

Purton *Magazine*



*Wild Garlic at Brockhurst Wood, near Ringsbury Camp
photo: Joe Wright, member of Purton Artists*

May 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>(Wednesdays: 2 - 5pm; Saturdays: 10am - 1 pm)</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

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister	<i>Rev David Perkins tel 853197 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>
Services:	<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

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

Last month we learnt that Shirley Bevington had taken early retirement as our Parish Clerk and we now learn that her successor, Steve Wylie from Wiltshire Council, takes up the post on 28 April – welcome Steve and good luck in your new role.

One of the perennial issues that feature regularly in these pages several times a year is the volume and frequency of dog mess. This month is no exception with a letter on [page 18](#) that challenges all other dog owners to clear up the mess left by their dog for the benefit of all – we know that many owners do but the evidence that not everyone does is all too plain to see.

Also last month our front cover featured a photograph of St Mary's Churchyard and this month's front cover is another from Purton Artists, this time by Joe Wright. Over the last 10 years we have been delighted to be able to reproduce a wide variety of artworks created by members of Purton Artists starting with a series of 12 original watercolours of local views by Andy Le Poidevin and we look forward to many more original artworks in the coming months and years.

Inside your magazine this month there are some new activities and offers of assistance that will be of interest to those readers who like to create things. Firstly on [page 26](#), we learn of a "Complete Beginners Community Ceramics Class" starting on 1 May at Bradon Forest School and running for 6 weeks. During the 2½ hour sessions readers can learn a variety of new techniques from coiling, slabbing and press moulds to glazing and decoration – it all sounds very interesting.

Then, on [page 17](#), we learn that help is at hand for those readers who are not very confident about using a computer. Two years ago Wiltshire Council started the 'Wiltshire On-line' Scheme with the aim of helping people who have yet to get on-line and access the many benefits available.

There are now four Digital Champions in our area who are volunteers, ready and willing to share their knowledge and computer experience with those wanting to learn the basics of how to use a computer or tablet. While so many people are already computer confident, this sounds to be ideal for anyone feeling a little left behind in this communications revolution and wanting to access the information and opportunities.

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Eddie Zero's debut novel by a new Purton author now on sale – see [page 17](#)

4

Digital Champions now in our area and ready to help people with computers – see [page 17](#)

£1234

raised from just 6 Lent Lunches for the TEAR fund and Water Aid – see [page 25](#)

CONTENTS

[10 Years On](#)
[Activity Week](#)

[After 8](#)

[Age Concern](#)

[Bowls Club](#)

[Bradon Forest School News](#)

[Carer Support Wiltshire](#)

[Carnival News](#)

[Carol Webb](#)

[Christian Aid Week](#)

[Church Floodlighting](#)

[Coffee & Chat](#)

[Cricket Club](#)

[Cricklade Country Market](#)

[Darts League](#)

[Diary Pages](#)

[Doreen Davies](#)

[Eddie Zero](#)

[Evening WI](#)

[From the Trustees](#)

[Gardeners' Guild](#)

[Great War Project](#)

[Group 4 Patients](#)

[Guide Dogs](#)

[Historical Outing](#)

[Historical Society](#)

[Introducer Service](#)

[Lent Lunches](#)

[Library Hours](#)

[Museum News](#)

[Obituary Contacts](#)

[Parish Council News](#)

[Peace Celebration](#)

[Prayer for Purton](#)

[Probus Club](#)

[Purton F.C.](#)

[Purton Placard](#)

[Purton Postbag - Letters](#)

[Purton Profferings](#)

[Rainbows, Brownies & Guides](#)

[Ringsbury Camp / Mud Lane](#)

[Silver Threads](#)

[Tennis Club](#)

[Transforming Purton](#)

[We Record](#)

[Wiltshire Good Neighbours](#)

[Wiltshire Online](#)

[WW1 Centenary](#)

[Your Magazine delivered free!](#)

The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' written in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

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Parish Council News



Purton Parish Council announces that a new Clerk has been appointed to replace Shirley Bevington. Mr Steve Wylie will be taking up the post from 28 April 2014. Steve comes from Wiltshire Council and he is looking forward to the new challenge that this role brings.

Play Close Play Area – We are delighted to say that the new Play Park is now finally open after a few teething problems to rectify. We have already seen it being well used by excited children who have been watching the progress of the equipment being built. 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.

Bus Service 50 – Following a consultation exercise carried out last year, Wiltshire Council have altered the bus services it funds in the north west of the county from 31 March 2014, so that they can be provided in a more cost effective manner whilst continuing to meet local needs. The bus service 50 operated by AD Rains will now run through Purton linking us to Cricklade and Cirencester. Timetables are available on the bus and are displayed at all the bus shelters.

The following is an abbreviated version of the timetable showing key destinations and Purton stops only.

Monday to Saturday – except public holidays

	NS			NS	
Swindon Bus Station	--	1040	1310	--	
Royal Wootton Bassett, High St	--	1057	1327	--	
Purton, Restrop Rd, Highridge Cl.	--	1103	1333	--	
Purton, Lower Square	--	1105	1335	--	
Purton Stoke	--	1108	1338	--	
Cricklade, turning circle	--	1114	1344	1743c	
Leigh, Foresters Arms	0742	1119	1349	R	
Ashton Keynes, Garage	0747	1140	1405	R	
Cirencester town centre	0807	1155	1420	1805	
Cirencester, Kingshill School	0815	--	--	--	
				NS	NS
Cirencester, Corn Hall	--	1200	1420	1640	1805
Ashton Keynes, Garage	0900	1215	1435	1655	1820
Leigh, Foresters Arms	0919	1222	R	R	R
Cricklade, turning circle	0924	1229	--	R	R
Purton Stoke	0929	1234	--	--	--
Purton, Lower Square	0934	1239	--	--	--
Purton, Restrop Rd, Highridge Cl.	0935	1240	--	--	--
Royal Wootton Bassett, High St.	0946	1247R	--	--	--
Swindon Bus Station	1003	1305	--	--	--

KEY: NS = Not Saturdays / c - awaits arrival of service 51 from Swindon / R - Calls at this point only if required by passengers on the bus

For further details of bus service 50, please ring AD Rains on 01666 510874, or email them at apltravel@btconnect.com

Purton Cemetery – It is that time of year that our Groundstaff are busy keeping on top of the grass cutting and strimming, which is a timely task around the

headstones. To keep this task as easy as possible for our Groundstaff, please be mindful to keep any pots/ornaments etc on the base of the headstone, as this can be a hazard while strimming is in progress and also the risk of any items being broken if left on the grass.

Hedges – just a reminder that spring is here and the hedges will be starting to grow again. If you have a hedge that is close to the road or a footpath then please ensure it does not cause an obstruction as it grows. The Parish Council receives a lot of calls from local residents about overgrown hedges as the spring and summer progresses and it takes time to write to the people concerned and they often resent being written to so to avoid this please look at your property to ensure there is nothing protruding that could cause an obstruction or nuisance to others. Thank you.

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

N13/01656/FUL 35A *The Hyde*, erection of dwelling (resubmission of 13/00437/FUL)

N14/00785/FUL, N14/00936/LBC
The Buthaye, 4 Church End, proposed conservatory

N13/06800/WCM *Purton HRC Purton Industrial Estate*, Removal of condition 2 of N/06/007005 to retain HRC on a permanent basis

N14/00978/FUL *Methodist Church, Braydon*, overhead cover to side path

The following Planning Applications have been refused by Wiltshire Council:

N14/00453/FUL *Land west of Cricklade Road, Purton Stoke*, hay barn, stables and tack room

N13/04823/OUT *The Pry*, demolition of existing industrial buildings and erection of four detached dwellings

N13/04676/FUL ***Land at Restrop Road, Purton***, erection of 36 dwellings including creation of new access from Restrop Road, provision of public open space and associated works

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email address: 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 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.

News from The Trustees

Purton Memorial and Village Centre

We are still waiting for suggestions as to what other markings you would like on the public tennis court to make it more used, perhaps for basketball, five-a-side football etc. If you have any ideas, please let the office know on 771066, only it is no good us spending money to get it lined if nobody is going to use it. Please have some thought and let us know.

We hope the new bollards haven't caused too much inconvenience to users. It has stopped the cars using the road round the Red House as a race track although unfortunately it doesn't stop the motorbikes.

The Football Club season is coming to an end with mixed feelings. The first team has been a bit up and down but the future of the Club looks good as the youth teams have done well. I would like to compliment their groundsman on the good state of the pitch which has taken a lot of time and hard work.

The Bowls Club are looking forward to their season. With all the dreadful weather we have had, the green is still looking good. Here again, a lot of hard work goes into looking after it all so we hope they have an enjoyable season.

The Tennis Club will be starting new league matches after playing through the winter, although not on such a large scale as the summer matches. They continue to coach younger members – and even older ones if they require it – but it is nice for the younger people to have somewhere like the Tennis Club to go to. If they have as good a season as last year, they will have an excellent year.

Village Hall and Institute Complex

We are very concerned at the time of writing this as Wiltshire Council has not agreed to the new lease which is due on the Library. We hope this will be sorted out soon.

The Trustees are also very concerned about people leaving their cars in the car park at the Hall. When there is a function on this makes it very difficult for the people attending. As I have said before, when you hire the Hall that includes the car park.

We are very pleased at how Paul and David have enhanced the complex with their planting. Well, that goes for the village as a whole – we keep seeing new planters filled with beautiful plants so thanks to you both – it is a credit to you.

We thank the mums and toddlers for putting storage shelves over the stair wells that come up on to the stage. This will make it a lot better on the stage.

On the down side, we are very disappointed with the hirers who left the cooker in such a terrible, dirty condition in the kitchen at the Village Hall. We try to provide facilities to make it a good Hall to hire and then we get things like this happen.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

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 & District Age Concern



If you have trouble with your smoke alarm beeping, or feel you would like to have it checked over, the Fire Service would like you to ring them direct on 0800 389 7849. They will then make arrangements with you. It is the same with the Bobby Van – if you want any advice on security, ring them direct on 01225 794652.

Our first mystery tour of the year went very well, taking in Cirencester, Gloucester, Staunton, Welland, Malvern, Ledbury and Dymock, where we stopped for lunch. My word, we certainly had a good wholesome meal – a casserole with a cobbler topping, potatoes and veg. and there were seconds if you wanted it and this was followed by apple and rhubarb crumble or a sponge pudding, here again with seconds. All this was washed down with tea or coffee – as many cups as you wanted – an excellent meal with a lovely, friendly atmosphere. The trip home took in Much Marcle, Ross, Gloucester and home. We were very pleased that more people came – 47 in all, so many thanks to you all that joined us – we hope you were not disappointed.

The next trip will be on Wednesday 7 May, starting at 2 pm with tea provided. There might still be room for you to book although you should have contacted your street warden by 28 April, but give it a try if you are interested – the cost is £13 and £14.50 for outsiders. Following on from this on Wednesday 4 June we have a trip to Milletts Farm. This starts at 11 am and we will be returning from there at 3.30 pm. The cost is £7 for this one with no food provided but there are facilities there to get food yourself. If anyone has any ideas where we could go on our all-day trip on 2 July, let us know. It is nice to go to an interesting town or city.

There is still room in the T'ai Chi class which is held in the Millennium Hall at the War Memorial and Village Centre on Thursday afternoons at 2 pm. Why not go along and give it a whirl to see if you would like it? The first class is free. Ring Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan and Rita Webb on 770453.

Talking about room, there are still places available at the Luncheon Club that is held in the Silver Threads Hall every Tuesday and Thursday. Our minibuses will pick you up. Further details from Pat Suddaby on 771331. You will certainly have a nice meal – it always makes my mouth water when I hear what they have had so why not give it a go.

I am always saying how kind people are to us, like the couple who loaned one of our wheelchairs and gave us a very generous donation. In fact, they could have bought a new one for the size of the donation but they were so appreciative and, of course, we are in no position to refuse a donation, so very many thanks to them.

As you all know, Miss Elizabeth Ward, who was our President, died and we wanted to do something practical to remember her by, so we have purchased a P.A. system in her memory. It is an excellent, portable one, throwing out plenty of sound. I am sure she would approve of something practical like this. She was such a great President to our organisation and we certainly miss her. She always made a point of attending anything we had on and was such a support to us.

Would any of you like to go to Cricklade market? It is on the last Friday of every month from 9 am to 11 am and they have stalls that sell vegetables, savouries, cakes, plants, jam, pickles etc. and you can get a cup of tea or coffee and a cake as well. If

you are interested in a little trip out, give Maurice, our minibus co-ordinator, a ring on 770338 – and that is the same number for anything to do with the minibuses.

I have just come back from the last of the Lent Lunches that have been held in the Methodist Church – we should be fasting for Lent and this was a far cry from that with some lovely food I can tell you. We can ease our consciences a little by knowing that all the money raised goes to Tear Fund and Water Aid – two very good charities who do such excellent work for people who are not so fortunate as ourselves. All the people involved in the lunches should be congratulated for all their hard work in organising it all, and let's not forget all the people who contributed the cakes, just as delicious as ever! So many thanks to you all. We shall miss those Wednesday lunch times – a real village event with a lovely community spirit. Roll on next year.

I would like to close by offering some more congratulations, although a bit late, to Audrey and Pete Griffin, who celebrated their golden wedding. Hope you enjoyed the meal Audrey! They are a lovely couple who are always willing to help anyone. The brightness went out of a lot of people's lives when Audrey finished at the Cedars Day Care, along with Linda Houston. So many thanks to Pete and Audrey for being the way they are and our very best wishes for the future.

TONY PRICE

Carol Webb

In February an unassuming Purton lady died.

She was Carol Webb, formally Carol Woodward, a born and bred Purtonian who lived in Pavenhill with her parents until her marriage, when she moved to Dogridge.

We first met Carol when her children were still relatively young and she was looking for part-time work.

How lucky were we to find Carol. She was caring and considerate, hard-working and reliable. She was such an asset to us at Quarrydene for many years, and since we retired she and her family have remained good friends.

Life was not always "plain sailing" for Carol. She had many challenges, but throughout, at work, she remained the smiling hard working person we, and our residents, knew and loved. She did not always enjoy good health. Several operations changed her life. A few years ago she moved from her house in Dogridge to a bungalow in Royal Wootton Bassett with her beloved dogs, so I suppose did not qualify as a "Purtonian" any more.

For us, Carol will always be one of Purton's "unsung heroines". Her untimely death has robbed her family of a loving mother and grandmother, and us of a true friend.

She has come "home" to Purton now, and rests in Purton Cemetery. We will never forget her.

ANN & STEVE BAKER (formerly of Quarrydene)

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier.

Please call me, Ellen Blacker on 07557 110414 or email me at rwbrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk



Mrs Doreen Davies

I would like to pay tribute to one of the hardest working ladies that I have known – a person who, along with many others, I had the greatest respect for. The person I am talking about is Doreen Davies who, in her hard-working days was Doreen Peapell.

Doreen was born in the Rodbourne area of Swindon on 1 December 1928. What a lovely Christmas present – the first daughter to Alice and Arthur Peapell. The family moved to Broad Town before moving back to the Swindon area at Haydon Farm Cottages at Haydon End. Doreen attended schools at these places with the upheaval of changing schools in quite quick succession. However it didn't interfere with her ability to learn, especially with her handiwork.

When at Haydon End, Swindon, she had to walk to school, which was Pinehurst Modern School – a distance like walking from The Angel in Purton High Street to the Bell Inn at Purton Stoke. Sorry about this example but it happens to be two of my favourite places. But what about this, she also helped on a milk round before school – on one of her reports it said that though she had an unusually long distance to travel, she attended with praiseworthy diligence. If that was possible today there wouldn't be quite so many cars about at school time.

As I said earlier, moving about didn't affect her schooling as, on one report she had 97 marks out of 100 and the teacher's comment was 'progressing very well' (not 'well done' or 'excellent' you notice!) At school Doreen was not only good academically but on the practical side she was pretty good. As a young girl of eleven, in an old recipe book, she wrote out all the ingredients for a roast dinner, plus the times needed to cook everything and I am told that you haven't lived until you have tasted one of Doreen's dinners. I wonder if it was the same basis she used all those years ago. I forgot to say, at the age of eleven she put the recipe into practice. There is nobody to ask what the meal was like but, knowing Doreen, I expect it was perfect.

In March 1939 Doreen, with her parents and her two younger sisters Phyllis and Gladys, moved to Blacklands Farm in Purton (*pictured below on the left at the Pavenhill - High Street corner in around 1948*) – this was where the shops are in the Parade at Pavenhill. This is where the hard work really started. Doreen's father expected her to work like a man and remember it was a big farm with land where Highridge is now, both sides of Hoggs Lane and right through to where Hooks Hill is now, also where Reid's Piece is built – that was all part of Blacklands Farm, a farm that was owned by the Browns who lived at the Close. The farm itself had a cobbled yard with the effluent from their short horn cattle running down the road. Doreen could be seen in her wellies and brown smock bringing the cows in for milking and taking them back down Hoggs Lane. The Peapells sold milk from the door – people would bring their jugs to be filled. Who remembers the pint and



half-pint measures that hung on the inside of the bucket they served from? It was a bit different then – they would dip out your pint or half pint then dip a little drop out to top up to make sure you had your full measure.

The land where Reid's Piece is now used to be ploughed fields and what always stuck in my mind was that Dickie Brown, who owned it all, would be out there hoeing the mangels for his tenants. In the winter, when the frost was on the ground, Doreen would be on the dung cart, dropping it in heaps to be spread about afterwards. Unfortunately one day a group of boys were out with their catapults and I think it might have been Brian Jerome who let fly and hit the horse on its backside. The horse went tearing off down the field with the cart behind – still it was one way of spreading the manure. I think a certain Pete Griffin was in that group! Mr Peapell chased them and they went up a tree thinking that he couldn't reach them but they were mistaken as Mr Peapell had one of those long whips they used to have with a pony and trap. They all had a taste of it in turn and, of course, they were frightened to come down. They stayed in the tree for about two hours. Mr Peapell grew quite large mangels because the children in Blacklands used to make magic lanterns out of them. I wonder if they had permission!

You take haymaking – first of all the hay had to be cut, put in cocks, then loaded on the wagon and off again and put into ricks, all by hand. They used to work from dawn to dusk and you didn't hear Doreen moan. What about in the winter when we had hard frosts – she had to take hot water down to the water trough to thaw the ice for the cattle to drink. After nine hard years, Doreen's mum and dad retired to Wootton Bassett and Doreen went with them. Doreen then started cooking at Wootton Bassett's Ridgeway School. In fact, she took her City and Guilds exams in 1961-62 and passed with flying colours as you would expect her to and she would meet up with sister Gladys who used to deliver the meals.

Doreen was one of those people who was good at everything. Her garden was always immaculate and what about her sewing, knitting and embroidery. She had so many certificates from exhibiting in the W.I. shows around the county. In fact, the president of Wiltshire WI asked Doreen if she would let her have some of her work to show around various groups – I presume to show them how it should be done.

Doreen always made the best of everything. She nursed her father and mother and she became friendly with a man called Fred Davies, who was looking after his sister who was handicapped. The friendship developed and they fell in love but, being the type of people they were, putting other people first, they would not get married until they were both on their own. When the time came Doreen and Frank were married, in May 1979, and what some lovely photos of Doreen there were in the order of service at the funeral, especially of her and Frank. Sadly the marriage lasted less than two years as Frank died, but Doreen would say it was the best time of her life. She never bore any resentment about her loss and she always had a strong faith that didn't falter. I am sure this helped her through the hard life she had, never complaining but always counting her blessings. What an example she was to us all.

After losing Frank she moved back to Purton to live at Parkside in The Hyde, to be near her sister Gladys and brother in law Roy. When she came back to Purton, she soon renewed many old friendship and also made new ones, especially at the Methodist Church and the Methodist Fellowship where she was loved by all. Doreen

enjoyed having visitors, especially her family and there was always a cup of tea and a piece of cake. I have never known her not to have a choice of cake to choose from and she would always provide a delicious fruit cake for events at the Methodist Church and for other village occasions. Mind, there were special guests that had a roast dinner, like her great niece and nephew, Sara and Chris. She loved to remind them about the time she was looking after them when they were younger and they had roast pork. Doreen put it on the table and dished it up. They enquired where the apple sauce was and Doreen rushed off into the kitchen to make some. Sara and Chris and their mum Sandra, who was sister Phyllis's daughter, along with her husband, were very special to Doreen and she shared in their lives.

Doreen loved her garden, growing her own veg as well as nice flowers, but it got too much for her and she moved to Norbury Court. After several years there, she decided to move to The Cedars, where she was very happy and well cared for.

Her funeral service was at one of her favourite places – the Methodist Church, where she will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew her. She was a lovely lady, who leaves happy memories behind of a gentle, generous, kind, quiet person. someone I shall remember with affection always. Goodbye Doreen - what a marvellous example you were to us all. I would like to end by thanking the family for donations coming to Age Concern.

TONY PRICE

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 Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

Births and deaths are, of course, the natural order of events. But all too often death comes long before the usual, expected life span. Illness continues to take family

and friends from our midst seemingly long before their time would normally be due.

10 years ago we reported the untimely death of Amanda Edwards whose life came to a violent end near Malmesbury. She was just 21 years old and her sudden death shocked our caring community, prompting several spontaneously supportive gestures of solidarity with her desperately grieving family, including a half-muffled quarter on St Mary's bells instead of the usual Friday night practice.

10 years on and Purton still is experiencing lives ending early and nationally the death of Peaches Geldof has recently been announced at the ridiculously early age of 25.

Statistically the majority of readers will not have suffered the effects of an early death in their direct family, but many will know of friends and neighbours who have found themselves in such situations, all too often suddenly turning their own lives upside down.

On such occasions the caring component of our community becomes clearly evident and is so often thanked through these pages afterwards. Long may we continue to provide comfort and support to those in need.

Transforming Purton Parish - Our Recreation & Our Connectivity

Many years ago the former North Wiltshire District Council (NWDC) did a comprehensive survey of what those in the parish would like to see as an additional recreational benefit, to be based at the Bradon Forest School. There was a resounding call for a swimming pool or a fitness facility. Sadly, at the time, neither of these was on the “this is what is available” list. So, NWDC funded some small refurbishments of the sports hall.

Interest in having a swimming pool or a fitness facility persists, though in the Village Appraisal (2000) the majority of people (62-82%) never used leisure, sports, swimming or youth club facilities.

Purton has the Purton Village Centre (locally known as the Red House) which belongs to the village and is operated by Purton Charities. At the Centre there is a wide range of facilities. The Red House itself could offer a lot more with the appropriate direction and management, especially with a multi-use strategy for its space.

Purton has a significant network of public rights of way, in many cases providing a safe alternative to the main roads. The network established during many centuries link the outlying areas to each other, to the centre of the village and to the neighbouring villages. They enable and encourage safe accessibility of the countryside and views to give a sense of the rural setting, and help define the character of the parish. Due to the linear pattern of Purton, no household is more than a few minutes walk from a public footpath and the open countryside. There are by-ways, bridleways and footpaths, totalling 68 miles, which makes the parish the second largest rights of way network in Wiltshire. Most of the rights of way are currently open and well used, and there is an ongoing maintenance programme.

During the years there have been various comments concerning the signing of rights of way, even just numbering them; often cost and time has been cited as a constraint. “Use it or lose it”, whilst not strictly speaking applicable to rights of way, there are recent instances when lack of use has been cited in the arguments to divert a right of way from its original line, usually to benefit an interested party. It is therefore critical to use the network, particularly those that run close to or through properties. This is because these rights of way are tending to be the most under threat. Also, there are some routes that have been blocked either through difficulties with a landowner or through the local authority being somewhat reluctant to fulfil its statutory duties to maintain a route. It is essential to keep pressing the local authority to fulfil its mandatory obligations to clear rights of way.

Having said that, it is the case that some land owners try to incorporate the right of way into their garden in attempt to deter its use. Of course, not everyone wishes to feel they are intruding, by using a right of way close to a property, and so perhaps there could be some scope for creating a new area to walk and play, perhaps in conjunction with the concept of a lake previously mentioned in one of these articles.

The parish has an enviable diversity of clubs, sports and activities for all ages and interests. The Purton Directory lists most of these, and several write in the Purton Magazine. Many organisations hold meetings or events and the parish has many venues: The Angel, Village Hall, Millennium Hall, The Red House, Scout Hut

(to be refurbished), Purton Development Centre for Young People, Silver Threads, the Bowls Pavilion, both schools, and the Purton Young Farmers hut in Purton Stoke. The parish is rich in opportunity.

Also, mentioned previously in the section *Our Education*, there is a gap in adult education which could be filled based on the schools.

Commitments made by the Government recognise that effective, reliable and fast communications are vital for the economic prosperity and social resilience of rural places such the parish. As well as being a key driver to growth in rural areas, access to effective broadband also has the potential to make services more accessible to rural communities.

Alongside this availability there needs to be assistance to help maximise the benefits of the internet for individuals, organisations and small businesses in rural communities, and with local authorities to develop an effective approach to demand. Local authority policies should be designed to promote business and support economic growth to benefit rural communities.

Wiltshire Council has a programme which aims to improve access to broadband for residents and businesses in Wiltshire with a basic service to all and superfast broadband to businesses (to at least 85%) across the county in due course.

Internet usage is likely to increase inexorably and offers great opportunities to improve access to services and to make the more routine activities less of a drudge, freeing up time for quality activities. It also offers much more opportunity for participation in the management of parish life (see *Our Democracy* next month).

The Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan called for:

- Greater awareness on need to use all rights of way
- Feasibility study on a multi-use strategy for the Red House
- Strategy for the Parish Internet

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, behind Jewel's Ash, and much more, simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and subscribe to my email alerts.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

Activity Week

This year Activity week will be the week 18-22 August. It will run every day from 10 am to 3 pm and is open to 7-11 year olds who live or go to school in Purton. We provide many different types of activities – craft, sport, visiting experts to name a few – and more details will be available closer to the time. If you are able to volunteer to help out at all during the week please contact Mary on 772298 or marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk.

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

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

PURTON PLACARD

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

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.

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

Coffee Morning & Plant Sale

Saturday 17 May
10 am to 12.30 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

Purton Age Concern
MYSTERY TOUR
Wednesday 4 June
2 pm start

Cost £13 including tea
Come and join us for an
enjoyable trip and a
delicious tea

The Cedars will be holding an **OPEN DAY**

on Wednesday, 7 May 2014
Kieren Pocock, a local pianist
will be entertaining you with a
varied repertoire.

Come along and join us for tea
and cakes

From 1.45 pm onwards.
Telephone 01793 772036



Tandoori & Balti
Restaurant
6 High Street
Purton, Swindon
Wilts SN5 4AA
01793 770253

Come and join us for good company
and good food at the Maharajah's
Curry night!

**Tuesday
May 13th**

Tickets £15
per head, two
sittings 6:30pm
and 8:00pm

Book to avoid disappointment

With thanks to Khalique
all Proceeds to ...



Contact Wendy 771749 or Kate 772930
for tickets

Carer Support Wiltshire

A new groups and training programme to help support unpaid carers across the whole of Wiltshire is to be launched in April.

Carer Support Wiltshire, which supports over 8,000 carers, has updated and extended its support group programme with informative groups, café drop-ins, specialist meetings and helpful training to try to reach as many of Wiltshire's 47,500 carers as possible.

In our consultations, carers told us that they would like better quality advice and information at the groups they attend; they would like groups to run monthly, and that they would like the opportunity to socialise with other carers and share experiences and advice.

There will be structured groups that will run once a month in six areas which will provide bite-sized training, high quality advice and information regarding the caring role.

Carers Cafés will run in 12 towns across the county and will be a place where carers can come together to share information, advice, and socialise.

Carer Support Wiltshire will also be running bi-monthly specialist groups for carers of people with mental health problems and parent carers.

One carer who recently attended a group in for the first time said: "It was a nice friendly group. You don't have to talk about the serious side of being a carer, but for me it has been a lifeline to have regular contact and advice."

Alongside the groups, carers can access a wide range of free training opportunities to help them in their caring role, including first aid, dementia care, manual handling and money management.

To find out where your nearest group or training session will be taking place, visit their website carersinwiltshire.co.uk where you can also register for support online. Alternatively, you can call 0800 181 4118 for more information.

FIONA HUNTER

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

Wise Words

I'm as proud of what we don't do as I am of what we do.

Steve Jobs

Is this Purton's first Fictional Novel?

Out NOW!

ZERO - The Debut Novel of Eddie Zero, *By Francis Young*

Eddie Zero is not your usual hero. He is a successful, professional drummer from the 90's whose four interests in life are blondes, Mozart, marijuana and cricket. This, his first novel, takes us from Barbados to a Bedouin encampment in the Jordanian desert, via Beirut and Swindon! You will find, amongst some beautiful women, turtles, transvestites, paedophiles, camels and drug taking. Eddie does not know how to use a gun or hit someone. He refers to himself as a wimp. He loves life, and this novel will make you laugh, be shocked and maybe cry.

Amazon.co.uk

Available from

- In Touch Services, Pavenhill, Purton 772954
- One Stop Community Store, Pavenhill, Purton 770304
- And all good bookshops, Kindle etc. www.francisyoung.co.uk

Wiltshire Online

Do you want to use a computer but don't know how? Are you thinking about investing in a tablet but are not sure whether it's right for you? Help is at hand!

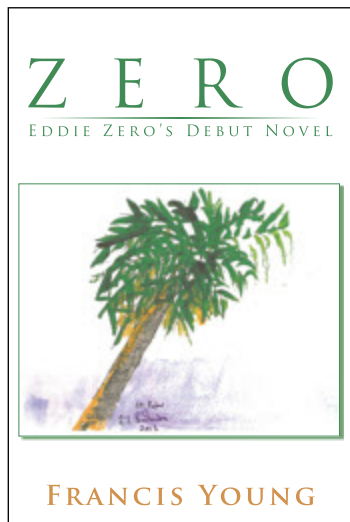
Wiltshire Council's 'Wiltshire Online' Scheme started in 2012. Its aim is to help people who aren't yet online to get online, and to be able to have the Internet benefits that so many of us now take for granted. The scheme uses volunteers ('Digital Champions') who are confident users of computers and tablets (such as an iPad) and they give up some of their time freely to help people to learn the basics of how to use a computer or a tablet.

For the Royal Wootton Bassett / Cricklade / Purton area we now have four Digital Champions at your service. They'll help you learn what you want to know at your own pace, and this can be arranged in a public venue (such as a library using public computers) or in the comfort of your own home (using your own equipment). The service is entirely free and each training session is tailored to your individual needs.

As a learner you would have a first meeting with the Champion you are matched with, and then together you decide where and when to have further meetings, probably of an hour or so each, depending on how things progress.

If this sounds like the answer to your needs, then don't hesitate to apply. Please contact the Wiltshire Online office on 01225 793349 to ask about the next steps.

And finally ... If you've read this article from curiosity but happen to be a potential Digital Champion, the Wiltshire Online office would love to hear from you. Please call or see the details at www.wiltshireonline.org/index.php/volunteering.



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.



■ ASHAMED

As a family we are the proud owners of a 4-year-old dog after 3 years or so without one, and as a result we are now walking various paths and walkways around the village that we haven't visited for a while. A what a mess we are finding, dog mess that is!

The magazine has many articles about what a terrific village it is we live in – well quite frankly all dog owners should be ashamed of what some are leaving behind. Part of the responsibility of dog ownership is to clear up after them. If you don't want to do it, don't have a dog.

My children have grown up having dogs around, they are able to clear up afterwards and they understand why it should be done. But the message you are leaving behind is not just the mess, it's a signal to everyone that it is ok to soil the countryside this way. It is not.

Be proud of where we live, clear up the mess left behind by your dog.

And to the Parish Council – some more “dog litter” specific bins would help, together with information as to where they are located.

Mike Stannard

■ PRIDE IN PURTON

Reading the letters last month in the magazine, we thought it was a shame that a critical and rather negative letter was put in anonymously (albeit with 'name and address supplied'). If you feel strongly about something, it's

better to stand up and be counted.

Maybe there are some parts of the village that could do with a makeover, but surely these are outweighed by all the good things. Paul and David, the Parish Council groundsmen, on their own initiative, have made quite an impact over the last two years with their planters – this year they have had a great many compliments for the hard work they've put in and you can certainly see that spring has sprung! Areas like the Village Centre and the Playclose are a pleasure to walk through as is Church Path and what about the tithe barn, the manor and the Church. A great deal of work goes into keeping these areas looking good.

There is a lot more to a village than being pretty, quaint and attractive and we feel so fortunate to be part of a caring community with so many clubs and organisations giving us a rich and varied village life.

Tony & Sheila Price

■ FROM THE EDITORS

We have recently received a letter from A.N. Outsider. We would be happy to publish this letter as 'Name & Address Supplied' but cannot do so without ourselves knowing who the writer is.

If the person who wrote to us would like to let us know who he or she is, then we shall be able to consider it for publication in the next available issue.

Ringsbury Camp / Mud Lane

(An open letter to Purton Parish Council)

After a long wet winter, and the weather having turned for the better my wife and I decided the fields would once again be walkable.

One of our favourite walks has been to walk out of Ringsbury Close, where we live, make our way to Ringsbury Camp which we would circumnavigate and then make our way home by way of various footpaths. Now in my seventieth year, I can recollect I have been able to do this as far as my memory goes back, some sixty-two years. Having been a dog owner it became a daily walk as it is with many present day dog owners.

To our dismay we found one is now only able to walk half of the wooded area of the camp. The open side with views across the valley has had all of the gates padlocked with do not trespass signs posted with information such as turn back or follow an alternative route which is much more difficult taking individuals well away from the camp.

Unfortunately this is the consequence that Mr Mosley, the land owner, threatened over the dispute involving Mud Lane. One cannot blame Mr Mosley for carrying out his threat.

What I fail to understand is the Parish Council supported Mr Mosley in his bid to redirect the path and in good faith Mr Mosley installed a more than adequate permissive route that gave him more privacy. Knowing that no one had ever walked Mud Lane over the years, even when the Pagintons farmed the land, I am sure most local people had no objections to Mr Mosley's plans.

For reasons unknown the Parish Council decided to change their mind and oppose Mr Mosley insisting Mud Lane should be re-opened.

One can only assume this was because of various groups lobbying councillors and egos being massaged rather than common sense prevailing.

The actions of the council have no doubt incurred considerable cost to the rate payers, wasted considerable time, and now deprived many local walkers of a beautiful circular walk where it is also possible to sit and watch the world go by in its different guises.

More people would walk around the camp than will ever walk Mud Lane.

I hope the councillors involved can console themselves with the thought they might have won the battle, but they certainly did not win the war on behalf of the walking parishioners of Purton.

DEREK DOWNS, 62 Ringsbury Close

Purton Silver Threads

We still have vacancies and would be very pleased to welcome you as a member. Our next fortnightly meeting is on Tuesday 13 May with entertainment by the Musical Companions starting at 2 pm and finishing at 4 pm. You will get a 'cuppa' and homemade cake.

Should you require the Minibus, give me a ring on tel. 770251 for details.

Looking forward to welcoming you.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary



1. Orthopaedic Evening – Thanks are due to our speakers, Neil Orpen and Vincent Sejourant, at our Orthopaedic evening in March which was very informative.

2. Purton and Green Gable Surgery Q&A – We hope these will answer some queries we have received:

a) Why can I not book nurses appointments online? This is not an option at the moment due to the wide variety of clinics that the nurses work with and variety of skill mix within the nursing team. Some procedures take longer than others; this is why the receptionists often ask for a brief description, so that they can book you in to the appropriate clinic and give you the appropriate time specification.

b) Why is the car park busy? There is little we can do about the car parking, as there is nowhere we can expand to and also we offer car parking spaces well within the national guidelines. Over the year we will, however, look at the current sessions we offer and look to spread them more evenly throughout the day and week, in order to more evenly distribute the flow of patients attending the surgery. We also encourage our local patients to walk whenever possible; this can also be beneficial to their health.

c) Why can I not book appointments for children online? In line with national policy and due to the legal complexities of the Gillick case (1986), we are unable to offer online booking to under 16 year olds in order to maintain patient confidentiality.

d) Why can I not see a doctor out of work hours? We have offered extended hours appointments for the last 6 years (pre bookable appointments). We currently offer:

Alternative Saturday morning clinic

Alternative Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings

Early clinic on Friday mornings

These are well published on our website and in our practice leaflet.

e) Why are my results not available until after 4pm? Due to the volume of workload and demands on reception time in the morning, result screens are not available until after 4 pm, when they can be given full attention by the receptionists.

f) What constitutes an “Emergency”? The former Swindon PCT succinctly described an Emergency as “A critical or life-threatening situation, which may include loss of consciousness, severe breathing difficulties, deep wounds such as stab wounds, severe chest pain or heavy blood loss.” Therefore a request for an appointment after work/school cannot by its very nature be deemed an emergency.

g) Why do I sometimes not get all the repeat medication I request? This may be because the doctor has not authorised some items as a repeat for some reason which could include: you have not had your medication for some time; your medication requires a review before issuing further prescriptions; a hospital discharge letter has not arrived indicating any changes made by a consultant or it has been removed as a repeat. As a general rule if it is not on your latest green

repeat slip or showing on your online medication page then it is probably not set up as a repeat. We would remind all our patients that we require 2 working days to process all repeat prescriptions and for patient safety we will not over prescribe by issuing items a long time before they are needed.

h) Online appointments. These are proving very popular and at patients' request we have recently increased their availability. Currently it is rare that there are no online appointments available within 2 days. Please note that these online appointments are separate from the appointments that our receptionists can offer. They cannot see the screen that you see. If you have not registered and wish to do so please ask a receptionist for a registration form.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary

Purton Carnival

Only 1 month to go!

Some people have been asking "What the new Carnival is for?" The simplest answer to that is ... it's for your entertainment. Although the format of this year's Carnival is very similar to last year (with some additions) we have started the "Purton Carnival" from scratch and will be building up funds to produce a bigger and better Carnival with other events throughout the year such as the Children's Easter Egg Hunt we held on Easter Sunday at the Village Centre (Red House Play Park)

We are looking at different ways that to bring the community together and give the people of Purton great events and trips.

All the members of the Carnival Committee are still volunteers giving their time and hard work freely. So please support YOUR Purton Carnival and with your help and ideas we will make the Purton Carnival a truly wonderful event.

So why not get involved? Enter a float, or a walking group ... anyone can get involved from an individual to a company, club or organisation. Some photos of last year's Carnival are on the all NEW Purton Carnival Website www.PurtonCarnival.co.uk to show you what a great time is had by all. If you have any photos you would like us to share on our website please e-mail Kevin@PurtonCarnival.co.uk

This year's theme is CHRISTMAS so this is something we all have ... Christmas decorations! So to decorate a float could not be easier. Please embrace this year's theme and get your Christmas lights out for Carnival week. Proudly display them in your windows to support your Carnival and hopefully you will inspire others. If you have a suggestion for next year's Carnival theme we would love to hear it

This year's Carnival Lunch Menu is Bangers & Mash with Peas or Beans, Christmas Pudding for after with a cup of tea or coffee. It's open to everyone so we hope you can join us at the Silver Threads Hall on Friday 27 June.

Please visit the Carnival website to download our single entry form or pick up a copy from The Angel Pub, the Library or Andrew Hiscock Butchers.

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Purton Diary - May 2014

1	Th	10.30am 6.30pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Start of Complete Beginners Community Ceramics Class at Bradon Forest School
2	F	7.30pm	<i>Once upon a Time in a Western</i> , Bradon Forest School Theatre
<hr/>			
4	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church (joined by Braydon Chapel members) Family Service at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	M		Early May Bank Holiday
6	Tu	8.00pm	After 8: "Coffee Table Books" led by Gwyneth at her house
7	W	10.00am 2.00pm	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children Age Concern Mystery tour with tea provided
8	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
9	F	9.30am 10.00pm	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon Christian Aid Quiz sheets must be in!
10	Sa	7.30pm	RBL Purton Annual Concert at Bradon Forest School
<hr/>			
11	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church United service at Cricklade for Christian Aid <i>to 6pm</i> : Cricklade's Big Day Out for Christian Aid Braydon Chapel service at Purton Methodist Church
12	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
13	Tu	11.00am 2.00pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i> <i>and 8pm</i> : Christian Aid Curry Night at Maharajah (2 sittings) Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
14	W		Methodist Women's Fellowship Annual outing
15	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society, Village Hall: Roger Mugridge - <i>Lights for Learning</i>
17	Sa	10.00am 8.30am 7.30pm	<i>to 12.30pm</i> : Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, Silver Threads Hall <i>to 12 noon</i> : Christian Aid Plant & Cake stall by Pavenhill shops Royal British Legion Annual Concert at Bradon Forest School
<hr/>			
18	Su	8.00am 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Confirmation service at Bath Road Methodist Church Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church Braydon Chapel service at Purton Methodist Church Evensong at St Mary's Church (Christian Aid)
19	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at the Methodist Church - Paul Evans: <i>Poems and Monologues</i>
20	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House

21	W	2.00pm 7.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Bruce Porter - <i>Jubilee Gardens Project</i>
22	Th		European Elections day
23	F	3.30pm	Communion at The Cedars
24	Sa	10.00am	to 3pm: Jubilee Gardens Open Day
25	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Braydon Chapel service at Purton Methodist Church
26	M		Spring Bank Holiday
27	Tu	2.00pm 2.30pm 7.30pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>WI Entertainers</i> Communion at White Lodge Gardeners Guild, Silver Threads Hall: John Nicholas - <i>Fuschias</i>

June

4	W	11.00am	Age Concern outing to Milletts Farm
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Every week

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

Moon Phases

 6
  14 May
  21 May
  28 May

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

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are always welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are known or supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. It follows that opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors.

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.

Christian Aid Week in Purton this year



This year is going to be a bit different for Christian Aid week 11-18 May

- Yes: there will be a Christian Aid service at Purton Methodist Church on Sunday 11 May: 10.30 am.
- Yes: the Quiz is already out: phone Libbie for copies: 771018.
- Yes: there will be a Curry Night at the Maharajah: Tuesday 13 May; phone Wendy for tickets: 771749. 2 sittings: 6.30 and 8 pm.
- Yes there will be a Plant and Cake stall at the Top Shops on Saturday 17th from 8.30 am to about 12 noon.
- Any offers of cakes to sell please contact Jane: 772422.

But the biggest change this year is 'Cricklade's Big Day Out' on Sunday 11 May. This includes abseiling down the inside of the Church; Teddy bear parachuting; a BBQ and a chocolate fountain in the church and Cream teas during the afternoon.

Please look out for posters and PLEASE come and enjoy the afternoon.

And if you would like to have a go at abseiling contact Libbie 771018.

Christian Aid Envelopes

Here in Purton we have always been very proud that we have managed to give out Christian Aid envelopes to nearly every house in the village. And Purton people have always been extremely generous to Christian Aid.

Most people understand and appreciate that Christian Aid uses the funds to help people to lift themselves out of poverty and fear. And this year we want to 'free people from fear'. We are focussing especially on Colombia, Iraq and South Sudan.

But, to play our part we need more collectors this year in Purton ... people to give out or collect up the envelopes.

We have so many wonderful volunteers but some are unavailable this time. So if you could give an hour or two of your time, during the Week 11-18 May please do contact Libbie 771018 or Mary 770505 and we shall be so grateful to you. Thank you.

Christian Aid Quiz

The Christian Aid Quiz is out again!

Yes, it's the one that everyone seems to love to hate ... but they can't resist the challenge! Please have a go. It's only £2 for hours and hours of fun and frustration!

More questions this time ... and more prize money!

Available from Andrew the Butchers, Best One and In Touch Services, or from Libbie - 771018.

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door.

For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £15 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information contact [John Creasey](#).

Church Floodlighting

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



18 May St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Dave Binstead**.
Always in our thoughts; forever in our hearts.
Greatly missed by Dorn and family.

Floodlighting contact: Sandra Horsnall: 770157.

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.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Kibblewhite Close, Proud Close, Reids Piece, The Peak, Willis Way, Long Acre, High Street, College Road and Hooks Hill.*

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.

We Record ...

Baptisms:

30 March Nathan James Law *at St Mary's Church*
Sophie Ann Law *at St Mary's Church*

Weddings

14 March Duncan Jack Butler and Tracey Rogers *at St Mary's Church*
29 March Billy Parker and Tara Lofts *at St Mary's Church*

Funeral:

4 April Doreen Davis (90) *at Purton Methodist 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 ...



Lent Lunches 2014

The six lunches once again proved to be very popular. A total of £1,234.00 was raised, to be divided between TEAR Fund and Water Aid. A big thank-you goes to all our faithful supporters, our willing band of helpers, and our cake makers – what a wonderful selection of cakes once again. See you all next year.

LINDA TINSON, on behalf of the Lent Lunch team



Headteacher's Mid Year Review

It is hard to believe that I have been at Bradon Forest for six months. The overriding impression continues to be the sense of community with parents, students and staff working together to enhance and develop the skills and attributes of all our students. I have seen this first hand this year via events like Romeo and Juliet, our basketball teams' successes and the multitude of educational visits, as well as day to day conversations around school. This view was echoed recently by a visiting Headteacher who remarked on the warm relationships at Bradon Forest and our articulate and intelligent students.

As a new Head, my challenge has been to maintain this warmth while looking to ensure our students leave with the best possible grades. Ultimately our role as a school is to best prepare students for college, university and employment as they move into adulthood. As you would suspect over these last six months have seen many challenges. Whilst we aim to provide the best education for our students our school is based on human interactions and none of us are perfect. As we move into the second half of the year we will continue to develop in many areas, notably with regard to the summer examinations.

Thank you for continuing to support Bradon Forest.

Dr MORRISON

Bradon Forest School
Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 5AT

Challenge and Agree to Achieve Beyond Expectations

Parents of pupils currently in Year 3 are warmly invited to come and visit our supportive and friendly school where every student matters. Individual attention means your child will quickly find their feet in the important transition to secondary school. We challenge students of all abilities.

OPEN MORNING
Thursday 5 June 2014
9.15am - 10.30am

OPEN EVENING
Monday 7 July 2014
6.00pm - 8.30pm

Year 3 parents are welcome to call Mrs Hayden, our Admissions Officer, on 01793 770570 if you are still considering your child's secondary school place.

Logos for various organizations including the Arts Council, National Trust, and others.

Complete Beginners Community Ceramics Class

Starting Thursday 1 May 6.30 - 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

GCSE Dance Show

Mrs Lang reports: On Monday 31 March, we competed in the southern heat of the National Schools Dance Competition at the Wyvern Theatre. The standards were high amongst the 14 schools competing and our group of 22 girls did us proud. Their performance to Chariots of Fire



was energetic and dynamic, and enough to get us through to the finals with the top four other schools; the only Swindon school to do so!

We will now go on to compete in the finals in Oxford on Tuesday 10 June.

"The judges were full of praise for the overall standard - and the scores were higher than most of the other regional heats." Andy Steckbeck, The Great Big Dance Off.

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 from 01793 773981

Purton Historical Society Coach Outing to Portsmouth Historic Dockyards & Spinnaker Tower

Saturday 14 June 2014 Departing Purton 8.30 am. Return approx. 7 pm

We shall be visiting the 170 metre high Spinnaker Tower, on the waterfront at Gunwharf Quays, which offers amazing 350° panoramic views of Portsmouth Harbour, the South coast and the Isle of Wight, with views stretching up to 23 miles.

Within a few minutes walk is the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard where we can visit the new Mary Rose Museum alongside HMS Victory and HMS Warrior (1860) as well as the National Museum of the Royal Navy and many other attractions including a harbour boat trip.

To allow you different options, we have priced for visiting the Spinnaker Tower only (with time to do your own thing) and for visiting the Tower and as many of the Historic Dockyard attractions as you wish. Those who only want to visit a single Dockyard attraction will find it cheaper to book either "Coach only" or "Coach plus Tower" and pay individually for single attraction entry at the Dockyards. The full package allows you entry to as many of the Dockyard attractions as you wish.

Coach only £13.00* Coach and Spinnaker Tower £20.00*

Coach, Tower & Dockyard £36.00* *all prices include driver's tip

For further information contact [Helen Dixon](#).

Booking forms from In Touch Services or download from www.purtonmuseum.com

Purton Historical Society



Annual General Meeting – Thursday 27 March at the Village Hall
At the AGM reports were given by the Chairman, Treasurer and Museum Curator. The reports gave details of a very successful year. Some of the highlights are given below –

- Two well attended and very successful short courses of lectures by Paul Booy
- A varied and interesting programme of monthly meetings
- Re-accreditation to the Arts Council granted for the Purton Museum
- Displays of various Village organisations in the museum on a rota basis (ongoing)
- Annual outing to Clifton suspension bridge / National Trust property at Tyntesfield
- Participation in 'Heroes and Villains' event at Swindon Library
- Trip to Bromham to learn about church and village

A vote of thanks was given to all the committee and members that contributed over the past year.

Helen Dixon was thanked for her work on the committee as chairman. Helen stood down as chairman and from the committee but still plans to be very much involved in the Society. Marion Hobbs was elected as Chairman and Doreen Freeguard and Jacky Parker were welcomed as new committee members.

The coming of World War 1 by Paul Booy – 27 March. We learnt about the numerous complex historical and political factors that contributed to the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914. Militarism, Nationalism, Imperialism, alliances and the characters of key political and military figures all played a part.

On 28 June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand heir to the Austria Hungarian throne was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip a Serbian National. This triggered the following sequence of events.

- Austria blamed Serbia for Ferdinand's death and declared war on Serbia.
- Germany pledged support for Austria-Hungary and Russia pledged support for Serbia.
- Germany declared war on Russia and France pledged support for Russia.
- Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium on the way to France.
- Great Britain supported Belgium and declared war on Germany (Britain had signed the Treaty of London in 1839 recognising Belgium as a neutral country).

The talk was concluded with the famous quotation by Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary at the time 'the lamps are going out all over Europe: we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime'.

Next Meeting – Thursday 15 May at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Lights for Learning – Roger Mugridge

Lights for Learning is a UK-based charity based in Cricklade which was founded by Roger Mugridge. Roger will talk about the work of the charity which installs solar powered lights in schools in African Villages that otherwise would have to depend on expensive and hazardous kerosene lamps in order to work after dark; children

in these locations are usually engaged in other work during the day. The benefits positively impact entire communities in which schools are based with immense improvements in education and health standards.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

TONY & JAN NEATE
tjneate57@gmail.com

First World War Centenary

Wiltshire's Great War Community Event

Bob Lloyd is the author of "Purton and the Great War 1914-1918". A revised version will be available this summer. It is the result of seven years of painstaking research. Bob has set out a list of preparations already made for this year's commemoration and announced some of the events that will take place in the summer, and over the next few years, to ensure we are all become better informed about the events and consequences of WW1 and the devastating effect it had on our local community.



In the March magazine Bob suggested we should visit his web site, www.purton1418.co.uk which is constantly being updated. There is more information on Facebook "Purton and the Great War". He has tidied the War Graves in St Mary's churchyard and contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding a sign to enable people to locate the relevant graves easily.

Recently he has announced more detailed plans with dates for this summer.

They are :

- 28 June Information Stall at the Carnival
Launch "Purton Remembers" community project
Launch 3rd edition of research as a PDF file on CD
 - July Information boards in Purton Library
 - August Information boards in Royal Wootton Bassett Library
Place an updated "Golden Chapter" in St Mary's Church (in booklet form)
 - September Workshop at Purton Library for researching Military archives online
- Other ideas:
- August Hold talks at St Mary's with churchyard tours

In the autumn Bob intends to give an eagerly anticipated talk about the Purton Remount Depot.

We are extremely grateful to him for arranging so many events in the village. Please support his efforts and encourage your family and friends to become involved with our WW1 project.

Bob is still looking for more details regarding the Parish and the Great War years

JEAN BELT, Tel 770331

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 30 May 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).

Great War Project

Part 10. Events January to May 1914

New Year's Day in the British Empire was marked by the merging of the Northern and Southern protectorates of Nigeria and the Lagos Colony to form Nigeria, although they remained divided for administration. Lagos and the South with a coastal economy developed more rapidly than the north.

The "fledgling" aircraft technology was continuing to expand. Also on New Year's Day, the St Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line in the United States started services between St Petersburg and Tampa, Florida. As such it was the first airline to provide regular scheduled commercial passenger services with heavier-than-air aircraft, using a Benoist XIV flying boat.

Advances in modern work practices saw the Ford Motor Company introducing an eight-hour working day on 5 January and a daily wage of \$5.

The film industry had started and on 2 February Charlie Chaplin made his film début in the comedy short *Making a Living*. His character of The Tramp was introduced a few days later (7 February) in his second film *Kid Auto Races* at Venice. On 10 February the film *Hearts Adrift* was released with the name of the star, Mary Pickford, displayed above the title for the first time.

The early months of 1914 saw much ocean liner activity. On 26 February RMS Britannic was launched at the Harland & Wolff shipyards in Belfast. This ship was sister to the RMS Olympic and the ill-fated RMS Titanic which had sunk in 1912. On 29 May, RMS Empress of Ireland sank with the loss of 1,012 lives after a collision with a coal refuelling ship in the Gulf of St Lawrence, Canada. On a happier note, the following day saw the maiden voyage of RMS Aquitania.

The Balkans was still sizzling after the Balkan Wars. On 28 February, ethnic Greeks in Northern Epirus proclaimed the Autonomous Republic of Northern Epirus. The Great Powers under the Protocol of Corfu (17 May) provided for the provinces of Korçë and Gjirokastër, constituting Northern Epirus, to be granted autonomy under the nominal sovereignty of Albania. Only 2 months earlier, the recently independent Albania had received its new monarch, Prince William of Wied.

In Britain, the Suffragette movement was still very active. On 10 March, Mary Richardson used a meat chopper to damage Velázquez' painting *Rokeya Venus* in the National Gallery in London.

Developments in medicine saw the Belgian surgeon Albert Hustin make the first successful non-direct blood transfusion on 27 March, using anticoagulants.

However perhaps the most important development of early 1914 occurred on the other side of the Atlantic. During the Mexican Revolution (1910-20), diplomatic relations between the USA and Mexico were strained. President Woodrow Wilson refused to recognise the presidency of Mexican General Victoriano Huerta. The instabilities caused by the revolution were threatening American lives and economic interests in Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico port of Tampico was besieged by Constitutionalist (Anti-government) forces while, at a local level, relations

between U.S. forces and Huerta's federal garrison remained surprisingly friendly. On 9 April, Mexican authorities in Tampico mistakenly arrested eight US sailors legitimately moving fuel to the gunboat USS Dolphin in what became known as the Tampico Affair. The US naval commander demanded a formal apology and a 21-gun salute to the US flag. General Huerta ordered the release of the sailors within 24 hours and gave a written apology but refused to have the US flag raised on Mexican soil and to provide the 21-gun salute. President Wilson received Congress's permission to invade the area, but the US occupation of Veracruz had already begun. Wilson ordered an increase in US forces in Mexican waters.

In the subsequent fighting, 19 Americans were killed and 72 wounded with Mexican losses around 150-170 killed and 195-250 wounded. While some in the United States called for a full invasion of Mexico, Wilson limited American involvement to the occupation of Veracruz which lasted until November 1914 and which, in the meantime, became a primary cause of Huerta's resignation in August 1914 as his southern armies' supplies ran out. The Tampico incident had later repercussions, stemming from lingering US-Mexican resentments. But you will have to wait for the "Zimmermann Telegram" until the January 2017 issue!

Back in Britain, on 25 May, the House of Commons passed the Third Irish Home Rule Bill as the Government of Ireland Act 1914. Irish aspirations were to be thwarted however as the outbreak of war in August 1914 put its enactment on hold.

The Wiltshire Regiment consisted of two regular battalions (1st and 2nd), a reserve battalion (3rd), and a Territorial Force battalion. The 1st Battalion was stationed at Tidworth Camp on Salisbury Plain under the command of 7th Brigade in 3rd Division. The 2nd Battalion was in Gibraltar while the Thirds were a depot/training unit in Devizes. The Territorials were based on Trowbridge.

Men with Purton connections known to have been serving in 1914 prior to the outbreak of war include from the 1st Battalion: Edward Holder (enlisted 1903), Thomas Morgan (1909), and Henry Woodward (1902). In the 2nd Battalion were William George Morgan (1910) and William Titcombe (1907).

RICK DIXON

Museum News

The Museum has been very pleased to receive three photographs from Mrs Susan Hinton, who is the granddaughter of Mr Harry Arthurs Smith who ran a thriving Coach and Motor Works business at 49 Station Road, Purton. It is understood that this workshop was started in approximately 1911 and continued until 1950 with gradual expansion. The Smith family purchased Melville House adjacent to the workshop in 1919. Mrs Hinton has very generously paid for the framing of these photographs and they are now on display in the museum standing on top of the village funeral Bier made by Mr Smith we believe in the mid-1920s.

We have also been fortunate to receive a donation of an invaluable volume called 'Victoria History of the Counties of England - A History of England', and this particular issue is devoted to Cricklade and Its Environs. The volume was presented to Purton Historical Society by Mrs Inez Gale in memory of her late husband Mr Michael Arthur Gale. It is available upon request in the Museum and we are extremely grateful to Mrs Gale for her generosity.

JAN WALKER, Curator

A Peace Celebration in Purton

This year the momentousness of the Great War of 1914-18 is rightly capturing our imaginations. Nevertheless, it may be of some interest to see how the ending of an earlier war – one with echoes in recent news – was celebrated throughout the land in May 1856 although its impact on the general population when raging could not have been as powerful as that of the Great War. Practically every town and parish has a memorial to the Great War, much fewer are the memorials to the Crimean War: the nearest one I know is the very fine one at Cheltenham. However, captured Russian cannon were shipped over and hauled to many sites. Most, like the one displayed at Wootton Bassett Town Hall, were taken for munitions in WW2. The Crimean War is notorious for bad organisation, publicised by newsmen, and the poor facilities for sick and wounded – at least until Florence Nightingale came on the scene.

The Swindon Advertiser carried stories of many local peace celebrations. Below is some of that reported of our own village. (Or is it a town?!) The newspaper does not remark that the day of National thanksgiving coincides with the date celebrating the Restoration of the Monarchy – Oak Apple Day, so called from the story of the young, and future Charles II hiding in an oak tree after the Battle of Worcester. On this day in my father's schooldays it was the fashion to wear an oak leaf. Girls not wearing the badge were chased by boys wielding stinging nettles!

PURTON,-Thursday the 29th, being the day appointed by the Government for a "Peace Demonstration", the inhabitants of this wealthy little village, with their kind vicar, the Rev Canon Prower at their head, made a most liberal contribution, in order that they might supply to every man, woman and child as much bread, meat, pudding and beer, as they could eat and drink. A fat ox and 4 sheep were purchased; these were dressed in joints, placed in large baskets and sent to the field in the procession which was formed from Mr Lamb's in the following order:- The members of the "Victoria Club" with flags and banners with appropriate devices, "Peace and Plenty" &c, &c. A band of musicians, wagons and horses, decorated with flowers and evergreens, groaning under the weight of beef and pudding to be distributed; all the children of Purton and Braydon schools (upwards of 200); also the children and aged from the Union. There was a service in the church, the text for the sermon "Peace on earth, good will towards Men." The fine old town was decorated with flags and evergreens and the bells discoursed sweet sounds from an early hour ...; The Misses Story Maskelyne had a May pole erected, round which the children danced to the strains of a violin, the same ladies having selected one of the Braydon girls for a Queen of the May, crowning her with a tasteful wreath of flowers, much to the admiration of her less fortunate compeers; the amusements were various, dancing and foot races appeared the most engrossing ... all went on with much spirit till 7 o'clock ... The thanks of the company were voted to J Brown, Esq., who generously allowed the festivities to take place in the beautiful cricket ground.

ERIC BALL

Purton & District Probus Club

On 11 February Gerry Churchard gave a memorable account of the first battle of the Zulu War of 1879. Lord Chelmsford, who led the



invasion was tricked by Zulu King Cetshwayo (pictured c.1875) into pursuing a diversionary force and lost about 1350 of his original force of 5000 men. Being a favourite of Queen Victoria, Chelmsford was never brought to book over what was a total disaster.

On 15 February Paul Morris, a retired RAF navigator gave an interesting account of air operations supporting the troops in Afghanistan, which included a video of the pilot's eye view during a live tactical operation – very scary. Different techniques for inflight refueling, necessary on every trip, were shown.

On 11 March 'Why Butterflies'. John Bailey, the speaker has honed a lifetime hobby into an intriguing Power Point display of the life cycle of butterflies. We saw greatly magnified visuals of the laying and securing of the eggs, through caterpillars sloughing their skin, heads and tails; weaving silk loops for the suspension 'Velcro' style of the chrysalis, evolving eventually to the emergence of the next infant butterfly. The photography was amazing and highly informative.

On 25 March Tim Mowat of Hampton Probus, presented an interesting display and lecture on the stained glass of Fairford Church. The 28 windows comprise the most extensive in any parish church in England. The church was rebuilt around 1490 by John Tame, a wool Merchant. Richard Fox Bishop of Durham and Lord Privy Seal encouraged Henry VII to commission the windows. The King's glazier, Barnard Flower, a native of Holland created images with a notably Dutch influence. The windows tell The Bible stories, but intermingled are the faces of Henry himself and one or two of his contemporaries. Tim advised that visitors to the church should take binoculars to see the high-up detail.

Interested in the above? Probus Clubs provide regular gatherings to those business/professional and industrial men who in retirement value opportunities to meet and share interests. Wives are encouraged to participate in social activities, and are not excluded from attending the meetings. Purton Probus meets at 10 am. every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the calendar month at The Red House lounge. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

BOB STEVENS

Purton & District Guide Dogs

This last month has been a quiet one. I have been advised that we will not be able to have a stall at Bowood Show this year as all the charity stalls have been taken.

We have been sorting out bits and pieces of memorabilia for the Exhibition at Purton Museum which starts on 3 May. We hope to see some of you there.



BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Rainbows made crown collages fit for the Queen and played a “postage stamp” game. **R** was for favourite Rainbow activities: painting, icing biscuits and playing games and every Rainbow was given a “Happiness is Rainbows” badge for working on this alphabet challenge. **S** represented Spring so the Rainbows made Easter cards with “springy” lambs. They’ve also fitted in a Pot of Gold meeting for Lydia, Ellieanah and Tayla-Rae who are moving on to Brownies and held a Promise ceremony for Anna, Ellie and Scarlett.

Lydiard Millicent Rainbows were invited to join 2nd Purton Brownies for a meeting. They started at the normal Rainbow meeting time, with the Brownies entertaining them and had tea together of sausages, chips and beans. This was then followed by the normal Brownie meeting. Quite an exhausting evening, especially for the adults!

2nd Purton Brownies have almost finished their work towards the World Cultures badge. They made Mexican God’s Eyes as a craft from another Country, played a memory game with items from other countries, made beads from air-drying clay and animal masks – including some very peculiar coloured ones!

1st Purton Brownies have been working on the Brownie Traditions badge. Our County Archivist came and told the story of Brownies through the last 100 years with the girls dressed up in the various uniforms through the ages (some authentic, some replica). The long navy skirt and woolly jumper worn by the first Brownies (then called Rosebuds) were not popular! The Brownies also looked forward and drew posters of how they imagine Brownies will look in 10 years: jet packs and turquoise, green, red or purple uniforms were predicted whilst badges of the future will apparently include parachuting, mountaineering, ‘to the moon’ and ‘fire roller skating’!

Guides celebrated Mothering Sunday and Easter. They decorated glass jars for their mothers and created special mixes to fill them to make yummy biscuits. The mums also came to Guides to enjoy an evening of pampering, which included refreshments, a foot spa, back and hand massages as well as making lipsticks and bath soak. For Easter, the Guides made cards and bead key rings. They also had an egg to look after for the evening; some survived better than others but they tasted good all the same!

Purton Brownies and Guides were out in force at the matinée performance of the Swindon Gang Show, cheering on a Brownie Leader (Becky) and two Guides (Rosie and Erin) who were taking part in the show.

If you saw lots of little girls dressed mostly in red and wearing wings in the village one Sunday in March, you weren’t hallucinating! 80 Rainbows from Purton, Lyneham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Lydiard Millicent had an afternoon of butterfly themed activities at St Mary’s School. It was a lively afternoon of crafts, games and great fun.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066, braydondc@wncounty.org.uk or register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested



Ellieanah from 1st Purton Rainbows writes:

On Sunday 23 March, there was a Rainbow activity at St Mary's School. It was about butterflies. We had our face painted and made butterfly cakes. At the end we got a badge. Now I've got four badges.

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



The meeting of 19 March was the Annual General Meeting and we know what generally happens in any groups on such occasions – but no, the attendance was fine. It must have been the thoughts of those homemade cakes promised for the tea break! (and very good they were, too).

Reports were given by all the “Heads of Department” and we are doing very well, thank you, but would enjoy the company of some new members, however young! Thanks and congratulations were offered all round, and especially to our retiring President, Trisha Baker, who has worked so hard, and successfully, at keeping us up to scratch! She, in turn, thanked her supportive Committee, and made particular mention of Helen Dixon, who by her fundraising efforts this year had brought the finances into a healthy state, vital to any organisation.

A Committee for the coming year was formed without a struggle – consisting of Val Baxter, Barbara Compton, Gwyneth Datson, Joan Garlick, Stella Grimes, Janet Saunders and Jane Smith. Final choice for President rested between those two popular ladies, Jane Smith and Joan Garlick, with Jane being declared the ultimate winner. Not an easy decision, as both ladies have done a great deal for our WI in past years. (In fact, most of those Committee names are familiar on the “dependable help” list – but there is room for more, so please don't hesitate to come forward, even now.)

We have Helen Dixon to thank again, for a jolly social session – not another quiz? No, much more fun. She revived the old TV game of “Give us a Clue” and Purton must have heard the laughter from a distance! There's no doubt, the old ones are the best.

So, forward into 2014, with President Jane Smith at the helm - congratulations, and best wishes, Jane!

CONSTANCE REED

The above article was the last offering from Constance, for the time being, as she has decided to stand down as our press person. On behalf of our committees, past and present, and all the members we would like to thank Constance for always keeping us informed and often amused in such a delightful and charming way.

I shall be taking over this task and will try to keep you up to date with all the WI happenings but Constance is going to be a hard act to follow!

Our speaker at the meeting on 21 May will be Bruce Porter telling us about the Jubilee Gardens Project. Social time will be a Garden Quiz and the competition is a photo of a spring garden. It would be lovely if you could join us at Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

[HELEN DIXON](#)

After 8



Our March meeting was “What’s the point?” roaming through history. When Eve gave us the title we all wondered what on earth it could be, well it was nothing like we imagined. It was a very interesting evening punctuated by song.

What’s the point? you may ask, well that was the name of the group, a Ceilidh Band based in Derbyshire who also wrote a lot of their own songs. We started with Watling Street a song about the history of the A5 with reference to the Romans continuing with Rose of Allendale (Northumberland) and Fiddler and Dancers referring to a stone circle at Stanton Drew in Somerset, where an entire wedding party was turned to stone for dancing into Sunday morning! Step it out Mary, supposedly based on a children’s skipping rhyme, was way too fast for us and sounded more like an Irish Jig. Going for the Gin and Baccy-O was based on old smuggler’s songs. Dancing at Whitsun was a tribute to the ladies who kept alive the previously exclusively male tradition of Morris dancing during World War One. On to World War Two with The Planes in the Peak commemorating the brave airmen who lost their lives in the High Peak in Derbyshire. Post Scargill and Curse the Miner Man’s Fate were written about the mine closures in Derbyshire Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. Follow Me referred to the aftermath of 9/11.

Which brought us to the present day Have you ever seen it rain? and Standing in the pouring rain – no explanation needed.

An unusual evening was enjoyed by all with special thanks to Eve for the research and to Barbara for operating the CD player. It was a pleasure to be able to hear all the words in the songs.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH

April Meeting: Twelve members met at the home of Janet McCarthy and after an enthusiastic welcome from Georgia the dog, Janet opened the meeting. The topic for this evening was extremely interesting and thought provoking. Dr Peter J. D’Adamo, a Naturopath, has carried out extensive but scientifically unrecognised trials on how eating the correct foods for our blood type can improve our general health. Apparently we have gene markers as to how efficiently we burn calories. There are four major blood groups O, A, B and AB and we were given examples of foods which are thought to be beneficial to our blood type, those which are neutral and others which are positively harmful. Apparently while our antibodies are working hard to deal with the foods which do not suit us, they could be more usefully employed by boosting our immune systems.

A very absorbing discussion followed where those of us with the same blood group discovered that we did not share likes and dislikes with the food we eat, and some foods intensely disliked by some were thoroughly enjoyed by others. However, as a great lover of bread and most confectionery I am seriously considering changing some eating habits and try to avoid wheat – not from a weight loss point of view (although that would be welcome) but hopefully, to improve my health.

Thank you Janet for a really interesting evening.

JAN WALKER

Our 6 May meeting will be “Coffee Table Books” led by Gwyneth at her house.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Jenny Bailey joined us at our March meeting to speak on the subject of 'Container Planting for Year Round Interest'. She is well qualified on the subject, having 24 years gardening experience in a variety of settings.

Her particular favourite has been working on six adoptive plots for 'Stroud in Bloom'.

So why do we choose to grow in containers?

The obvious first answer has to be when there is no garden available such as when living in an upstairs flat or apartment complex. To illustrate the point Jenny's slides showed how a number of residents, living in an apartment block, enlivened the boring tarmac area by the entrance on the ground floor by adding a variety of pots filled with an array of colourful, long flowering plants. By also adding trellis to the walls, to support a number of climbers, the area was transformed to a bright, welcoming area.

Secondly almost anything can be grown in a container, as long as adequate drainage and the correct soil conditions are provided for the planting. We have all learned from bitter experience that not all plants will survive in our own garden soils. Jenny mentioned *Skimmias*, *Camellias* and *Acers*, in particular, as they require an ericaceous soil to thrive. Another benefit to selecting the soil type for a container is that nature can be manipulated, as in the case of *hydrangeas*. When grown in an ericaceous soil they produce blue flower heads as opposed to the pink variety more common to gardens in our area. A climbing hydrangea in a pot can cover an eyesore when grown in a rectangular container so that it can be flat against the wall for easy training.

Jenny highlighted the renewed interest in *Topiary* in the modern garden. They perform well in a container and are low maintenance apart from some clipping 2 or 3 times a year. Similarly, *Myrtle*, with its exquisite perfume, is a reliable container plant particularly when grown against a wall. *Bay* trees grown in containers are ideal for framing an entrance. Always position one container either side of the doorway to achieve a balanced appearance.

When it comes to foliage plants in containers, Jenny maintains the bigger the better. Always use different colours and shapes for best effect. Plants such as *Cordyline* and *Phormium* are prime examples for this. *Ferns* with their large spreading foliage are the perfect structural plants for a chimney pot as they supply the width needed to balance the height of the pot.

Spring bulbs such as daffodils and snowdrops are perfect in containers. However, only short stemmed varieties should be grown as long stemmed varieties are prone to bending in a pot. Containers of summer flowering plants - that only flower for a short period- can be moved to the background as flowers fade. However to provide ongoing displays of colour, a succession of containers will be needed. Alpines can get lost in the garden amongst other plants so they are best suited to being grown in a trough with the addition of grit and good drainage.

With any container planting, it should always be remembered that fertiliser will need to be applied to replace nutrients washed out after heavy rain.

Most plants in containers will need repotting at some stage. An old bread knife can be used to cut around the edges of the pot. The planter should be filled with fresh compost, watered well and a new top dressing and feed applied. This will give



plants a new lease of life.

Tony Price kindly offered a vote of thanks for Jenny's informative talk providing us with ideas for containers that we might otherwise have not considered.

Due to an abundance of daffodils there was a marked increase in the number of entries for the competition – '5 daffodils'. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Maureen Griffin, 2nd Lorna Comley, 3rd Sue Berry.

To confirm, our summer outing on Friday 20 June is to Beaulieu Flower Show, leaving the village at 9 am. The cost of £15 includes entrance to the Park and Gardens and the Flower Show. Tickets for the Palace may be purchased separately on the day. Please speak to Lorna Comley to book a seat on the coach – a £5 deposit will be required please.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on 27 May in Silver Threads Hall, when John Nicholas will be joining us to speak on the subject of 'Fuchsias'.

The competition on the night is 'A Spring Arrangement'.

LORNA ROBERTS, Chair & MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary

Purton F.C.

Sadly I have to start my notes by saying that after an excellent first half of the season since the New year our results have not been good and from being in with chance of finishing probably 2nd or 3rd in the table find ourselves in mid-table.



The main reason for our slump in form has mainly been down to players being unavailable coupled with players out injured and the loss of players namely Nick McCrae, Ashley Gooch and Gary Stevens which has been another factor in our performances after a long lay of with bad weather we suffered in December and January.

Having had to withdraw our Reserves from the Wilts league last November the club is looking to re-instate the team in a league to be decided when the management committee have looked into all the options there are.

On the Youth front the Under 10s, 15s, and 16s are all in with a chance of winning their league and the under 18s Red with games in hand also are in with a shout but sadly the Under 18s White have not fared so well. All the teams have a lot of games to play and we wish them well in their remaining fixtures.

Once again I would like to thank all the supporters who have followed our teams this season at Senior and Youth levels. Your support is really appreciated by the management team and the all the players representing the clubs teams.

A special mention must be made to our groundsman Mr Colin Richards who has spent many hours throughout the season ensuring the Red House pitch has been in good order. Without people like Colin the Club would surely struggle to keep the pitch in such good nick.

ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman/Hon Sec

Something to Think About

Our great democracies still tend to think that a stupid man is more likely to be honest than a clever man.

Bertrand Russell

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

The Easter cricket camp was well attended and the club thanks all those helpers and coaches who gave so willingly of their time. The youngsters improved their skills, enjoyed the activities and were enthusiastic participants.



The committee wishes to thank all those who supported the 'Race Night' on 26 April at the Red House. Special thanks go to those who sponsored the races, to those who attended on the evening and especially to the large number of past members who bought horses.

May matches at Purton are:

3 rd	1 st XI v Trowbridge	1.00 pm	24 th	2 nd XI v Devizes	1.00 pm
4 th	2 nd XI v Westbury	1.00 pm	25 th	U11 v Bathford	10.30 pm
11 th	U13 v Goatacre/Spye	2.00 pm	25 th	U15 v Marlborough	2.00 pm
17 th	1 st XI v Winsley	1.00 pm	31 st	1 st XI v Calne	1.00 pm
18 th	U15 v Malmesbury	2.00 pm			

Matches at Lydiard Millicent in May:

10 th	3 rd XI v Trowbridge B	2.00 pm	24 th	3 rd XI v Beehive 2	2.00 pm
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Friday 22 August 1975

'An incredible spell of bowling by Purton's Peter Wight earned him all ten wickets against Goatacre on Sunday. In 14 overs and four balls the Purton pace man pulled off this very rare feat aided and abetted by some smart catching particularly by, first slip, Sam Garaway, who held four.'

Dismissing Goatacre for 71, Purton recorded an easy victory. Peter went on to play for Gibraltar in the World Cup of 1980. He comes back occasionally to support the club in home matches.

JOE GARDNER



The club's fabulous success of last summer season was repeated in the Swindon & District Winter League with the A, B and C teams all being crowned champions of Division One, Two and Five respectively. The D team also came a creditable 4th in Division Six.

By the time you read this our summer league teams will have embarked on their matches hoping to emulate the success of last season (a hard act to follow). Our junior teams will have also played a couple of matches and it is hoped that the early season practices will have proved invaluable.

Thanks to Rachel Williams and Janet Saunders for organising another enjoyable Bingo night at the Red House. This is a great event which young and old alike can enjoy! Our next fund-raising venture will be a Race Night in September so look out for the date nearer the time.

We have several classes of membership so if you fancy dusting off that racket you haven't used since school give Mary, our Membership Secretary, a call on 771486, to find out more.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Bowls Club



The green is open! 12 April saw many of our members turning up at the club house, including two new players, to enjoy the first 'roll-up' of the season. The green looks great, and everybody said how nice it was playing. Thanks to the valiant ground staff who have done such a good job.

It looks like our coaching lessons will be able to start on 25 April as the weather is settling down. Our coach Vic Austin has been in the news recently, as an author of a children's book *The Magic Wand*, we wish him luck with the sales. He will be



available for coaching, and book signing, each Friday evening at 6.30pm.

You will see that we have included a picture of some of our lady members who were runners-up in the Ladies Wiltshire Fours last year, they are a formidable team. Congratulations to them and to Alison (far left) who had individual honours last year as well.

By the time you read this we will have started our friendly matches, also the Wilts League and Swindon & District, and Tea and Biscuits fixtures. We also have plans to be involved in the Purton Carnival in some way, details to follow.

Finally we would all like to send our best wishes to Ian Walters who is recovering from a dreadful accident. He is a long serving member of the club, and we hope to see him back when he is ready.

PETER BERRY

Purton & District Darts League



We are now on countdown for the Purton and District Darts League Finals Night. This is due to take place on Friday 9 May at the Red House. Starting at 8 pm it will be an evening of great darts and fun atmosphere. Would be great to see you all there to see the winners and runners up collecting their trophies.

On Thursday 8 May there is the Bevan Cup which is held at Purton Club and again starts round 8 pm – one pair from each team to take part and there will be cash prizes. Please all come along and support this event.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the Darts this season we have had some cracking games, good times and laughs along the way. Your continued support means that the league is strong and will be around for many years to come.

Thanks to the Committee and Chairman for their continued hard work and to the volunteers as without you we could not do this.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Finals Night – enjoy and take care.

LISA MARTIN, Secretary
0776 499 4933
36 Pavenhill, Purton