email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Curate:</i>	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Wardens:</i>	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
<i>Administrator:</i>	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Web site:</i>	<i>www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>See Diary Page in this magazine</i>	

METHODIST CHURCHES

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev David Perkins tel 853197 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine BRAYDON Sundays 6.00 pm Evening Worship</i>	

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

<i>Parish Deacon</i>	<i>Reverend Terry Aspell tel 325681 Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>Holy Days 7.30 pm Sundays 11.00 am Mass <i>For times of weekday services please see Church notice board</i></i>	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

<i>Priest</i>	<i>Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586 St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade</i>	
<i>Holy Days</i>	<i>7.00 pm Mass Sundays 9.30 am Mass</i>	

From The Editors

In the 10 years that the current magazine committee have been at the helm, we have tried to follow a basic principle that the articles in your magazine should be written by members of the community for others in the same community. Our objective is for Purton Magazine to be available for any reader who wishes to submit a letter or article and we have made really strenuous efforts to include every contribution we receive.

However, in recent months we have become something of a victim of our own success as it were. To prevent the magazine being overrun with advertisements, we have always restricted them to just over a third of the content. Therefore while we can print extra pages from time to time, the additional costs of production are not covered in the short term.

Also we have at least 20 postal subscribers (currently only £15 per year – what a lovely annual gift for Purtonians who have moved away!) and a heavier magazine costs significantly more to post. Even with those restrictions, we still try to squeeze in all contributions, even if we are forced to condense some from time to time. We hope and trust that our invaluable contributors – without whom there would be no magazine in the first place – can appreciate our predicament; success sometimes brings its own challenges!

This month we are again pleased to be able to report other local success stories. For an organisation to reach its 50th anniversary is definitely worth celebrating. On [page 8](#) and in true Purton style, we learn that the Purton and District Age Concern filled the Village Hall for a concert party. Judging by all the comments and letters received, it was a wonderful party.

We are so fortunate that people in Purton do get on and do things for the benefit of the community. As well as everyone who helped with the Age Concern party, we also learn on [page 18](#) that a group of volunteers spent a little under 2 hours picking up litter between The Royal George and the Vets.

On [page 5](#) we learn that, after more than 25 years' service as Parish Clerk, Shirley Bevington has decided to take early retirement. She has helped and successfully supported many councillors over the years. Her contribution to the quality and continuity of our community has been simply enormous. Thank you, Shirley.

3B's

Evening in the Silver
Threads Hall on
Friday 11 April
– see [page 8](#)

33

years of the Purton
Support Group for Guide
Dogs for the Blind
– see [page 24](#)

1045

golden anniversary mugs
for Age Concern's
anniversary were
distributed – see [page 8](#)

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Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions

by 10th of each month, please

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tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution enquiries only:

[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Purton Parish Council, with regret, announce the retirement of Parish Clerk Mrs Shirley Bevington. Shirley has decided to take early retirement having given over 25 years' loyal and professional service to the Community. Shirley has been the solid foundation of Council during her time and has given countless councillors advice over the years, on legal, procedural, and Charity affairs. She will be greatly missed and we give her our good wishes in her well-earned retirement. Council has advertised the vacancy and we sincerely hope we can recruit someone with the same passion for the community and similar skills.

We have been very fortunate to have Shirley as Parish Clerk. Her knowledge, sense of humour and care for the community will be truly missed.

Metro Counts – you may have noticed that some black strips were placed across Restrop Road and Pavenhill a few weeks ago. These were installed at the request of the Parish Council to ascertain the speed and volume of traffic using these roads. The results were that the average speed of the traffic on Restrop Road was 35.3mph which means that it qualifies for Community Speed Watch. As a result of this we are now looking for volunteers who would be willing to be trained to carry out speed checks in the locality. If you are interested in doing this then please contact the Parish Council Office.

The average speed of traffic on Pavenhill was 29.1 miles per hour which falls within the speed limit hence no further action will be taken. As a matter of interest the criteria that determines what, if any, action is taken in at 30mph speed limit area is as follows: 30 - 34.9 No further action, 35 - 38.9 Community Speed Watch can be set up and 39 - 42 Wiltshire Council will include the area on the Speed Detector Devices (SIDS) rota. You may have noticed the one in Station Road recently; this area qualified for a SID following a metro count which was carried out last year. It has to be said however that it did not seem to be working very well. This was reported to Wiltshire Council so hopefully it will be sorted out when it is installed again on Station Road.

Play Close Play Area – It has been reported in previous news articles that Play Close play area was going to be refurbished using S106 money obtained from some housing developments that have taken place in the village. We are delighted to say that work should have been completed on 19 March so, by the time you read this article, the new play equipment will be in use. We hope the younger children will enjoy the new equipment and that it will give them many hours of pleasure. Our thanks are extended to the Play Area Committee and staff who have been involved with the project.

We have some exciting plans for the Village Centre play area and the Venture Play which is at the back of Dogridge, so watch these spaces.

53 Bus Service

When Stagecoach withdrew the extended bus route to Cricklade and Cirencester a couple of months ago a petition was set up objecting to this. In particular it had quite an effect on students getting to Cirencester College. The petition now has 760 signatures.

Stagecoach have been made aware of the concerns of local residents and have responded by stating the following: “we are currently reviewing service 53 ... at this time we cannot promise to reinstate the 53 as had been provided prior to November 2013, however we will seriously consider the options and suggestions the YAG group have made.”

We will keep you informed of developments.

Bonfire Guidelines – If a bonfire is the best practicable option for disposing of garden waste, follow these guidelines and the chances are you won't annoy your neighbours or cause a serious nuisance:

- Only burn dry material;
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint;
- Never use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light the fire or to encourage it;
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions – smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening; if it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbours' gardens and across roads;
- Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens;
- Avoid burning when air pollution in your area is high or very high;
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder – douse it with water if necessary.

Purton Parish Council Mission Statement

Our aim is to improve the quality of life of all who live and work in Purton Parish

- **Aims** To achieve the mission we will ...
 1. Engage in open dialogue with all residents to understand their needs, and in turn explain how we will address these needs within the resources and powers available to the Council;
 2. Help provide cost effective amenities of a high standard to help meet the needs and wishes of all residents;
 3. Assist and encourage other bodies to provide such amenities;
 4. Protect and enhance the environment in which the residents of the Parish live and work;
 5. Promote the best interests of the Parish.
- **Objectives**
 1. To help create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all residents, irrespective of age, gender, culture, income, race or religion, and will seek to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation;
 2. To enable residents to enjoy high quality social, recreational and sporting facilities within the parish, and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents;
 3. To encourage and promote the economic and commercial viability of the Parish. This will assist in improving the levels of deprivation experienced by some residents of the Parish;

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4. To protect and improve the character of the Parish and promote sustainable development for the Parish to meet the needs of present residents without jeopardizing the needs of future generations;
 5. To work in partnership with other statutory bodies, voluntary groups, agencies and individuals to ensure an improving standard of services to meet the needs of the Parish.

- **Values**

Purton Parish Council will provide a high quality service and will be professional, accountable, proactive and responsive, inclusive and transparent.

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

N13/07153/FUL *20 Ringsbury Close*, single storey rear extension
N13/06159/ADV *Ridgeway Farm*, non-illuminated free standing sign

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

On our new web site you can join up to receive regular updates and newsletters 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. We currently have over 100 people signed up and we have been getting some very good feedback. Go to www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Coffee & Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits.

BOB TINSON

Purton Profferings - *Recycle your unwanted items to a new owner here*

PROFFERED: Sharp 14" TV (model 15JF-25H), H30" W15" D16", not flat screen, no remote control, no Freeview box. Tel 770552.

PROFFERED: Computer desk, light brown melamine with black metal frame, sliding panel for keyboard, H30" W33" D19.5". Tel 770552.

To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine (address on [page 4](#)). Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always happy to include obituaries. If you wish to have us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it, perhaps with a recent photo, via the contacts on [page 4](#) of the Magazine. We can crop or resize photos supplied.

Purton & District Age Concern



Could I congratulate all members of Purton and District Age Concern for their input in making our fifty years celebration the great success it was? In my thirty-eight years with Age Concern we have never had so many cards, letters and phone calls, plus all the verbal thanks – so our thanks to you all. We would like to say ‘thank you’ to all involved in the Magazine for putting a picture of our new banner on the front of the March issue. The banner was kindly made for us by Rita Webb and she also did the marvellous display in the Museum, assisted by Maureen Griffin and Jenny Barnes. If you haven’t seen it, I can strongly recommend it – brilliant! You can go to the Museum on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm and from Wednesday 16 April it will be open on Wednesdays from 2 to 5 pm. Our display will be there until the end of April.

The golden celebration mugs that you all had were very well received and the main man behind that was our treasurer Colin Freemantle. He kept bringing designs to meetings until we had what we wanted and the main comments were ‘lovely china and bright and cheerful’. We gave out 1045 and Louise, our secretary, put each one in a box and, along with Colin, delivered them to the street wardens. Unfortunately we had some street wardens who, due to various circumstances, could not deliver them as quickly as others, but we hope you have all received one by now. Our grateful thanks to all the street wardens not only for this but for letting people know about the concert. The response was terrific with 160 guests.

What can I say about the concert – with a ploughman’s supper to start with, plus a drink of what they wanted at the bar free of charge. The hall and the tables were all beautifully decorated, plus Chedworth Band was in tip top form, especially the sing along in the second half. We had a cake, a lovely texture and very artistically decorated, that was cut by the longest serving member of our committee Jenny Barnes, and the newest one, Alison Bunce. This was cut at the start of the evening so it could be handed out in the interval when Mick Looker, our vice-chairman, proposed a toast to Purton and District Age Concern with sparkling wine. The band was sponsored by a local resident but, because we were celebrating 50 years, they knocked £50 off their charge so the kind gentleman gave us the £50 Chedworth Band had knocked off! It is amazing how kind people are – two people gave me £20 each on their way out of the party to go in the funds and then we had donations with some of the cards we had. We wanted it to be a free evening but obviously I couldn’t refuse such kind donations – they were all greatly appreciated so many thanks to you all. My greatest feeling about the celebrations is that, with the younger people coming in blending with the old, Purton & District Age Concern will go on for another fifty years.

Our 34th annual auction was another very successful day. We didn’t have as many lots as usual, nor so many people to buy, but here again you were all so kind in donating items, like the couple who came in and gave us a ladies’ bicycle to sell which made £70. Another couple gave me an envelope with a cheque for £100 – you are all so kind. Roderick Wightman was at his best, although it was hard work at times, and we made a grand profit of £594, which was excellent. As a point of interest, Roderick and his father before him have conducted all these auctions for us except one, when they got an able substitute to stand in for them, so many

thanks to all who were involved with the auction, especially our three young gentlemen Alfie Griffin, Morgan Crumbie, and Jack Cook, who were a great help and joined us for a good meal at The Angel in the evening.

As the Magazine is very efficiently printed and delivered early, you might still be in time to go on our first mystery tour of the season. This is on Wednesday 2 April with a 10 am start and lunch provided. Give me a ring on 770696. The next outing is an afternoon trip on Wednesday 7 May and this is a 2 pm start with tea provided. Names to street wardens by 26 April for this one please. Hope to see you there.

We are having our 3 B's evening on Friday 11 April at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall, cost £6. Tickets are available from Ron and Heather Harris on 770850 – there will be no tickets available on the door. The ticket price includes a two-course supper with soft drinks. Please bring your own alcoholic drinks and you will be able to buy your bingo tickets on the night. The minibuses will be available if you need a lift – ring Maurice on 770338 – you need to do this any time you want the buses.

We will be holding our Easter market stall outside the Pavenhill shops on Easter Saturday, 19 April from 9.30 am to 12 noon. There will be books, bric a brac, cakes, raffle and lots of bargains. Any donations for these stalls would be much appreciated, the same as any prizes for our Easter raffle which we will be running there and, of course, there will be Andrew's famous sausages – all different flavours – cooked there for you to taste. Hope to see you there.

TONY PRICE

Introducer Service

Purton & District Age Concern can now introduce people to the following products and services provided by AGE UK:

- Home Insurance, • Car Insurance, • Motor Breakdown Cover, • Travel Insurance,
- Gas & Electricity, • Age UK Weekly Lottery,
- Personal Alarms, • Funeral Plans, • Wills & Legal Services, • Annuity Service,
- Stairlifts, • Bathing Aids and • Riser-Recliner Chairs.

If we introduce someone and they purchase a product or service Purton & District Age Concern will receive a small commission.

Please contact Louise Tidman on 772558 for more information and a product and service booklet which; contains the freephone number unique to Purton & District Age Concern. You do not have to be a pensioner to purchase these products and services.

LOUISE TIDMAN, Secretary

One Liners

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I've told you once, I've told you a million times ... don't exaggerate!

I wondered why the frisbee was getting bigger, and then it hit me.

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

Mrs Peggy Matthews

A lady I have known all my life and one that I had the greatest respect for has died – a fun-loving and happy-go-lucky person. The lady I am talking about is Peg Matthews. Peggy was born in Purton Stoke in the red brick council houses that are next to The Bell. My parents and my brother Godfrey lived two doors away. Peggy was one of twins – the other twin was Phyllis, two sisters. When they were born their father Billy Webb said ‘Damn and blast’ and that’s what he was going to call them! My mum and dad moved to The Peak where I was born and meanwhile Peg and Phil went to school at Purton Stoke but then the Webbs also moved to Purton to 42 Station Road. I can remember, when I was about four years old, going down to Station Road and my mother saying that the Carvers were moving out of No.13 The Peak and “Why didn’t the Webbs put in for their house?” They did and they got it and what great neighbours they were to us. Another thing I remember is when the 1939-45 war was declared, Mrs Webb insisted that her family came into our house for my father to give us all advice on what we should be doing in view of his experience in the 1914-18 war. (I can remember that but I cannot remember things that happened yesterday!)

Peggy of course went to Purton School and, on leaving, she went into hairdressing. Whether she finished her training I do not know but what I do know, along with her sister Phil, Peggy volunteered to join the RAF in the WAAFs. On joining the WAAFs the twins were given a special dispensation order, which was unusual in wartime, so that where one was stationed the other had to go as well, so they very rarely got separated and this was just because they were twins.

They were posted to Warrington where they worked on barrage balloons – the aim was to try and stop the German aircraft attacking Liverpool, which was a very important port in those days. Later on they were moved to Bristol where they were based at Eastville. That is where Bristol Rovers used to play and where Ikea is now. I don’t think Peg had started supporting Swindon Town then otherwise I am sure she would have visited the Rovers ground a few times. There again, Bristol played a very important part in the war and here they were trying to protect it with their barrage balloons. I must say the twins looked very stunning in their uniforms. When they were demobbed Peg went to work at British Home Stores as a catering assistant in the kitchen.

Time moved on and Peg married Harold Matthews and they lived in Reids’ Piece. Phil married Harold’s brother Philip – at that time the Matthews family farmed along the end of The Hyde where Jonathan Cook farms now. Peg and Harold had a son, Barry and their work pattern changed. Peg worked in Harold Durnford’s shop at the top square. I expect there were a lot of laughs there as Harold loved a bit of fun himself – what a happy shop it was to go into. Peg’s next move was to the school kitchens where she loved it. Eve Saunders was the lady in charge and Peg’s sister Phil worked there with the likes of May Barnfield, Iris Parsons etc. – they did have some fun. In fact, Peg said that the cooking got in the way of the fun. One of the things they used to do was to sing a song together – but in a slightly different way. They would choose a song and they would sing one word each of the lyrics and see how long they could keep going, trying to keep the song going and to keep in tune.

Talking of singing – what a talented family the Webbs were. The twins used to dance and they would help their mother put on variety shows in the Institute. Mind they were a very large family – seven brothers and sisters. I think it was only Ken and his

father who weren't talented in the entertainment way, but they were both very humorous.

Harold played cricket for Purton and Peg would always support him, going to places like Littlecote House at Chilton Foliat. Then there was the Cricket Club outings and what about the Cricket Club holidays at Paighton, where they used to go with the likes of Mary and Norman Mills, Lucy and Ron Webb, Marg and Herby Smith and Cath and Joe Mills (who used to drive Thompson's bus) just to name a few – they had some great times.

Peg was a person who loved to help. She was on the Helping Hand committee for a good number of years. I wonder if this was the result of working with one of the founder members, May Barnfield. In Age Concern we were indeed grateful to her and Harold working on our minibuses. They helped to get the service off the ground and then, when Harold could not drive the buses any more, Peg was shotgun to my brother Godfrey and John Blackwell. I know they used to bring a lot of pleasure to the users with their wit and humour – they said it brightened up their day. So thanks for that Peg – it gave you a lot of pleasure I know to think that something you were involved in is still going strong today.

Later on in life Peg and Harold used to spend their holidays in Majorca, not a one off but year after year – a bit different from Paighton. Still Peg was the type of person who would enjoy herself anywhere. Another of Peg's loves was sport – the Olympics, Rugby and, of course, football, especially Swindon Town and I might add that she was very knowledgeable about all sport. In fact, she had a DVD of a Question of Sport Quiz and on a Sunday night Andrew, Peg's nephew, used to go to see her and they would have a go on this quiz while they had a glass of Baileys. Invariably Peg came out the winner and it was the same with Swindon Town. Andy, his son Bradley and Peg would have a bet of 10p on who would score for Swindon. Here again, Peg usually won.

Peg and Harold were season ticket holders at the County Ground and they used to take Eric Tull who also was a season ticket holder. Eric used to live on the other side of the Webb's family home in the Peak to the Prices and they were very kind to Eric. The Peak was a lovely place to grow up in – the road was a dead end until Reid's Piece was built. Eventually Peg and Harold moved from Reid's Piece to the Peak, living opposite Eric who enjoyed their company at football matches.

Did you know that Peg and Phil were TV personalities – they were on HTV West on their Claim to Fame programme – that's going back a bit. Well could anyone guess what their claim to fame was? I don't think so. Their claim to fame was that they had played football against Tony Hancock and Graham Stark during the war in a charity match, in a ladies football team, which was quite unusual in those days. With the nature of the twins I bet there was a bit of foolhardy play that went on.

After Harold died, Peg was well cared for by family and friends. I have to mention Andrew, her nephew. I would like to say how kind he was to his aunty Peg. Whenever I visited her, she always sang his praises for the things he used to do for her. I think something like that is so reassuring. When Peg was taken into hospital after collapsing it was, I think, the first time she had been into hospital in her life. Sadly she was the last in that line of the Webbs – a marvellous family – to live next door to them as a young boy was an excellent start in life. Goodbye Peg, thanks for all the lovely memories you have left with us.

TONY PRICE

Mr Peter Miles

We have lost a good friend of Age Concern in Pete Miles, although he has been out of circulation for some considerable time through ill health. He has been lovingly cared for at White Lodge Nursing Home, not far from where his roots were in his younger days at Maple Sale Farm, Braydon. I am not saying too much about Pete as a gentleman much more qualified than I am is going to do that – his son Neil.

What I remember most about Pete is his kindness, like when he was a minibus driver – on the surgery runs nine times out of ten he used his own car. What about his memory, especially on sport? Leslie Welch the memory man had nothing on Pete! He was a good conversationalist, if it was a little one sided. The greatest kindness anyone could have shown Pete came from Terry and Jenny when they were at Harford House Stores. They allowed Pete to sit in their shop and chat to people when they came in – I don't know whether it was good for trade or not, but it was very kind.

I can remember when three coaches and two minibuses were going to one of our favourite places for tea on a mystery tour – Withington – and Pete was driving one of the buses. We had eaten our tea and were getting worried as Pete still had not arrived. We went out in the other minibus to look for him and there he was, driving along merrily quite unconcerned. He was about an hour behind us and he had gone off the route I had given him and taken his passengers for a trip round the Ross on Wye area, showing them the farms where he picked up milk when he was driving a milk tanker. It was a long time ago when I first met Pete, playing for Brook House football team at St Mary's School. What a pleasure to have known such a character for so many years.

TONY PRICE

Excerpts from the eulogy given by Neil Miles at the funeral:

Funerals are for showing our love and respect for people as they make their next journey. So that's what I intend to do, even if at times I poke some fun at some of Dad's ways and his character!

Apparently one of Purton's characters, Pete was sociable, loyal, loved sport, hard working, opinionated, knowledgeable, colour blind, scared to death of snakes, been everywhere but should have gone further, I could go on!

Born at Hannington in March 1931, he initially schooled at Blunston, before finishing his education at St Marys, Purton. At 14 he left to work on his father's farm at Maplesale, working there until 1964. For a short while he drove for Hills before working until retirement for the Co-op, collecting milk from around the farms.

My earliest memories of him are watching him play football – not for Purton, he wasn't good enough to play with the other Miles' who graced a Purton side, who he regularly went on to me about – and cricket for the Co-op.

Mum was unwell throughout their married life and with that came plenty of worry. However, he continued to get up early, ensure she was setup and safe, go to work, and then back home to continue his care for her. He was supported by a great set of neighbours who helped him out by keeping an eye on Mum and us.

Amongst all of this worry, he still found time for Jerry, Graham and me. He'd take Jerry to and from the Swindon Youth Orchestra, Graham to and from boarding

school every weekend. He supported them both in any way he could as they studied to get to university. He'd take me to football training week in week out. If anyone saw Dad down or depressed with his life, I'd like to meet them!

He'd take me hunting and shooting. Sometimes due to his work pattern, it would be in the week and the school would get letters to say I'd been unwell again! He was once honest enough to write that I was absent due to going shooting and he got an earful from the deputy head at Bradon Forest at the next parents evening!

He loved his country sports but it nearly cost him his life one day. On one of the family shoots, we were all stood around a large clump of brambles whilst the dogs were sent in to flush out a rabbit. Suddenly one of the guns lets rip at the rabbit! The next noise heard, was Dad screaming that he'd been shot! A stray pellet had ricocheted off the stony ground and had hit him in the leg! Laughter erupted as he taught me more swear words whilst dropping his trousers to assess the damage!

At 3 am on a Saturday, he'd drive to London with a load of milk, race home in time to get me and him to football. He told me of the night Don Rogers, took Bobby Moore to the cleaners in the FA Cup in 67 and the 69 Cup Final.

He'd take Graham and me into Swindon to play tennis on the grass courts on the odd summer evening. It always ended up in an argument over a disputed line call! He liked darts, playing for Purton's pub teams in both his younger and later years.

The early morning wake up calls to help him bump start the van down Waite Meads Close! I'm sure everyone at the top end of the village could hear him swearing about British made rubbish!

Now there is an irony. He travelled thousands of miles over the years but he never left the country!

How I wish he'd taken up the offers to visit America and Jamaica to see his cousins. Too afraid to fly! He used to bang on about Australia being a great country and how he'd like to go there. How he thought he'd get there I haven't a clue, wouldn't fly and couldn't swim so going by boat was out the question too!

No matter where we went, he'd find someone to talk to!

Frank Brown, told me this story. He said he offered Dad a lift home from The Red House one night. Having pulled up outside number 19, Dad held Frank up for about 15 minutes. Dad talked, Frank listened. When he finally got out the car, he continued to talk to Frank whilst he tried to reverse and drive down the street! Apparently, he was almost at the bottom of Waite Meads before he escaped Dads verbal grasp!

John Miles would test Dads incredible memory with questions like "Who won the Derby in 1935 or the FA Cup in 1936?" The answer would include like name of the horse, jockey, weight, goal scorer, manager etc.

He liked boxing and racing. He sang the praises of great jockeys like Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggott, and John Francombe. He was also adamant that the sportsman of his generation were far superior to any in mine.

He had a short fuse at times! He wasn't pleased when for the second time in about 6 weeks; I'd reversed my Cortina into another car and had another hefty bill to pay! It was a case of listen to the music for 15 minutes before he'd ask how much I needed to borrow!

After Mum passed away and he'd retired, he continued to use his driving skills

by driving the Age Concern Bus in the village. This was another chance to chat but also give a little back to the village that had supported him and Mum.

Dad married Gwen and they shared happy years before he suffered a slow yet steady decline in his health.

Dad's favourite times were spent with his lifetime friend Eric. The two of them reminisced about their times together as kids. They went back in time by sparring and wrestling with each other.

Having lifelong friends was one of Dad's greatest loves. He still had friends from schooldays and work visiting him at the end of his life.

Terry and Jenny at the shop in the square hired him as entertainment for the customers in his later years. He had his own chair and spent hours most days meeting, greeting and holding everyone up who came in.

We all had our ups and downs with him. He was always right! It's only now as I grow older that I realise he was ... most of the time. There is no substitute for experience!

The countryside is in the Miles' blood. I believe he had the best of both worlds. His job allowed him to keep in touch with his roots and the things he loved in life. He was never happier than when in the company of friends talking about the events of the day, times gone by or the telling his latest tale! He enjoyed life regardless of what else was going on, that could or should have affected him.

He said to me on more than one occasion, he'd be taking his cheque book with him when he went, just in case he had to pay to get in.

There is no need, everyone loves a character, and they'll have the gates open waiting for you.

Thanks for everything Dad! Rest in Peace – you've earned it!

NEIL MILES

The Cottage

I thought I'd send some photos for inclusion for the Magazine. My daughter Sophie took them and has put them on Facebook too. A few responses so far; all sad.

We used to live next door in the first house on Peartree Close. I'd been in the cottage a couple of times and it is such a shame it is not being renovated. They say it is past recovery, but somehow I think it was always destined to be removed. We were the "first" house, but we were numbered 11.

(The top picture comes from *Purton's Past*, the Purton History book.)

ANDY ENTWISTLE



Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

If and when you have read the Age Concern article in this month's magazine on [page 8](#), it will not surprise you to learn that 10 years ago they

celebrated their 40th birthday. It was another sit down party in the Village Hall with entertainment from Swindon Brass. There was also a huge cake – enough to cut into 900 pieces – as well as shortbread biscuits for the same number. This year there was another party, another cake and another concert with the Chedworth Brass band.

10 years ago, Purton Football club were undefeated and top of their league, and a recent league match against local rivals Shrivenham attracted a huge crowd of 203 spectators at the Red House pitch. Whilst the Reserve team was 'only' second in their league, the "B", under 15 and under 10 teams were each top of their respective leagues – something that might not have happened since.

"The Last Supper" painting was returned to the reredos in St Mary's church following its theft in 1994. Four years later it had been found in the possession of an art thief in Florida but in such a poor condition that it took almost 5 years to restore it to the glorious condition it is still in today. The painting is by the Flemish artist Jacob Jordaens (or by a pupil of his) and dates back to around 1655. It was given to St Mary's church in 1782 by the Countess of Shaftesbury, and that family had long associations with Purton from the early 17th century right up to the early 20th century. At one stage the family even had the right to choose the vicar – an interesting thought as, 10 years ago, the parish was awaiting the induction of our then new vicar, Jane Haslam.

10 years ago there was a very good response to the Parish Council's request for people to sponsor kissing gates at £110 each and there were plans for seven gates to be erected. It proved to be a popular project, especially as kissing gates make it so much easier for people to gain access to the rights of way in the Parish.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Pantomime this year; audiences were down on previous years and this may have been due to the weather putting people off. This year, in lieu of a licence fee, we shall be making a donation to Cancer Research.

We are not putting on a spring play this year as we had the Church Murder Night in March, and will be putting on sketches as part of the War Commemoration in conjunction with Purton Historical Society, in September.

If you want to be involved please contact Lindsey 771890 or Sue 772581.



Church Floodlighting

With thanks to those who have sponsored floodlighting of St Mary's Church.



- 16 March St Mary's Church was floodlit in loving memory of **Margaret Joan Wells**.
The Wells family
- 19 March St Mary's Church was floodlit in memory of **Bob Totterdell** who passed away 5 years ago. Loved always Jean and family
- 21 March St Mary's Church was floodlit in loving memory of **Charles James Wells**.
The Wells family
- 27 March St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Norman Mills** on the 1st anniversary of his death on 27 March.
Always in our hearts and thoughts.
Love Mary, Karen, Garry, Tim, Sonia and family.
- 29 March St Mary's was floodlit for **Dominic Tovey**.
Miss you as much today as three years ago when you were taken away.
All our love, Mum, Dad, Leah, family and friends.
- 20 April St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate **Easter Day**.
ALLELUIA, He is Risen. Happy Easter to all in Purton.

Floodlighting contact: [Sandra Horsnall](#).

If the lights don't work, for any reason, we offer apologies and, of course, another floodlit evening for free, or your money back.

These things happen occasionally and it is really disappointing for all concerned. We can only try our best.

We Record ...

Funeral:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 17 February | Joyce Mary Ockwell at St Mary's Church |
| 26 February | Peter Miles at St Mary's Church |
| 7 March | Carol Patricia Ann Webb at St Mary's Church |



To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on [page 4](#). We are happy to include births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays and anniversaries, exam successes ...

In Touch Services

Contrary to much rumour round the village, [In Touch Services](#) is **not** closing or moving. The lease on the shop premises is ongoing.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours: Clutter, Gardens and Repairs!

There always seem to be jobs to do in and around the house, whether it's tidying the garden, house maintenance or de-cluttering. Are you dreading the arrival of spring and all it entails with tidying up the garden?



Finding a trustworthy and reliable tradesperson to help with these tasks isn't always easy. Where do you look? There are hundreds of tradespeople listed in phone directory, but who are they? Are they reliable? Are they trustworthy?

Some answers may be:

- Use someone who comes recommended by family, friends or a local group.
- Age UK and Wiltshire Council have trusted traders lists. I can give you details.
- Ask for references or evidence of previous jobs they have completed.
- Make sure they provide a business or home address and phone number to contact them, not just a mobile phone number.
- Don't respond to people who casually offer services at your door step – they may not be genuine.

If you're de-cluttering your home or replacing large items of furniture etc, disposal can be a problem. It won't necessarily fit into your recycle bins!

'Freecycle' is a free online service where you can advertise and give away your unwanted items and the items are collected by the recipient.

There are a number of independent agencies that can carry out repairs to the home inside and out. They and will remove large items of furniture from your home for a small charge.

Wiltshire Council will remove large furniture items from your doorstep for a fee, reduced if you are on means tested benefits.

'Waste Not Want Not' will collect large items of furniture that can be resold in their Chippenham shop. They don't charge for collection.

Dorothy House and British Heart Foundation have a free collection service for most furniture and electrical goods which they will sell in their high street shops.

If you need further information on any of the above, or information on any other matter, give me a call on 07557 110414 or you can email rwbrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk

ELLEN BLACKER, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator

Silver Threads Over-60's Club *(Male & Female)*

Why not come along and meet us? You never know, you might even like us!

We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday between 2 and 4 pm at the Silver Threads Hall, with very pleasant company, entertainment, a 'cuppa' and homemade cake ... plus the Minibus to fetch you and return you home for just a small charge. What more can you ask for?

Do come along and see for yourself. If you telephone me, Pauline Ward (Secretary) on 770251, I can tell you all you want to know.

Look forward to hearing from you.

PAULINE, Secretary

PURTON POSTBAG

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 those details may be withheld from being published if so requested.



■ THANK YOU CARING HANDS

After long term ill health and several falls, we as a family realised we could no longer support our mother of ninety-two years of age in her own home. It became evident that she needed the facilities that a care home could provide.

Fortunately Vicki Fowler - Caring Hands (Wiltshire) - who had previously assisted with home care for our mother, had just opened Caring Hands residential unit. She was able to accommodate our mother and cater for her needs.

We would like to thank Vicki and staff for providing an exceptional and professional Home. When one says home, it is a home from home where individual needs are catered for and individuals are treated with the utmost dignity.

Unfortunately our mother recently passed away, but we can honestly say she enjoyed her time at Battle Lake Farm being able to watch ducks, chickens (having three of her own chickens also being well looked after on site) as well as the rest of the farm animals and wildlife that surrounds the farm.

Knowing she was so well looked after, and as a family always being welcomed by Vicki and staff, took a great weight off of the family. Seeing our mother so happy and being treated so well leads us to saying a great big THANK-YOU to Vicki and staff from all of Edna Kilminster's family.

Derek Downs

■ LITTER PICK

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave up their time on Sunday 23 February to take part in a litter pick in Purton. In a little under two hours we removed 8 full bin bags of litter from between The Royal George and the Vets. I am really pleased with the result as it has made a visible difference to our beautiful village and I look forward to organizing something similar next year.

John Cuthbert

■ A WONDERFUL PARTY

Congratulations to Age Concern on your 50th year of care to Purton People.

What a wonderful evening we had from the moment we set through the door – the hall was decorated so wonderfully. What a welcome we had. The food was very good, and served so well, and then we could all have a drink. A wonderful meal, a lot of hard work by you all. We were entertained by the Chedworth Band, and then we had speeches and a Toast to Age Concern and all the workers.

What a wonderful cake. It was a shame to cut it, but the champagne helped encourage us.

Thank you to all for all your hard work and dedication, and yes Tony, it was nice to see the young ones there helping. Do we really realize how lucky we are in Purton? We have lived here 14 years but are still amazed at the care and kindness we receive. Thank you every one of you.

Rose & John Stump

Thank you, everyone at Purton Age Concern for organizing the celebratory 50th Anniversary party. Tony Price was disappointed that some people didn't arrive even though they had accepted the invitation but I'm not sure many more guests would have been able to squeeze into the packed hall! Everyone involved did a fantastic job, from the decorations to the ploughman's supper and enormous birthday cake. As always, the Chedworth Band provided nostalgic music throughout the evening, and enthusiastic guests were invited to sing along for their supper. The anniversary porcelain mugs received earlier from street wardens were an unexpected memento of the occasion and underlined how fortunate Purton is to have such a very special branch of Age Concern!

J Ririe

After attending the Age Concern Anniversary Concert I would be amazed if anyone came away feeling nothing but praise for all of the organisers etc, who were involved in putting this on. It showed that Purton Age Concern is pretty unequalled within similar organisations in this country. My opinion on this is based upon speaking to relatives and friends in different parts of the country who recognise certain deficiencies in their own areas.

As for the concert, the organisation was beyond my expectations. I didn't expect the layout of the tables, the food that was excellently prepared by a hard working team, the free drinks and the excellent programme, including excellent solos, by Chedworth Silver Band, even though the Musical Director had to speak over the obvious enthusiasm within the hall due to the microphone failure.

To cater for and feed so many

people and to add a waitress-waiter service to enable people to order their drinks was excellent.

To conclude, my wife and I would like to offer our personal thanks to the organisers for this brilliant night. We also know that we aren't alone in this thought.

Chris Glead

■ PRIDE IN PURTON

Having just read March's Purton magazine, I completely agree the disrespect dog walkers have for the environment and residents is shocking. The dog faeces is getting worse.

The observations about having more pride in the appearance of Purton are also very true. Front gardens used as scrap yards and residents parking on front lawns.

I think that we should start making simple improvements to our high street first. Businesses should set a good example, there was a lost opportunity with the revamp of Best One shop; it could have looked more quaint village like, instead we have a horrid electric blue colour which is not in keeping with the surroundings. The sofa dumped outside the Angel pub for months is another example of the current culture our village seems to have.

Perhaps the Purton Open Gardens and Gardeners' Guild could join forces and make the High Street more pretty, implementing Purton in bloom. Cricklade in Bloom have made their High Street lovely.

If a real effort was made on the high street, surely this will have a ripple effect and residents might start to tidy up their own front gardens and have more respect for public areas. Our village could be pretty, quaint and attractive with a little effort from us.

Name & Address supplied

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Given that our thoughts were straying to spring and the onset of the gardening year our speaker's topic for our February meeting could not have been better. Roger Umpelby who is a part-time lecturer at Pershore College, joined us to speak on the subject of '*War in the vegetable garden: dealing with pests and diseases*'.

So 'What are garden pests?' As a professional entomologist and horticulturalist, Roger views them as marvels of evolution. In the countryside we would accept them as part of the environment. However when it comes to our gardens and allotments we consider them to be malicious nuisances. Unfortunately pests and diseases find vegetables as appetising as we do! Ensuring crops grow strong and healthy in good soil and aren't stressed by lack of water and have the correct nutrients will prevent attacks. Some problems are crop specific, while others will affect many types of vegetables.

So how do we control them?

Control varies from problem to problem but by identifying the problem quickly and dealing with it immediately will prevent it getting out of hand. Crop rotation for example helps prevent the build-up of soil-borne pests and diseases. Covering plants with fleece (before pests attack), will prevent insects, plants and birds reaching the plants. This is how many growers produce carrot fly-free carrots and cabbage root-fly free brassicas.

However In extreme cases it may be necessary to resort to the use of a chemical or organic pesticide treatment.

By introducing some cultural and physical controls into our gardening Roger explained that we can often reduce infestations without the use of chemicals.

Cultural and Physical controls include:

- Controlling the use of fertiliser – high nitrogen fertilisers can produce soft, leafy growth that is more prone to attack.
- Collecting and killing by hand.
- Tidying up plant material to prevent the development of spores.
- Crop rotation - Adjusting the sowing date to avoid the time when specific pests are active.
- Physical exclusion – using fleece and mesh.
- Companion planting.
- Using pheromone traps. These are open ended delta shaped traps with a sticky bottom plate. A capsule imitating the sex pheromone of the moth or fly you are wanting to control is placed on the bottom plate. The male, enticed by the scent, sticks to the base and dies. As a result fewer males results in fewer eggs being fertilised and thus the number of pests is substantially reduced.
- Using sticky traps to catch whitefly.
- Using other types of traps such as water and beer to trap slugs.

For the remainder of his talk, Roger focussed on some of our most common pest problems.

- Broad Beans – These are fairly trouble free with the exception of attack by black

fly. They enjoy the young growth high in nutrients so pinching out the tops is the best method of control.

- Peas – Pheromone traps are the best way of controlling the pea moth which is only on the wing during June.
- Runner Beans – Sequential sowing of beans using fleece early and late season protects against pests. The fleece prevents the aphids from attacking the crops and the environment is kept warmer. However it also keeps out bees which are beneficial to the plants.
- Brassicas – Cabbage root fly, Brassica whitefly and caterpillars all pose a threat to brassicas. Growing under fleece can help. Netting to prevent butterflies laying their eggs on the leaves in the first instance and then picking them off and squeezing them (yuk) can be effective control. If this is unsuccessful then resorting to pesticides is the only alternative.

Basically we should keep things tidy and be kind to nature by encouraging naturally occurring predators such as earwigs, ladybirds, wasps, frogs and toads.

Diana Thombs kindly offered a vote of thanks for Roger's informative and humorous account of what for most of us is 'war in the vegetable garden'.

So armed with the knowledge let the battle begin!

Congratulations to our competition winners – 1st Janice Simpkins and 2nd Jill Herbert.

Our next meeting will be on 22 April at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall when Victoria Logue will be joining us. Her subject will be 'Extending the season in your garden'.

The competition will be 'An Easter Bonnet', a chance for everyone to show off their skills.

LINDA ROBERTS (Chair) & MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)

Purton Open Gardens 2014

Enthusiastic local self-professed gardeners will be opening up during the week-end of 5-6 July for the benefit of local charities. If anyone can suggest worthy beneficiaries/organizations to which money can be donated, please contact in writing:

Nick Yerbury the.yerburys@btinternet.com

Brigitte Wilkinson brigitte.wilkinson@virgin.net

More participants are welcome; contact the above with any queries.

Purton House Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 12 April

Come and celebrate the arrival of spring with us on the farm, and the kids can join in our eggs-citing Easter egg hunt! Our Farm Shop will be open 9 am - 4 pm as usual and bursting with local goodies and treats; plus there will be farm and woodland walks to explore, animals to meet (the chickens and pigs are particularly inquisitive), and hot drinks, snacks, lunches and cakes to enjoy. **Entry is free; see you there!**



Purton Diary - April 2014

1	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
2	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
		10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children (every 1 st Wed)
		11.45am	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
3	Th	10.30am	Communion at the vicarage
5	Sa	1.30pm	to 4pm: Easter Fayre ay Village Hall (for Pregnancy Choices)
6	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		8.00pm	After 8: "Eating Right for your Type" - led by Janet at her house
9	W	11.45am	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
		2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Andrew Steel on Mission Aviation Fellowship.
10	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
11	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Age Concern 3 Bs evening (bingo, bangers and beans), Silver Threads Hall
12	Sa	9.00am	to 4pm: Purton House Easter Egg Hunt
13	Su		Palm Sunday
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	United Procession from Library, for ...
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
14	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
15	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>The Merrifolk Group</i>
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
16	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: <i>Resolutions Meeting</i>
17	Th	7.30pm	Communion & stripping of the altars at St Mary's Church
18	F		Good Friday
		10.00am	Walk of witness from at lay-by, bottom of College Road
		2.00pm	Hour at cross at St Mary's Church
19	Sa	9.30am	to 12 noon: Age Concern Easter market stall outside the Pavenhill shops
20	Su		Easter Sunday
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion for Easter at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Family Communion at St Mary's Church

		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
21	M		Easter Monday Bank Holiday
22	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Victoria Logue - <i>Extending the Season in your Garden</i>
23	F	3.30pm	Communion at The Cedars
24	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Steve Bridge - <i>History of Wiltshire Constabulary</i>
25	F	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee Morning, 18 Church Path (for Jubilee Gdns)
		7.30pm	World Challenge Pop Quiz, Village Hall
26	Sa	8.30pm	Race Night at Red House (Cricket Club)

27	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
28	M		
29	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club AGM

May

7	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery tour with tea provided
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Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	11.15am	<i>to 1pm:</i> New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm:</i> Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Moon Phases

☾ 7 April
○ 15 April
◐ 22 April
● 29 April

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
 Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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To make the best use of available space, we ask that contributions are written concisely and reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements.

Advertisements are accepted in good faith and their inclusion does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.

Purton & District Guide Dogs



The only activity to report on is when I helped out at the Swindon Branch collecting day at Asda West Swindon, as the Branch Trading Secretary (a job I got by secondment when the previous one died). I operated the Trading Goods Stall, which you set out on the Barrow opposite the entrance to *Martins* and I took £39.11 in sales. As well as collecting they were also having a Promotion to try and recruit Puppy Walkers and Dog Boarders, as a result of which it got a little congested in the area.

The Purton Support Group will be having an Exhibition in Purton Museum starting on Saturday 3 May following on from the current Age Concern exhibition. One of our group members will be on duty on the days that the Museum is open.

Many thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Guide Dogs for the Blind - Purton Support Group

33 Years: 1981 to 2014

The Purton Support group was formed by a small group chatting outside the Post Office. We discussed how we could help our friend Diana Davies who was blind and decided to support a charity to help blind people by raising funds through Table Top sales, Jumble Sales and Raffles, and Band concerts mainly by Cricklade Town Band.

Brian Davies and Diana, Jenny Barnes, Sue Matthews, Pam Selby from Cricklade and myself and Doreen Freegard, would form a Group to raise funds to pay for a puppy to be trained as a Guide Dog. This training would take 18 months before a blind person would become the owner of the dog. Training cost £2,500 at that time We were joined later by Doreen Tuck and Val Archer. After Diana died Brian married Val so we decided to carry on with the support.

We started out to buy a dog. It proved so successful that we decided to raise funds to buy a second. Each dog was named and for each one we were given a framed photograph of the dog that we had helped to provide for another unsighted person.

We continued until we had raised the funds for 14 Guide Dogs. After Val died we carried on and are now on the way to our 15th Guide Dog for the Blind. The framed photographs were hung in the foyer of the Village Hall until it was refurbished. They will be on display in the exhibition in the Museum from May until June.

Please come along and see the Guide Dog exhibition. All of the dogs have been paid for by the people of Purton and the surrounding area. You will learn much more about our Group. We are still raising funds to buy another dog, but it takes longer now as the cost has risen to £5,000 for each puppy.

The exhibition will open on Saturday 3 May and will be open each Saturday from 10 am until 1 pm and on Wednesdays from 2 pm until 5 pm.

DOREEN FREEGARD

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 25 April from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Carnival News



If you missed the Pre-Carnival Bingo on 27 March at the Silver Threads, fear not! That was only the first of 3 this year. On Wednesday 25 June and Wednesday 24 September, Mr John Lilly will be calling and helping us run proceedings with cash prizes. Why not come and have a go?

- New Event: Sunday 20 April (Easter Sunday) 2.30 pm Children's Easter Egg Hunt, at the Redhouse Play park. With eggs decorated by Purton under 5's and Playclose Preschool this should be a fun event.

£2 per child, every child gets a prize with bigger prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd.

- Calling all pubs, clubs and organisations in and around Purton. Enter a float or working group in this year's Carnival. It's a fun event – the theme is "Christmas". If you need any help or ideas please contact us.

- Pig Roast twist! This year as well as serving pork, stuffing and apple sauce we will also be serving turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce in addition to burgers and hotdogs.

If you would like to help marshal or run an event please contact me Kevin@PurtonCarnival.co.uk 07768456989

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Full Programme:

- Sat 21 June 5 A Side Football, Bradon Forest Field 10 am
- Sat 21 June Pig / Turkey Roast & BBQ, Angel Pub 4 pm
- Sun 22 June Festive Fun Run, Village Hall Car Park 11.30 am
- Mon 23 June Man v's Food, Angel Pub 7.30 pm
- Tue 24 June Teddy Bears Picnic, Purton Club 1 pm
- Tue 24 June Carnival Quiz, Purton Club 7.30 pm
- Wed 25 June Carnival Bingo, Silver Threads Hall 7.30 pm
- Wed 25 June Carnival Crib, Angel Pub 7.30 pm
- Fri 27 June Carnival Lunch, Silver Threads Hall 12 noon
- Sat 28 June Carnival Fete, Bradon Forest Field 12 -6 pm
- Sat 28 June Carnival Procession through Purton 1 pm

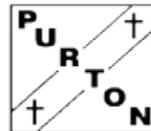
Post-Carnival Events:

- Sun 7 Sept Post-Carnival Golf Cricklade Hotel 10 am
- Wed 24 Sept Post-Carnival Bingo Silver Threads Hall 7.30 pm

Community Café

A few months ago you may have completed a survey about whether you would like to have a community café in Purton and what you would want in it. A significant amount of interest was shown and a group of people have been investigating venues, funding, putting together a business plan and numerous other aspects involved in starting a business! This all takes time but we hope to be able to give you a full update next month. Watch this space as they say, but if in the meantime you would like to get involved please contact [Dave or Mary](#)

Purton Churches Together



An Easter Message

Because of the need to go to print early I am writing this Easter message and yet I have only just begun my journey into Lent. Pancakes are behind me and many days of denial lie ahead and I am wondering if knowing the outcome of Easter will spoil the way I make my way to the cross and the empty tomb. A bit like sitting down to re-watch a well-loved movie and knowing the ending even before you switch on the DVD. Then again, according to Mark's gospel, the disciples were told on three occasions during their journey to Jerusalem of the inevitability and necessity of Christ's suffering and his death and the promise of his resurrection. Jesus certainly wanted them to know the ending of his story. So were they prepared for what happened? No! They went to a tomb to anoint a body not to welcome a risen saviour. So despite being told, despite knowing the outcome how did they make their 'Lenten' journey to Jerusalem? With questions and bewilderment. If suffering and death were on the agenda, then where was God in all this? "Show us the Father and we shall be satisfied," said Philip and even Peter tried to persuade Jesus from his chosen course and earned the most cutting rebuke in the Bible – "Get behind me satan". Having been told the ending they still didn't grasp its implications as the story unfolded before them.

For anyone who is journeying through life, faith questions are never far from our lips. "Where is God when we want Him?" "What is He doing?" "Why doesn't He do something else?" "How can a God of love be in the middle of this suffering?" Even as a clergyman with over 30 years of ministry under my belt, I have asked such things, at the bedside of the suffering, at the graveside of friends and family. Have I found answers? Yes. Easter is God's answer to my questions about His apparent absence in the mess of life. As a Christian I have come to believe and recognize that God is uniquely present in Jesus of Nazareth. Therefore I cannot watch Jesus go to a cross for me, nor be raised by God, and somehow come to the conclusion that God is excluded from the most critical moments of existence. The unjust suffering, Jesus humbly, silently bears, serves to silence my complaints and humbles me. God raising him to life, has come to mean for me, that living is precious and that life has now a different, richer, fuller meaning. And death? Well it can never be seen in the same way again. Given the nature of our fragile existence, death is the logical end for our mortal bodies but not for that which is essentially us.

Please come and share in the Church Services this Easter. They will be opportunities for serious reflection and Godly hope.

On behalf of Churches Together in Purton,

Rev DAVID PERKINS, Methodist Minister

Lent Lunches

Every Wednesday until 9 April inclusive.

11.45 - 1.00 pm at Purton Methodist Church.

All proceeds to Tear Fund and Water Aid.

Flowers in St Mary's Church for Easter Day

If you would like to provide any flowers in Church ready for the Easter Day services, please do bring them along during the morning of Saturday 19 April. We are inviting everyone in the village to share in decorating the Church, preferably with yellow or white flowers, with greenery to suit.

Bring along an arrangement already made; or bring a bunch of flowers and we'll help you to arrange them! If you would like to attach a small card, to say who brought them and why, then that would be very acceptable too.

These flowers can be as a memorial to a loved one, as a celebration of an anniversary, or just as a way of making St Mary's look even more beautiful on the most important day in the life of the church.

For more details please contact [Libbie](#).

Calling all Volunteers: for Christian Aid Week: May 11 - 18

We are desperately in need of your help! ... please.

We need as many volunteers as possible, to come and help us with Christian Aid week this year.



In the March magazine we wrote, in detail, about the various activities that are being planned. As you can see it is going to be a busy week, as usual.

So, what we are now looking for is help at various activities including:

- Agreeing to do the abseil 'Jump for Justice' at Cricklade Church 'Fun Day Out' on 11 May;
- Sponsoring an abseiler. Each one needs to raise at least £200;
- Coming and joining in the fun at Cricklade Church ... and bring your teddy bear too for the Parachute Drop;
- Making cakes and scones for the Cream Teas on 11 May;
- Distributing the envelopes around one or two streets at the beginning of the week;
- Coming to the Curry Night at The Maharajah on Tuesday 13 May;
- Collecting the envelopes up at the end of the week (if you are over 18 years old).

If you would like any more information or can offer any help please do contact [Mary](#); [Libbie](#); or [Sandra](#).

Stop press . . . The Christian Aid Quiz will be out on 6 April.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Dogridge, Orchard Gardens, Waterfield, Ringsbury Close and Restrop View*.

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.



Purton Historical Society



The History of Money

At the monthly meeting on Thursday 27 February, Geoffrey Tappern gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the History of Money. The presentation covered bartering, early use of shells for trading and the first use of coinage in the ancient world. Examples of different coins through the ages were shown. The presentation went on to cover modern monetary systems, right up to the present day with use of credit/debit cards and Internet banking.

Next Meeting - Thursday 24 April 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

History of Wiltshire Constabulary - Retired Police Inspector, Steve Bridge

When we consider significant milestones in the history of policing we may not immediately think of Wiltshire. Wiltshire Constabulary, however, has the distinction of being the first county police force to be formed under the County Constabulary Act of 1839. Retired Inspector Steve Bridge presents a talk on the early years of policing addressing the question of why Wiltshire and detailing the work of those first police officers.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Wiltshire Local History Forum - Spring Conference & AGM

Saturday 12 April 2014

Bromham Village Social Centre 10.00 am - 4 pm Fee - £7.00

Societies in Action

This will be the fourth time historical societies from all over the county have been invited to participate and the PHS has been represented on each occasion. In 2010 we reported on "The First Fifty Years" celebrating the formation of the society in 1961.

This year it has been suggested that we describe every stage of our Nevil Maskelyne project, beginning with the application for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the final act of installing the memorial plaque in St Mary's Churchyard. David Sweet is preparing an illustrated presentation which he will deliver, assisted by one or two other members who were also involved with organizing the events that took place in 2011 and 2012. During the day ten groups are taking part, covering a wide range of interesting topics, so we are challenged to be concise and informative in the twenty minutes allocated to each society on 12 April.

TONY & JAN NEATE
tjneate57@gmail.com

Purton Museum Opening Hours

The Museum is now open again on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm and we will resume our Wednesday openings on 16 April from 2 pm until 5 pm.

Purton Age Concern have a display of photographs and memorabilia, to celebrate the date of their 50 year anniversary. This exhibition will continue until the end of April.

Purton Guide Dogs will follow on from Age Concern with a display during the months of May and June. The Museum will then be concerned with preparations for the exhibition to commemorate the start of World War 1.

JAN WALKER, Curator

Great War Project

Part 9. The State of the World - January 1914

- **Britain:** On the death of Edward VII, his son George V of the house of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, ascended the British throne on 6 May 1910. In January 1914, the Prime Minister was Herbert Asquith and the Secretary of State for War was John Seely, 1st Baron Mottistone.

Irish Home Rule was high on the British political agenda with a Bill due to become law in 1914. The Curragh Mutiny of the Ulster Volunteers, occurred at the main British Army base in Kildare, Ireland (then still part of the United Kingdom) in protest against the idea of Home Rule. The Cabinet considered military action against the Volunteers and many officers threatened to resign rather than obey.

The Cabinet claimed the issue was a misunderstanding, but Seely and Sir John French, who was Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS, Head of the Army), were forced to resign. Seely was replaced by Asquith himself, taking on a dual role, and General Sir Charles Douglas became CIGS.

The campaign for votes for women was an ever-present issue with both the Suffragists and the more radical Suffragettes much in the news. Suffragettes chained themselves to railings, set fire to post boxes and their contents, smashed windows and even set off bombs. Arrest led to hunger strikes and to force-feeding. One of their members, Emily Davison, died under the King's horse, Anmer at the Epsom Derby on 4 June 1913 trying to pin a "Vote for Women" banner onto the King's horse as it galloped past.

Britain had the largest empire the world had ever known and it could truly be said "upon which the sun never set" as it occupied almost every time zone around the world. Much of the empire was based on trade and colonisation rather than military power. Although the Royal Navy was the most powerful force in the world, militarisation by other powers, especially Germany, was a growing concern.

- **France:** Under President Raymond Poincaré and Prime Minister Gaston Doumergue, the Third Republic also had a major overseas empire particularly in Africa and southeast Asia. Her navy, based in Toulon, was able to concentrate its strength in the Mediterranean while Britain looked after French interests in the Channel under the terms of the Entente Cordiale. However, France's main concern was with her neighbour Germany. Still smarting under the terms of the treaty that ended the 1870 Franco-Prussian war, France saw every move by Germany as aimed against her.

- **Germany:** The Second Reich under Kaiser Wilhelm II and Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg saw Germany as being surrounded by ill-wishers with France to the west and Russia to the east already in alliance against Germany and Austro-Hungary. Germany was a land-based European power and was very aware that during the 18th and 19th centuries the British, French, Belgians, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish had carved up a lot of the world between them, although

Spain was on the decline and had lost most of her former colonies.

Germany came rather late to this land-grab, mainly because Germany had only just emerged, but it soon made its mark in German East Africa (formed 1880); German South West Africa; Togo; Cameroon; German New Guinea and German Samoa. But everyone had a finger in the pie of China and Germany gained some strategic territories there, especially Kiaochow (Jiaozhou) with its main city and port Tsingtau (Qingdao).

At the start of 1914, the German Ambassador to Britain was Prince Karl Max Fürst von Lichnowsky.

- **Austria-Hungary** under Emperor Franz Joseph and Joint Foreign Minister Count Leopold Berchtold was firmly a European power with no overseas interests at all. With many different ethnic peoples within its borders, it had recently acquired Bosnia-Herzegovina from a declining Turkey and had ambitions even further in the Balkans.
- **Italy** had been unified only recently under the campaigns of Garibaldi. France still had control over parts of the Italian peninsula, especially Rome, until the time of the Franco-Prussian war when Napoleon III was forced to recall his garrison from Rome to protect Paris (1871). Under King Vittorio Emanuele III (crowned 1869) and Prime Minister Giovanni Giolitti, Italy had entered the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria in 1882.
- **The Russian Empire:** Tsar Nicholas II and his Prime Minister Vladimir Kokovtsov were still coming to terms with the Russian defeat in the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 when most of the Russian naval fleet was obliterated by the Japanese navy in the Tsushima Straits. At home the repercussions from the war were calling for change and revolution had already brought in a short-lived parliament (Duma). Under these circumstances, conflict with Austria in the Balkans was not what anyone in Russia would have wanted.
- **The Ottoman Empire (Turkey)** had been in decline for some time and had lost Cyprus to Britain after 1878, the whole of North Africa to Spain, France, Italy and Britain (reading west to east), and all but a toe-hold in Europe following the Balkan Wars (1912-13). The Arab population of the empire was ready to revolt. No one saw Turkey as a military threat.
- **The United States** had a general policy of isolationism, but that hadn't prevented them intervening in Cuba's War of Independence from Spain (1898) initially to assist Cuban aspirations but later attacking Spain's Pacific empire, leading to the Philippine Revolution and ultimately to the Philippine-American War. By 1914, President Woodrow Wilson and his Secretary of State William J Bryan were still of the isolationist persuasion and it would take a lot to get them involved in anything going on in Europe.

France had begun work on the Panama Canal in 1881 but, after the project collapsed, the United States took over in 1904. A decade later the canal was officially opened on 15 August 1914. This difficult engineering project greatly reduced the amount of time taken for ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and avoided the hazardous Cape Horn route around South America.

• **Alliances & Tensions:** Two major military alliances were set up in Europe: the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy; countered by the Dual Alliance of France and Russia. Britain wasn't in a formal alliance with any of these but had an "understanding" or Entente with France and Russia and an alliance with Japan.

The two Balkan wars had already stuck a stick into the hornet's nest of the area. This was an area where Austria and Russia had territorial ambitions against a weakening Ottoman Empire ... whether the local inhabitants wanted it or not. However, the locals were already at each others' throats.

Morocco had been a major point of tension in 1906 and 1911 but had calmed down in the period up to 1914 as the world powers had agreed who would rule Morocco ... and it wasn't the Moroccans.

Britain and Germany were in an arms race, building bigger and more powerful battleships, larger field guns, more powerful explosives.

At the same time there were major population displacements in progress including refugees from former Turkish lands in the Balkans and émigrés from pogroms, or riots resulting in expulsions, in Russia mainly against Jews but also other minority groups. But anti-Jewish riots also broke out elsewhere in the world. In the United Kingdom, in 1904, the Limerick Pogrom caused many Jews to leave the city. During the 1911 Tredegar Riot in Wales, Jewish homes and businesses were looted and burned over the period of a week, before the British army was called in by Home Secretary Winston Churchill, who described the riot as a "pogrom".

RICK DIXON

First World War Centenary

Wiltshire's Great War Community Event

Preparations continue for Purton's WW1 commemorations. We are waiting to hear from other groups and individuals interested in becoming involved. As events will take place over the next five years there will be opportunities to join in the research at any time.

Please make a note in your diaries of another very important date. On Sunday 7 September PADS will be performing a series of playlets in four locations around the village; Northview, Playclose, the land by the tennis courts adjacent to Church Path and outside the Village Hall – or inside if the weather is inclement! Aspects depicted will be recruitment, the medical officer board, tribunals and enlistment based on real people from local families, residents of Purton who were keen to serve their country in a war that would be "over by Christmas".

This is a major production and the amount of research and commitment demonstrated by PADS is impressive. Many parishioners will be required to support this venture, either as actors or workers to assist the organisers, particularly on the day itself. All ages will be encouraged to take part.

Swindon intends to produce a brochure highlighting all the local commemorative activity and wants details of the initiatives planned by groups and societies in the whole area. This document will be launched on Saturday 28 June 2014.



[JEAN BELT](#)

Hunting Medieval Graffiti in St Mary's Church

On 15 February members of the North Wiltshire Branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club visited St Mary's church to hunt for medieval graffiti carved onto the walls.

The Young Archaeologists' Club is a national organisation for young people aged 8 to 16 which focuses on archaeology, history and heritage, with local Branches around the country that arrange hands-on activities for members. YAC North Wiltshire has been investigating graffiti from the Ice Age to the present day, testing ways to record graffiti and thinking about what it can tell us about people in the past and how they interacted with places and spaces.

Knowing that there is medieval graffiti in St Mary's Church we arranged a visit both to record some of what was known, using the Norfolk Medieval Graffiti Project recording sheets as a basis, and to see if we could find any previously unnoticed examples of graffiti. We succeeded on both counts! Along the way we practiced sketching, tracing, photographing and rubbing carved graffiti. The wet weather meant that we did not work on any of the medieval graffiti on the outside of the church and even inside the cold and poor lighting still made for hard work!

In our search we used a definition of graffiti as: "writing or drawing, scribbled, scratched or sprayed on a surface". This is not necessarily vandalism, in fact most medieval graffiti was left by stonemasons, clerics or laity who had every right to mark the walls of their church; Mass Dials (we know there are 2 or 3 on the South Wall), consecration crosses and so on.

One thing we learned quickly is that it also really helps to have torches when hunting for graffiti, casting a raking light along the stone surfaces to decide if scratches are man-made shapes, natural marks, or marks left by Victorian chisels when the church was re-ordered in the nineteenth century.

In our quest we found medieval graffiti in four main locations inside St Mary's:

All the door arches in the South Porch are covered in medieval graffiti, mainly a range of crosses but also some compass rose signs (which are thought to ward off the devil or evil eye) words, stars, and single letters. Inside the west tower staircase there is a set of masons' marks unique to that area and double-headed arrows on the faces of some of the steps that seem to indicate how the stones should be set to build the spiral staircase. The nave west arch also has its own set of masons' marks and more double-headed arrows. The piers of the central crossing have a range of masons' marks, including variations of the swastika pelta cross and three-legged crosses. The piers also have a special masons' mark, a rectangle with a long equilateral triangle. This looks just like a simple sketch of the church itself, but without the west tower. If our interpretation is correct, this shape would fit the construction dates as the west tower was built later than the central spire.

The kids got stuck in; making rubbings worked quite well, tracings were very effective and drawings useful but sometimes when you are sketching it is difficult to decide exactly which lines are man-made and which are natural or accidental. Photographs were less successful we found, mostly because of the poor lighting; you need to use raking light and a tripod, but we did take a few.

We are sure that there is more medieval graffiti to be found. Our visit was for only two hours and the amount of medieval graffiti recognised far outstripped our ability to record it all – and we simply could not see marks more than about three metres above floor level. On a warmer day and with more time, we think that St Mary's church would make a very interesting project that would contribute to our understanding of medieval graffiti and understanding more of the history and development of the church.

Our members thoroughly enjoyed their visit to St Mary's and we would like to extend a big "thank you" to the church for letting us visit and to Churchwarden David Nettleton for arranging our access on the day.

For more information about the Young Archaeologists' Club, see www.yac-uk.org or contact Katy Whitaker.

Bradon Forest School News www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk



Complete Beginners Community Ceramics Class

Starting Thursday 24 April, 6.30 pm - 9 pm, for six weeks

Learn a variety of new techniques from coiling, slabbing and press moulds to glazing and decoration techniques.

Total course cost: £60 All materials and tuition included.

Keep everything you make - no extra charges!

Please register your interest by calling the school reception on 01793 770570 or by emailing the Arts Manager, Jennifer Purcell, at purcellj@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk

Showing next at the Bradon Forest Theatre:

A tumbleweed silently rolls across the dusty stage ... The clink clink clink of spurs echoes throughout the theatre ... The saloon door opens with a long, drawn-out creak ... The piano player hits a bum note and comes to a stop ... A short, dark stranger lifts the rim of his hat and shoots a steely stare out to the audience ... Welcome ... to Kidneystone ...



This new show, the biggest yet from award-winning internationally touring troupe of clowns Le Navet Bete, promises to take audiences on an interactive, fast-paced journey across the Wild West as the town of Kidneystone is threatened by outlaw and all-round bad guy Loco Pedro who is secretly in cahoots with the Mayor to rob the town's train of all its gold.

Showing at the Bradon Forest Theatre – all are welcome!

Friday 2 May 2014 at 7.30 pm

Tickets: £6 students, £7 adults

Box Office: 01793 773981

A MORRISON, Headteacher

Transforming Purton Parish - Our Economy

The economic life of the parish has been largely agricultural for most of its history. Only during the 20th century has the majority of the workforce come to work off the land, principally in nearby Swindon. The industrial revolution brought engineering to Swindon and a great number of jobs. The local economy still includes light engineering and fabrication. The parish's attractive surroundings and settlements, convenient position near to the A419 and the M4 and close proximity to the larger settlements of Cirencester, Bath and Bristol contribute to its economic activity. The parish economy, itself, is very diverse with a few large employers such as Associated Dental Products [locally known as "The Dental"], Hills Waste Solutions at Mopes Lane and The Peartree at Purton, plus at least 14 farms, a variety of retail outlets, and more than 150 small businesses.

Rural businesses often find themselves constrained by a framework of national legislation that has resulted in a failure to realise the true potential of rural economies. Rural business owners value living and working in the countryside – they can be trusted to look after it. A successful local rural economy provides community cohesion and creates opportunities for people to live and work in the same area helping to create resilient communities which could overcome many of the usual long term problems faced by rural parishes such as limited access to services, poor transport infrastructure or lack of appropriate housing.

Wealth generated by rural entrepreneurs and their use of local resources is a key to the resilience of parishes. So, effort should focus on supporting local businesses through appropriate policies. Small businesses dominate our rural economies. There are more businesses in rural areas (pro rata per head of population) than in urban counterparts. Businesses in rural areas are also smaller, the majority employ fewer than 10 people with self-employment and home-based working a key feature.

The business-rate burden falls disproportionately on small businesses with rates five times more expensive for small businesses as a proportion of turnover than they are for large companies. The burden of businesses rates should be lifted from the rural small business owner.

Rural businesses have the potential to play a huge role in the economy. An urgent priority is to secure the village shops and pubs to ensure that they not only survive but also continue to act as the heart of rural village life for generations to come. A vibrant, diversified rural business community should be encouraged. This means several things need to change:

- Greater, even preferential, use of local businesses;
- Sorting out the parking challenge (scarcity, restricted nature and designations to reduce "blocking" of spaces for long periods during trading hours); and
- Provision of small business units.

In all the Ps and Qs surveys, the Village Appraisal, and the recent Parish Plan the appearance of the Pavenhill Shops comes in for comment. The split ownership of the site creates difficulty for any large scale change, though not insurmountable. It is time for a complete refurbishment.

There is an opportunity for creating something more compelling than just a set of shops. Parking at Pavenhill is steadily worsening. Without a radical solution that

situation will deteriorate. One argument against aspiring to radical change is that it will be difficult to achieve and money will not be available and that goals should not be set too high. Because something is difficult or money is short, is certainly inconvenient though no argument for inactivity. Setting goals too low means problems are simply locked-in for the future and undermines our resilience.

There has to be a better way...?



The solution is radical but parking, a quality shopping experience, additional social housing and an alternative route into Bradon Forest School could re-set the parish for the next 100 years. This will have to be done very carefully and with due consideration to the future shape of Purton. Simply picking a field at random and spreading tarmac over it would be foolhardy. The green space in the parish is a key to the future resilience of the parish as a whole. Having said that, parking, shopping, and traffic will simply worsen – now is the time to set the foundations for the future, even if not the whole deal. A master plan is needed so that short term fixes do not compromise the future. A revitalised Pavenhill corner could re-set buying attitudes. Local buying is a key to developing resilience in the parish.

Also needed is a more flexible business park to allow small businesses to move out of their start-up locations (often homes) into more professional settings where there could be some synergy between businesses. There are no business parks available in the parish which means travel to work, and this is to be discouraged.

Although in its infancy, it is easy to foresee the increasing value of additive manufacturing (otherwise known as 3D printing). This allows physical objects to be “printed” (like an inkjet printer prints onto a page). Even now, both plastic-based and metal mixtures can be printed into various forms. It can be foreseen that the parish in the future will have a 3D manufacturing hub by which a parishioner will select a purchase, the design will be downloaded to the hub, customised (colour, size and so on) and printed ready for collection. Very specific goods could be made to order by tweaking designs with no gain in price since there would be no extra labour costs or losses due to lack of economy of scale.

The *Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan* called for a feasibility study on a Pavenhill Master Plan and to identify a location for a business park.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com and there is a hard copy in Purton Library. If you want to find out the latest on potential housing developments at Bradley’s Meadow (in the far corner of the parish), Restrop Road, and behind Jewel’s Ash, then simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and subscribe to my email alerts.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



More alphabet themes for the Rainbows:

N is for nests, making edible chocolate nests and also heart-shaped baskets for Valentine's Day.

O is for overseas (World Thinking Day), making sunflower pictures as Rainbows in Mexico are called Sunflowers and completing a gold treasure hunt.

P is for Pancake Day (perfectly timed!) tasting scotch pancakes, doing some painting and having a pancake race.

Food is always popular with Guides: they celebrated Pancake Day by making and cooking their own pancakes and continued the foodie theme with sweets. Seven Purton Guides joined ten others from 5th Melksham Guides for a day of sweet fun completing the Confectioner Badge. Macaroons, fudge and peppermint creams were made and biscuits and cakes were iced with glacé, buttercream and royal icing. Everything was then eaten!

The 2014 World Thinking Day Global Action Theme this year was "Together we can achieve Primary Education for All" so with this in mind 2nd Purton Brownies discussed what they would like to be when they are older, how education plays a large role in them achieving their aim and then they acted out their chosen career. Also with this in mind they have been collecting stationery items for a Leader who is going out to Sierra Leone on WRVS project to work in orphanages and schools.

Still on an international theme, 2nd Purton also celebrated the Japanese Doll festival (3 March). They made Japanese dolls, decorated them and then displayed them with the Emperor and Empress at the top. The Guides too went international by celebrating the Winter Olympics in Sochi. They made Olympic rings and marshmallow igloos. However their attempts at ice hockey and curling weren't too successful! They went ice skating at The Link Centre for an authentic experience.

1st Purton Brownies decorated 'happy bags' which they took home to fill with things that made them happy. They brought the bags back to Brownies and shared their contents – common themes were families, friends, pets, holidays/outings – and Brownies!

Amelie, Amelia and Katie made their promise at 1st Purton Brownies whilst Izzy, Rowen and Holly were the hostesses for the evening, organising entertainment and looking after the new Brownies' families.

A large contingent of Brownies, Guides and their Leaders enjoyed a trip to the PADs pantomime, 'Trouble in Fairyland'. There was lots of audience participation, plenty of laughs and it was great to see former Brownies and Guides in the cast.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested To find out more about guiding in the local area do look at www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision

Wise Words

Better to be deprived of food for three days than tea for one.

Chinese proverb

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



A pleasant meeting on the 19 February when Yvonne Lockhard demonstrated the Art of Relaxation – you can pay for being cosseted with Holistic Home Spa Therapies (much the nicest way!) or learn to do it yourself. Not that it bothers me these days, but much of the therapy was suitable for pregnant ladies. Lucky them!

The mere mention of the name “Kate Adie” is enough to make everyone prick up their ears so there was no problem in getting four members to go to Denman on 24 February, to hear her. Small, lively and attractively white-haired, Kate gave a brilliant talk on the position of women in this country from pre-1914 until now. Younger people probably wonder what all the fuss is about, but when you listen to Kate talking enthusiastically of the advancement of women, you cannot help but greatly admire those who pulled us from the hidden rear up to our proper place, in the front and sharing responsibilities and honours. (Did you know that women were once thought to have smaller brains than men? Grrrh!) Kate will be taking part in the Swindon Festival of Literature this year, so there will be another opportunity for members to enjoy her talk.

Because of the need to plan programmes well ahead, the valiant Barbara Compton and Jane Smith are already arranging the Programme for 2015/6. It would help them if you would let them have your suggestions for speakers/topics – most of us have been to meetings of other organisations and thought, “I bet our WI would like to hear/see that!”, then time passes and we forget to mention it to the right people.

That applies particularly to Outings. Have you been somewhere enjoyable and not too far from home? – fuel costs are so high nowadays. Please tell anyone on the Committee – it would be so helpful.

Our meeting of 16 April is entitled “Resolutions”, so this will be thinking time and probably the most serious of the year. It also indicates the national importance of the Women’s Institute, of which we are a proud and worthy part. As well as having on your thinking caps. Do brighten the Hall with your competition entries – probably the prettiest of the year – “Spring posy or planter”. Entertainment will be provided by ourselves. And, of course, a new Committee will be taking over – perhaps you will be one of them?

A few WI china cups, saucers and plates are still available – catch them while you can, unless, of course, you are Greek ...

CONSTANCE REED

Shoebox Project 2014

This is in full swing already. We are, at the moment looking out for “own brand” toothpaste, tooth brushes, lead pencils, biros, paper to cut and make into note pads, slides, grips etc for girls’ hair, small colouring dot-to-dot and activity books. This is to help balance up with items we have already received.



Any other items suitable for the boxes, but not listed here, will of course be most welcome. It takes a lot to fill 360 boxes!

Our Fund Raising Day with lunches at 35 High Street is booked for Saturday 27 September.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator

PURTON PLACARD

Groups are invited to submit to the Editor details of forthcoming events in, for and on behalf of our community.

Fund Raising

Easter Fayre

Purton Village Hall

Saturday, 5 April 2014 at 1.30 - 4 pm

Family fun event with children's activities

Crafts, spring bulbs, cakes,

Easter eggs and bunnies

Refreshments plus a Grand Raffle and much more

Come along and join in the fun!

All proceeds to support Pregnancy Choices, Swindon

The Royal British Legion
Purton Branch
Present their

Annual Concert

at Bradon Forest School

Saturday 10 May at 7.30 pm

with The Cricklade Band

and The Big Sing Thing

Tickets £5.00 available from
Legion committee members

or on the door

Raffle and Light Refreshments

PURTON AGE CONCERN
invite you to our

3 B's EVENING

Bingo, Bangers and Beans!

Friday 11 April at the Silver
Threads Hall at 7.30 pm

Tickets £6 to include supper

(available from Ron and Heather
Harris on 770850)

Sorry - no tickets on the door

Buy your bingo tickets on the night

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks

PURTON AGE CONCERN
EASTER MARKET STALL

Outside the Pavenhill shops

on Saturday 19 April

9.30 am to 12 noon

with tasting of Andrew's famous
sausages!

Lots of bargains, cakes, produce
etc.

and an Easter raffle

Purton Age Concern
MYSTERY TOUR

Wednesday 2 April

10 am start

Cost £13.00 including lunch

Come and join us for

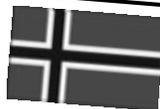
a tour of the countryside

and a delicious lunch
among friends

World Challenge

Pop Quiz

Norway 2014



at Purton Village Hall

Friday 25 April, 7.30 pm

£6 per person (includes hot supper)

Max 6 per team

For tickets and info contact

Tracy 771182 or Julie 770168

Coffee Morning

Friday 25 April

10 am - Noon

18 Church Path

Raffle, Books, Cakes etc

Proceeds to Jubilee Gardens

Jubilee Gardens Open Day

Saturday 24 May from 10 am to 3 pm
Sale of bedding plants, hanging baskets and
much more.

Orders for hanging baskets also taken in
advance

Refreshments

Raffle and tombola

Free admission

Jubilee Gardens; Church Bush Hall,
Cricklade Road, Purton Stoke.

Jim & Ellen Baker

of Reids Piece



Congratulations on your
50th Wedding Anniversary
14th March

Love from Maureen, Brian,
Gary, Nicola, Ellie & Grace

Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society

Spring Concert at 7.30 pm on Monday 31 March at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Royal Wootton Bassett.

The concert will include Haydn Missa Brevis, Bach Chorales, many popular choral works and performances by guests Wentworth Voices and Westlecot Players.

Free Admission with a retiring collection.

On The Lighter Side

What's my Line

An actor had been out of work for 15 years because he always forgot his lines. One day he got a phone call from a director who wanted him for a big part in a play. All he had to say was "Hark! I hear the cannon roar!" After much worry the actor decided to take the role.

The opening night arrived, and while he waited in the wings, he muttered to himself "Hark! I hear the cannon roar! Hark! I hear the cannon roar!" The time for the entrance finally came and as the actor made his appearance, he heard a loud boooooom!

He turned around and said, "what the heck was that?"

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Purton Bowls Club

At last the weather seems to be settling down to what it should be for this time of the year. Undaunted our ground staff (members) have been working on the bowls green to try and get it ready for our first day, 12 April. I think it is doubtful unless the weather changes dramatically but fingers crossed.



We will be starting our coaching sessions on Friday 25 April (weather permitting) and this will continue every Friday evening from 6.30 pm. There is plenty of room on the green so we can accommodate everybody that deems to turn up.

For first time bowlers the first two sessions will be free. We charge a nominal amount of £2 for each session after this which is what you would pay had you just wanted to hire one of the rinks at any other time. If you wish to join the club after this we will waive what has been paid.

A typical week's play on our green would be a home or away match on both Saturday and Sunday; a Monday afternoon triples competition either home or away; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings S&D (Swindon and District) or Wiltshire League matches either home or away; Wednesday afternoon roll-ups and in between these Club competitions leading to the finals in September.

As you can see we have a very full calendar, and we need more players to keep all of our fixture commitments alive. Most people can choose to play when and where they want to, so hopefully you will have come along to the pre-season meeting on 21 March, or be coming to the green opening day on 12 April. We look forward to meeting you.

PETER BERRY

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

As I write the weather is changing from wet and windy to sunny and warm, which means that although we are behind the work schedule we should be able to catch up and have the ground and facilities ready for use on 6 April.



The main fund-raising activity will take place on Saturday 26 April when at 8.30 pm the horses in the club's 'Race Night' come under starter's orders. There is still plenty of time to purchase a horse from committee members.

April matches at Purton:

6 th	Practice Match and social	1.00pm
12 th	Club XI v Potterne	1.00pm
19 th	Club XI v Wootton Bassett	1.00pm
26 th	Club XI v Swindon	1.00pm
27 th	1 st XI v Burbage Village KO Cup	1.00pm

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Bath Chronicle 19 June 1851

CRICKET "On Thursday and Friday last a match of cricket was played between the Lansdown and Purton Clubs on the ground of the former club in Lower Bristol Road, near the city. The playing was exceedingly good, but it was brought to an untimely close to the first innings in consequence of some of the Purton Club being obliged to return home."

JOE GARDNER

“Sad news, a good man who did a great deal for our club”. This was how one of our members greeted the news of Cliff Thomas’ recent death. He was certainly right. Cliff was a man who contributed wholeheartedly to every club he belonged to, whether it be badminton, theatre or tennis. Not content to be just a member he took on several committee roles. In the 1990s he was Men’s Captain, Chairman and Secretary. He was also in charge of maintenance at one point and the club has Cliff to thank for, amongst other things, the paved patio area in front of the pavilion and the plastic windows which replaced the rotten wooden ones. He was very ‘hands on’ and would often be seen at the club mending fences, painting or pulling up weeds.

Cliff’s skills and dedication would have been invaluable recently as the courts ‘over the road’ were badly affected by the wet winter. The moss was as bad as we have ever seen it. This has now been cleared and the courts are ready for the summer season.

League matches start at the end of this month and the club is once again entering 4 teams in each section: Ladies, Men’s and Mixed. The success of last season will be hard to emulate but the membership is raring to go and give it their best effort.

Junior matches also get under way soon with teams entered in the Wiltshire Junior League at 16U, 14U and 9U levels. The Saturday morning sessions, for club members only, start on 12 April, the 10 o’clock session being for 7- to 11-year-olds and the 11 o’clock one for 12- to 16-year-olds.

The coaching programme run by our licensed coach, Phil Kerley, has gone very well throughout the winter despite the inclement weather. If you are a fair-weather player and now fancy a game of tennis we welcome all ages and abilities at the club. Please see below for details of what is on offer.

- Mini Tennis Coaching
- Junior Coaching
- Adult Coaching
- One on One Coaching
- Cardio Tennis

To book or find our more please contact Phil Kerley on 07711 852222 or email phil@pktennis.co.uk

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton & District Darts League

The Pairs Competition has now been completed and we are down to the last 8 for the Finals Night – many thanks go to each of the venues for holding this and for all of the players for taking part.



Darts Fees are due and each team needs to pay £60.00 with additional £10.00 per team for competition fees. These need paying NOW please to me urgently.

Thank you all again for your continued support and may the great games continue in 2014.

LISA MARTIN - Secretary
0776 499 4933
36 Pavenhill, Purton