

Purton Magazine

August 2014



*My Great Great Aunt and Uncle
- A First World War British Soldier
photo: Tracey Rapson, member of Purton Artists*

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	770775
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Maurice Card	770338
Purton Parish Council	Steve Wylie	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

Those lazy, hazy days of summer made famous by Nat King Cole are with us again as this is being written and with them can come the challenge of entertaining children through the long school holidays. Help may be at hand but first a warning from the Parish Council that evidence of drug taking has been found at the Village Centre and it is believed that drugs have been sold there. Spotting if a child has been taking drugs is often difficult but on [page 5](#) the Council gives some things to look out for, together with the telephone numbers for the drug helpline and for Crime Stoppers.

However, inside this issue there are numerous interesting ideas and suggestions of activities and entertainment for local children. Firstly Purton Library is already running the Summer Reading Challenge which has already started and will run through to 6 September with details on [page 35](#). It's free and it's fun. This year's theme is "Mythical Maze" while there is also a real maze to visit in the Parish.

The Braydon Maize Maze ([page 34](#)) is re-opening with two sections – an easier one with a 'Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales' theme for the younger children together with a more complex maze for the more intrepid visitors. Preparations for the Purton Scarecrow trail are also gathering pace and on [page 35](#) you'll see that it will take an interesting route around the village.

Then, this year's Activity Week starts on Monday 18 August and runs between 10 and 3 pm for 5 days. This year's activities include crafts, cooking, sport (with tennis coaching), woodwork, board games and art with Toni Robinson – more details are on [page 34](#).

Another challenge – and not only for children – comes under the heading 'Make do and mend'. While older readers will remember the phrase, some modern ideas appear on [page 15](#).

Lest it be forgotten, our country declared war on 4 August 1914 and paid a very heavy price so that our children could enjoy these and many other freedoms. Exactly 100 years later, between 10 and 11 pm, the Royal British Legion invite us on [page 29](#) to take part in a national moment of reflection with a candle-lit vigil at the Purton War Memorial.

To end on a lighter note, how many readers of [page 13](#) will know what "Moodling" is? It sounds rather relaxing and probably ideal for hot summer's days.

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Gold medals won at the Dance World Cup in Portugal by Purton schoolgirls – see [page 17](#)

£3

annual membership fee to join the Purton Theatre Club – see [page 21](#)

14th

September is the launch party date for the Community Cafe – see [page 25](#)

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Parish Council News



Do you know where your children are? - With the long summer holidays starting we all hope the weather will be warm and sunny so that our children can go out, meet their friends and enjoy the open air. But do you know where your children are and who they are with? Please check: your children might well appreciate the interest you take in them.

At the Village Centre we have experienced a number of incidents of vandalism, some of which could have caused serious accidents and injury. Although the people responsible probably viewed it as a 'bit of harmless fun' there can be consequences. Another serious problem is that we have evidence of drug taking at the Village Centre. We also believe that drugs are being sold there. Drug taking is a serious concern for all parents of teenage children and there are certain things to look out for if you are worried that your child may be taking drugs. These include:

- Changes in your child's appearance;
- Choice of friends;
- Loss of interest in hobbies and sports that they previously enjoyed;
- Changes in eating and sleeping habits;
- Mood swings;
- Changes in openness with you.

Of course these can also be a natural part of growing up but, if you have suspicions, speak to your child, but please don't jump to any conclusions.

A helpline to ring is: The Frank drug helpline on 0300 123 6600.

If you have information regarding the selling of drugs you can contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org or you can contact our local police service by dialling 101.

Fly Tipping – There have been some recent incidences of fly tipping in the Parish. Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste and is a criminal offence.

Fly tippers can be fined up to £50,000 and be sent to prison for up to five years. Waste is often dumped from vehicles and the owner can also be prosecuted if the vehicle (not the driver) is identified. The police also have powers to seize vehicles used for fly tipping.

If you see fly-tipped rubbish, please do not touch it but report it to the Parish Council as soon as possible. This not only protects against potential injury from any harmful waste items that may be present, but also helps preserve any evidence that may be within the waste for investigation purposes.

Road Closure Lydiard Millicent from 28 July – Wiltshire Council will be carrying out road re-surfacing works in Lydiard Millicent in two phases so people will not be able to drive through Lydiard Millicent to go to Swindon. During the 1st phase closure, two weeks from 28 July until 8 August the road will be closed from Lydiard Green Crossroads to the junction that goes to Washpool. The 2nd phase will commence on 11 August for two weeks and the road will be closed from the roundabout that goes to Royal Wootton Bassett and Purton, to the junction that leads to Washpool. Diversion signs will be in place throughout this time. Please

be mindful that the diverted traffic will be coming through Purton during the first two weeks of the road closure.

Swindon Dial a Ride – did you know that Swindon Dial a Ride provides door to door accessible transport for people with disabilities living in Purton who cannot use existing public transport? If you would like to know more about the service please contact them on 01793 616050.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust – and did you know that the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust can visit the homes of elderly, vulnerable or disadvantaged people in Purton who are at risk of becoming victims of house crime or domestic violence? The ‘Bobby’ operators carry out home security and fire risk assessments before fitting the appropriate hardware for households. The visit and the equipment are provided free to all eligible clients. If you would like to know more about the service please contact them on 01225 794652.

Volunteers are sought to assist with additional Parish planters, and with the Footpath Maintenance Group. Thank you to those volunteers who have already come forward. More volunteers would be welcome so if you are interested in either of these activities please contact the Parish Council.

Administrative Officer – the Parish Council is saying goodbye to its Administrative Officer Helen Griffin on 20 July. Helen has worked for the Parish Council for 7 years and is now moving on to a job in the Planning Department at Cotswold District Council. We wish her well with her new job.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066,

email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

On our website 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.

Diversity in Art

You are invited to an exhibition of art work by two local Purton artists, Christine Gill and Sarah Sollom, over the Bank Holiday weekend (23, 24, 25 August) at the White Hart, Ashton Keynes.

As the title implies their styles are very different. They are both experimental, using a range of media and subject matter. Both are members of local art groups and the Guild of Wiltshire Artists.

During the August Bank Holiday, the White Hart will have extended opening hours, so come along and enjoy the pub hospitality and a browse around the exhibition. Come and chat with us and watch us at work!

Changes to Kerbside Garden Waste Collections

Have your say: Consultation period runs until 1 September 2014

Wiltshire Council faces significant financial pressures with reduced funding from central government, increased service demand and inflation. One way of achieving some savings is by changing the way the garden waste collection service is delivered. Currently there is a fortnightly non-chargeable kerbside collection for those residents that request the service.

What are the options for changes?

1. A 3-month suspension of the kerbside non-chargeable garden waste service with no collections in December, January and February. This gives the lowest levels of savings.
2. A 5-month suspension of kerbside non-chargeable garden waste service with no collections in November, December, January, February and March.
3. Introduce a charge for kerbside garden waste collections instead of the current non-chargeable service - proposed charge is £35 for 2015/16. If 1 in 4 households decided to pay for the service this would give the highest level of savings.

Pick up a consultation questionnaire from Purton Library and have your say, or visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/changes-kerbside-garden-waste-collection-survey.htm.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery: Group for Patients - G4P

Named GP for patients aged 75 and over

You may be aware that from April 1 2014 practices are required to provide all their patients aged 75 and over with a named GP who will have overall responsibility for the care and support that the surgery provides them.

Patients are unlikely to see any noticeable change in the way their care is delivered by the Practice.

This does not prevent patients from seeing any GP in the Practice as they currently do. (Patients do not have to see their named GP, nor may they always be able to.)

If you are 75 and over please call in to our main surgery at Purton to collect your letter which explains this in more detail.

Avoiding Unplanned Admissions

The NHS has introduced a new service for people who are more at risk of an unplanned hospital admission in an emergency situation and who would be likely to benefit from a more tailored, active support from their GP surgery. The Practice is currently identifying patients who may benefit from this service and will be sending letters out shortly to all those patients. These patients will also have a named GP who will develop a personal care plan and coordinate their care with other healthcare professionals.

Our next talk

The subject of our next talk on Wednesday 22 October will be Arthritis. More details to follow and tickets will be available from September.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P



Purton & District Age Concern



One of the first things I have organised as the new chairman of Purton & District Age Concern is a Dementia Presentation by Sue Giles. This will take place before our next committee meeting on Tuesday 5 August at 6.30 pm at the Silver Threads Hall. All Age Concern volunteers; street wardens, minibus personnel and befrienders are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. It will be a chance for me to meet those of you who do so much to help older people in our community. I look forward to seeing you on 5 August.

MICK LOOKER

This is my first report in the Purton magazine for Purton & District Age Concern so bear with me as it may take a while for me to get things right! I'm relatively new to Purton so can't write about local people the way Tony has over the years. On that note it is with great sadness I write to tell you about the death of Ted Wicks in Greenhill. Ted has always been a great supporter of Age Concern. He attended a lot of our functions, events and coach trips, he was very generous with his donations and for many years was our street warden for Greenhill. Our thoughts are with Pearl and all Ted's family at this difficult time. (Tony has written Ted's obituary, which you will find on [page 10](#).)

Tony stepped down as chairman at the recent AGM and was elected President, which means we have a new Chairman, Mick Looker, and new Vice Chair, Jenny Barnes. I would like to wish all three well in their new roles. I would also like to send thanks and best wishes to Alan and Rita Webb who stepped down from the committee after many years and will be missed by all the other committee members; our events and functions won't be the same without them. Thankfully for me, Rita is staying on as the street warden in Hooks Hill – I'm very grateful, thank you Rita.

Future Events

Day Trip to Weston – On Wednesday 6 August we will have our annual village outing for all ages to Weston-super-Mare. The coaches will leave Purton at 9.30 am and return from Weston at 6.30 pm. The cost is £13 for children and OAP's and £15 for others; food is not included. So come along and join us for a fun day out! To book your place, please contact your street warden before 30 July or Tony on 770696 if you are a non-pensioner and do not know the street warden in your area.

Mystery Tour – Our next mystery tour is Wednesday 3 September with a 2 pm start. Cost including tea is £13 for village pensioners and £14.50 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please contact your street warden before Saturday 23 August if you would like to go, or Tony on 770696.

Jumble Sale – We will be holding a jumble sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 6 September at 2 pm. Jumble can be left at the Village Hall between 12 noon and 1 pm and the sale starts at 2 pm, so come along and grab yourself a bargain or two!

3B's x2 – Due to popular demand we will be holding a second 3B's evening this year on Friday 10 October at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £6 and

includes a two-course supper; soft drinks will be available but bring your own alcoholic drinks. Admission tickets are available from Heather and Ron Harris on 770850. Bingo tickets will be on sale on the night. There will be no admittance on the night without pre-booking. This is a fun evening and was sold out last time so don't leave it to the last minute to get your tickets.

Past Events

Full day Trip to Winchester – This went well, we were very lucky with the weather. Most people visited the Cathedral and the Great Hall; both were very interesting with lots of things to see.

Coffee morning at Purton Stoke – Thanks to Jackie and Dick Scott for hosting our coffee morning at their home in Purton Stoke again this year. Thanks also to everyone who baked cakes, donated raffle and tombola prizes and items for the bric-a-brac stall. I must also thank Margaret Carter who, due to ill health, was unable to make the biscuits this year but gave us the money to buy them instead. We were also given £60 in donations on the day; thank you Ann and John. Special thanks go to Joan Frost who always sells her lovely plants and gives the money to us, this year Joan's plants raised £206. We made a total of £644.97 on the day, which is a fantastic amount given the awful weather. We are extremely grateful to all who braved the rain to support us. Thanks to you all. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us next year.

Information

Fire Service & Bobby Van – If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 0800 389 7849. If you need the Bobby Van please call them on 01225 794652.

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

Minibuses – Please contact Maurice Card our minibus co-ordinator on 770338 if you would like to book the minibus. Also, please contact Maurice if you are thinking of becoming a driver or "shotgun" on the minibuses. We can always do with more volunteers.

Products and Services – As we are a "Friend of Age UK" we can introduce people to the products and services offered by Age UK – home insurance, car insurance, motor breakdown cover, travel insurance, gas and electricity, Age UK weekly lottery, funeral plans, will and legal services, annuity services, stairlifts, bathing aids and riser-recliner chairs. If we introduce someone and they purchase a product or service we earn a small amount of commission. To do this you have to contact Age UK on a phone number unique to Purton Age Concern. To find out more please contact me on 772558.

T'ai chi – We hold T'ai Chi sessions each Thursday at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go (the first session is free) please contact Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan and Rita Webb on 770453.

Tony and I recently visited our new street warden in Hook – John Strange, who has taken over from Pat and Pete Willis. If you live in Hook please contact John on 848883 to book onto any of the Purton Age Concern events, trips etc.

Finally, well done to all involved with the Open Gardens weekend held at the beginning of July. I visited beautiful gardens, enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Silver Threads Hall and tea and cake at one of the gardens. Many thanks.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Mr Ted Wicks (1921-2014)

I am sure Purton & District Age Concern are not alone when I say we have lost a true friend in Ted Wicks and Greenhill has lost a champion. Ted was the type of person who, no matter what we tried to do for him, we could never reward him for his kindness, generosity and friendship. Mind, he never expected any return because I am sure his philosophy was that the greatest pleasure in one's life is giving.

When we sat down all those years ago to try and start a street warden scheme and it came to finding one for Greenhill, I had no problem in suggesting that Barbara, Ted's late wife, would do it, firstly because I knew Ted would help and then, of course, they knew everyone in Greenhill. When they were asked they said certainly they would and what a great boost that was to Purton & District Age Concern – it was also a feather in my cap for suggesting them! What was nice was, when they had to give up the job a few years ago because of ill health, they found an excellent lady to take their place.

Ted was born at 4 Greenhill – unfortunately when he was four he got his foot caught in his sister Doss's bicycle, damaging the ligaments. It was put in plaster but, when the plaster was taken off, the leg had not healed straight and consequently Ted had to wear a leg iron to help him. He went to Lydiard school – you imagine walking from Greenhill at that young age with an iron on your leg. Later on he did have a bicycle and when he was eleven he rode his bicycle to Purton School. Ted was quite ingenious and as he got older he made changes to his brace, fitting a plate and making a couple of other modifications, which helped him to ride his bike and also, believe it or not he even played football. He made another modification to the iron so that he could wear wellingtons and talking about riding his bicycle to Purton school, he even gave Reg Beasant from Greenhill a lift on the bar of his bicycle.

Ted always had the greatest respect for Mr Lloyd who taught him at Purton School. When the children from Lydiard went on to Purton School they were having a history lesson and, because they couldn't answer the questions they were all being kept in after school. Suddenly Ted shut his book up and said 'Sir, we haven't been taught any of this' and Mr Lloyd said 'I am sorry' and let them go home with the other children.

Ted left school at thirteen and worked for Gramp Saunders on the farm. The money wasn't good so he went into the GWR works. He enjoyed it but, because he couldn't get an apprenticeship – if your father worked in there you could have a free apprenticeship – he left and went lorry driving for Ted Manning. When Teddy Manning died, his widow asked if Ted would like to run the business, which he did. It's surprising how life works out because he was at Sparcells Farm going to move

cattle for Noel Wilkins when a young lady fell off her pony and was badly hurt and it was urgent that she went to hospital. Ted, being a practical person, said 'I'll take her' so they put some clean straw in the back of the lorry, found an old mattress, laid her on that gently, lifted her into the back of the lorry and off they went to hospital. Ted, being the gentleman he was, called up to see Barbara to make sure she was going on alright and that was the start of a long and happy partnership as they were married in 1947. They started married life with mum and dad at No.4, then with Uncle Jim at No.28, then No.25 came up and they bought it. During this time Ted and Barbara had their five children – Edwin, Maureen, Wendy, Pearl and Neil. Gramp Saunders had died and Uncle Jim inherited Brockhurst Farm. Ted ran the farm for him and later inherited it and sold his lorries to Lionel Pike.

However, the farm was not paying very well so Ted went to work for Mr Bevan – guess what – lorry driving again. I should imagine he was a good employee as a lot of times he would do two trips instead of one. Mind, Ted had a way with him as Jumbo Haines, who worked at the brickyard along with his father Fred, often quotes that, when Ted came in to be loaded, they would give him priority. Even if it was lunchtime they would go and load him – the fact that he gave them a couple of fags might have had something to do with it! (I've heard of people doing various things for a Woodbine but not loading lorries.)

Ted and Barb finally had their bungalow built in 1968 opposite the farm and the room they had compared to 25 Greenhill seemed like a mansion to the children. Mind they all deserved it for the way they all worked. Barb would run the farm while Ted was lorry driving and the children would all help. A hard life but a happy one. Ted and Barb were very practical – they had to be and it was waste not, want not. Sometimes they would come home from school to find their pet chicken, pig, rabbit etc. would be missing and they would be having it for dinner. With regards to the pig, Ted would have it cured but the chitling would be in the bath soaking for a week so no baths unless you got the chitling out! There wasn't a chance for holidays until Edwin was eighteen and he could look after the farm – then they all went on holiday to Weymouth. Ted was a little bit embarrassed about his gammy leg but he overcame it and went swimming in the sea with the children.

Ted used to take his milk to the United Dairies at Wootton Bassett and, in the bad winter of 1963, would go round Greenhill taking orders for milk, bread etc. and then deliver it on the way home. What about the day he forgot Barb's order and was sent back with a flea in his ear. During the war Ted was in the Home Guard until he was caught using his rifle for rabbit shooting and was discharged. While we are talking about the war – during the VE celebrations Ted had to take a load of straw to the Newbury area and, on arriving at his destination, the farmer came over and said 'I didn't think you would be decorating your lorry'. Ted looked a bit amazed but when he got out he had a load of bunting all over the lorry plus two little windows. He had gone through a village with the load too high and pulled the lot down! Needless to say, he went home a different way. John Strange, our new street warden for Hook, told me that Ted used to come and cut his uncle's field with his two horses and mower – the field was called Hatchet and is halfway between Hook and Greatfield. Ted always told them this little ditty - 'Jock stood on the

burning deck, Snowy blew the hooter. Who do you think came round the bend, Dick Barton on his scooter'. Who remembers Dick Barton, Special Agent, on the radio?

Ted was also a Wiltshire Moonraker and they used to parade round the outside of the pitch when Swindon was playing at home. He was also quite a pigeon fancier from when he was nine years old and belonged to clubs in Swindon, winning quite a selection of trophies and awards over the years. He was a Lydiard Parish Councillor for thirty-two years and people in Greenhill had Ted to thank for his persistence in getting the road resurfaced. Perhaps they might sort the drainage out because that was another thing he was trying to get done. Although he wasn't on the Council any more he still used to attend the meetings when he could. He even went to Chippenham to tell them what they should be doing.

I've said before about Ted being able to improvise and he even made his own dung cart. I wonder if that was the one he had behind the tractor when he went to White Lodge to pick up a chain harrow he had bought in a sale. When he got there, they said 'What do you want?' and Ted said 'I've come to collect the chain harrow'. 'How are you going to get it home?' was the question. Ted looked amazed, then he looked round – no dung cart. That caused a panic – off he went down the drive and there was the dung cart in the ditch with Neil inside it. Neil had shouted but Ted was happily singing away and didn't hear him. Ted loved to whistle and sing – the children said that was part of any journey with their dad – and I shall always remember, when we used to have our parties at Churchill House with Terry and Geraldine entertaining, how Ted would sing solos – A little bit of Blackpool Rock, Underneath the Arches and Roll me over in the Clover. I've heard two versions of the last one as I first met him in the Butchers Arms some sixty-plus years ago.

In latter years, Ted used to be the Father Christmas at Asda – it was Carrefour then – trouble was his grandchildren knew it was him because of his twisted finger so he had to explain that he was only helping the real Father Christmas who was too busy to come to Swindon. I know one husband said to me that Ted had more kisses off his wife when she took the children to see Father Christmas than he did.

Ted loved Greenhill and he loved nature. He spent a fortune on bird food and the birds rewarded him by giving him so much pleasure. He loved his children and appreciated the way they all mucked in to run the farm in the early days and also what they did in later years. He loved his grandchildren and his great grandchildren and always enjoyed spending time with them. The care from Purton surgery was excellent over the years and, of course, through the family care, he was able to stay at Greenhill. When he was taken ill the last time, his mate Geoff Titcombe had visited him as he did every morning – and Ted appreciated his visits so much – he had been to Lydiard Lunch Club – he really enjoyed this and looked forward to it – and then he was off on our mystery tour, something else he loved doing. Sadly he was taken ill and we had to get him off the coach before it left Purton. After a spell in hospital, he was lovingly cared for at Athelstan House at Malmesbury.

Goodbye Ted, we shall all miss you but with our memories you will live on. I have certainly lost a friend. We thank the family for donations being shared between Lydiard Lunch Club, which he loved so, and Purton & District Age Concern.

TONY PRICE

I had a wonderful 90th birthday – thank you all – surrounded by beautiful flowers and bottles of wine. My dear family arranged a great holiday for me in Ilfracombe – but unfortunately timed it to coincide with the WI meeting of 18 June, so you all know more about it than I do.

I've seen the excellent report from our representative (Highworth's Kathleen Spencer) of the NFWI Annual Meeting in Leeds. The Chairman Janice Langley had said that she was impressed with the variety of ages and interests of members. There had been many enquiries about craft and cookery. Information on all topics is available for members through the website, and especially the Moodie (you can learn how to make perfect pastry on the Moodie – I shall have to find out what that means at our next meeting). However, for those of us who do not use a computer, we are assured that we can always get paper copies through the Federation.

There are to be special activities and projects between now and June 2015 to celebrate the Centenary of the WI. En route from Anglesey to the Royal Albert Hall, the Centenary Baton containing a memory stick with 12 photos from each Federation will be in Wiltshire from 24 - 31 March 2015. Details in due course. Other events will be given out in our usual WI magazine.

Most importantly, you will, of course, want to know about this year's Resolution concerning Organ Donation. The result was 5,981 in favour, 133 against.

At Denman College, bookings have increased but they still need more members to go there. The new brochure will have a wide choice of courses. (There can be a lot of fun being all girls together!)

The full report will be available for you to read but I did notice that this National Meeting opened with Jerusalem, impressively sung by more than 5,000 ladies, and ended with the National Anthem, so we aren't out of fashion, this year at any rate.

Now, for those of us who were unable to attend our own June meeting: Kirsty Gray spoke on "Family History; Starting Out". I am told that she was most informative, explaining which website to use; the problem of names having been changed and how to cope with that; and she told many funny stories concerned with some of the information she had discovered. The social time on "Who is it?" included a photo of Benedict Cumberbatch (who plays Sherlock Holmes) and his mother but I shan't know what the joke was until next meeting, and shall pass it on if it is suitable for you young ladies.

There was plenty to appreciate on the information table. For example, to celebrate the Centenary of the WI in Britain, we could enter the McWilliam Cup Competition 2015 – the subject is "100 years in 100 words". That limitation has silenced *me*, for a start.

Volunteers are needed to help at, or provide scones and cakes and other items for our fund-raising Cream Tea, to be held on Saturday 30 August at our President's home. Vasterne Hill Cottage, Vasterne Hill, between 2 and 4.30 pm. Yummy! – see you there.

Iris is still collecting nice "smellies" for the Women's Refuge, and they would appreciate even more items as morale boosters.

Yorkshire Tea might stop having Rain Forest tokens on their products but they will donate 5% of their profits to the Tree Charity. At present, Jane Smith will continue to send your tokens to Bettys & Taylor.

Three of us went to Highworth this month to take part in the WI Quiz. Great fun, and I thought we had answered well, but there were only half points between the top three scorers and our name wasn't read out. Obviously everyone nearly won, so no loss of face there. Of course, the mike broke down, as ever.

Helen Dixon is organising another WI Food Fest as a fundraiser on Saturday 25 October at Purton Village Hall, so please note the date in your diaries, and keep a big bag ready for your purchases! I was loaded last time ...

In tune with the current events, our speaker for 20 August is to be Bob Townsend on "Early Days of Cycling"; Ah, I remember it well ... The competition should bring in some amusing entries: a photo of your first car, bike or other mode of transport. I just lived on my original scooter, didn't you? And then there was my boyfriend's Reliant Robin ... 4C, nippy days. But have you noticed how very many photographs you have to sort through as you get older, and you cannot recall the names of half the people on them? .

I look forward to seeing you all – and to welcome visitors – on 20 August. Happy Moodling till then!

CONSTANCE REED, tel 771571

Purton & District Probus Club

On 10 June Ned Barham, a retired military man, addressed the club on 'Myths of the Great War'; not memories of the paranormal such as the 'Angels of Mons' but those misconceptions engendered by the Entertainment Business such as 'Oh What a Lovely War' based on Alan Clark's book 'The Donkeys', and more recently by 'Black Adder'.



In Ned's opinion even the war poets created history with some bias. His premise was that when teaching the history of WW1 to our children we should use factual sources such as statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire and other war records. Haig was not the monster portrayed in literary productions; he founded the poppy appeal and the British Legion. He had great empathy with his soldiers. Ned was passionate to point out that we did not lose the war – the allies forced Germany to disarm, pay reparation and give up any territory outside its original borders. Unfortunately the war to end all wars did not!

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.

Future Meetings: 12 August: *Steam on Wiltshire Roads*. 26 August: *Anson's Voyage around the World*.

BOB STEVENS

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Make do and mend?

Recently I was talking to a colleague, Anne, from the Citizens Advice Bureau who works with younger families. We were reminiscing about various money-saving things our parents and grandparents used to do and she said that she was hoping to collect ideas from the older generation on how to save money to pass onto the youngsters. Her favourite tip was given to her by a lady in Swindon for stain removal: *To avoid expensive stain removing products simply leave the stained item in a bucket of rain water for 48 hours then wash as normal!*



I wondered what sort of advice is on the internet and found the website "mumsnet"; here are some of their ideas:

Get resourceful in the kitchen

- Only shop for food when there's nothing left. This means getting really creative with dinner.
- Save the bits you cut off vegetables – broccoli stalks for example – and make into a veg soup when there's enough.
- Make 'mash' using baked potatoes then save the baked skins for another day. Pop them back in the oven and cover with cheese.
- Leave the oven doors open after use to warm up the kitchen.

Make do and mend

- Squash the cardboard inside the loo roll, so it's harder to unravel – that way children use far less of it.
- Cut open tubes of toothpaste, make-up etc to scrape out the bits inside.
- Water down all washing up liquids and fabric conditioners.

Don't be afraid to lie to your family

- My son, who is 19, is drinking 'organic' hot choc. Little does he know it ran out ages ago and has been refilled with a much cheaper option, which he 'doesn't like'.
- I have fancy hand wash bottles in my bathroom and kitchen that I refill with the corresponding colour of scented cheapo bubble bath.
- In the winter, I diligently check the weather online each night to decide what temperature the central heating will come on at in the morning. Last year, we spent a shedload on gas. Last month's gas bill was half that of December 2012.
- Xmas shopping starts now in the sales. This saves me hundreds.

Now its your turn! Anne would be delighted to hear the things you and your families did in years gone by to save cash. Give me a call with your ideas, or let me know when you see me at coffee or lunch club. I shall look forward to more cash in *my* pocket!

ELLEN BLACKER, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator

Phone: 07557 110414

(Please leave a short message and I will return the call – saving your bill!)

Something to Think About

Honest differences are often a healthy sign of progress.

Mahatma Gandhi

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

The Postbag in Purton Magazine 10 years ago had some letters with comments reflecting on our community. One correspondent told readers that, even having lived in Purton for all of her 36 years, she had “never felt prouder or truly appreciated what a wonderful place Purton is to live.” She had enjoyed three fund-raising events on consecutive weekends – the Carnival, a curry-disco charity night and the St Mary’s school fete. The letter concluded by highlighting “all the people who work so hard to arrange [these events] do so much more for our village. They bring us all together as a community. Thank you all for making Purton such a blooming lovely place to live.” Quite an apt comment as this is written just after another successful Open Gardens weekend.

Another letter 10 years ago came all the way from Mandurah, Western Australia. The author used to live in Purton and wrote to say how “lovely it is to read about people and places I grew up with. It’s so interesting talking of all that’s going on in your lovely village.” Although our correspondent confessed that “part of my heart belongs to Purton”, she also included a few details from her part of the world. Her letter was written on quite a warm, sunny midwinter day (16 June) and, while having lunch in the garden, a flock of seagulls flew inland over them, a usual indication of an approaching storm. As she was writing she said that she could hear the surf pounding on the beach nearby, sounding rather like a train roaring. Quite literally a world away from here!

She concluded with the encouraging comment asking us to “keep your magazine going – it’s a treat to read and gets passed around a lot here.”

Letters to Purton Magazine are always welcomed from anywhere in the world, especially with local news and observations to share with the many in our community who may not have the opportunity to travel so widely. Perhaps we could start a “Letter to Purton from ...” column with letters from touring or emigrated residents – it could be an excellent and informative way of friends and neighbours keeping in touch with the rest of us.

As all past issues from January 2004 (but without advertisements) can be accessed through our on-line archive, please visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk for further information.

Purton Carnival Open Meeting

Sunday 17 August 7.30 pm Angel Pub Function Room

Would you like to know how much we raised? Would you like to know all the costs associated in producing a carnival?

Do you have ideas that might help the carnival, would you like to pledge help or join the committee?

Then please come to the open meeting. If you are unable to attend then you can e-mail our ideas suggestions or your request to join the committee to: Committee@PurtonCarnival.co.uk

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman





Two Gold Medals at Dance World Cup

Isobel Webb Year 7 proudly returned home in July with two gold medals from competing in the Dance World Cup 2014 in Portugal.

Isobel was selected back in February this year to represent Team England. Over 15,000 entrants ranging from the ages of 4 to 25 years tried to qualify. Approximately 3,000 dancers selected from 32 countries made the grand final, it was a huge event.

Isobel competed in 5 dances overall: 2 group dances – one was fusion ballet and they came 1st with Celtic Rhythm and the other group dance was a show/jazz number called Hooked on Can Can.

Isobel also did three quartets, one in modern, one in ballet which gave them a fourth place, and the other highlight was the tap quartet where she scooped her second gold. Isobel and her team were closely supported by sister Imogen throughout the whole event. *[Ed note: Maddy Winter of St Mary's also won gold in the fusion ballet group dance]*

Calling all Contemporary Dancers

From September 2014, the Bradon Forest Dance department is starting evening Contemporary Dance and Choreography lessons. The lessons are for all abilities and are aimed at developing your Contemporary Dance technique, and will create opportunities for you to perform at numerous different events in the area. The lessons are also running to enhance understanding of any students taking GCSE or A level Dance. The lessons are free for the first half term, then there will be a small fee. Lessons start on Thursday 11 September and run for 6 weeks. For further information please contact Mrs Lang at Langc@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk

New Contemporary Dance Lessons – Thursdays in the Dance Studio

5 - 6 pm Contemporary Dance Level 1 - 12-14 years

6 - 7 pm Contemporary Dance Level 2 - 15-18 years

Arabian Nights Christmas Theatre Production

Advance notice for your diaries!

Public shows will be from 3-5 December at 7.30 pm.

Ticket price £5 Adults, £4 Students.

Open Days

Open Morning: Saturday 20 September: 10 am to 11.30 am;

Open Evening: Thursday 25 September: 4.30 pm to 8.30 pm;

Open Morning Tours: Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October: 9.15 to 11 am;

No booking necessary.

For more information call Mrs Hayden, Admissions Officer, on 01793 770570.

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 29 August 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).

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.



■ FERRET WATCH

Could I send a thank-you to all the residents in Purton who were on Ferret Watch for 24 hours? My ferrets were released on purpose from their hutch sometime over the early hours of Monday morning, 7 July. One was walking down the road, the other had been put in one of ours bins and the third came back of his own accord. I was still missing Freddie ferret. I asked around The Peak where I live and the school were on ferret watch checking the grounds, dog walkers were on alert etc. I had a phone call early the next day, to say that Freddie was in the grounds of the caretaker's back garden.

I have only just moved to the area and have been here for 4 months. I can't believe the support from local residents in looking for my lost ferret which is much appreciated.

Lynda Nicholls

■ GROWING ORGANICALLY

I wanted to say a huge thank-you to Kate and her team at Purton Organics Farm Shop. Whenever I have gone in there and asked if they could source a particular product Kate has never said 'No!' but rather said that she would look into it for me. Nothing is too much trouble. My two most recent 'asks' were for fresh yeast and uncultivated buttermilk. She found both these for me and other people also found those products useful. The organic flours add the most delicious flavour to the home made bread I make, especially the spelt

flour. The quality and variety of exceptional products has been increasing over the time the shop has been open.

The Timms Greek yoghurts are a must but you have to get in there early on a Wednesday or I will have had them! Only teasing. Special occasions warrant the organic double cream that comes in a little bottle and is the best I have tasted. (I used to be a farmer in North Devon, so I know my creams). What really surprised me when I first started going to the shop was that their prices are comparable to the larger supermarkets and in some cases I have found that some of the items they sell are cheaper! Whenever I go in there, everyone is so friendly and chatty, like shops of old. If you haven't been, you won't be disappointed.

Wendy Beere

■ ONE BRICK SHORT?

Congratulations to the Carnival committee for providing excellent entertainment. It was a shame that a group of several young teenagers, having enjoyed the facility of the fete, felt they could enhance their enjoyment by trashing a corner of the brick wall in the Millennium garden on the way home. In the unlikely event that any of them read this letter, I would be happy to show them the basics of mixing mortar and bricklaying. They could then help me repair the criminal damage.

Nick Yerbury

■ FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

I would like to sincerely thank all my neighbours and friends for the overwhelming number of cards, phone calls, gifts, flowers, visits and offers of help during my three week stay in Hospital and my ongoing convalescence. Also many thanks to those who have given up their time to help both Mum and myself with transport.

I am pleased to report that I am making steady progress and hope to be "back in circulation" before too long. Many thanks to you all.

Anne Shalles

■ ESZ

Recently there was a letter in The Times newspaper enquiring about another recently noticed phenomenon apparently related to global warming or at least its older sibling, climate change. The correspondent was reporting that the European Siesta Zone (ESZ) appears to have moved north to such an extent that its effects are now being experienced in Basingstoke of all places. While some people might be interested to learn that something other

than trains had reached that Hampshire town, have any readers noticed its arrival in our village? We do live slightly further north but have already been growing grapes here for quite a few years.

Name and address supplied

■ FICTION

First, I would like to thank Inez Gale for her kind words in the July edition. I feel I should point out that my three books, Second Time Around, The Dappleton Stone and When The Cobra Strikes, have all been self-published and not produced as a commercial venture available on general sale. I hope this clarifies the position.

Dave Seviour

■ THANK YOU

Could I through the pages of the Purton Magazine say a big thank-you to all the shops and businesses of Purton who support the various village events by selling tickets, programmes, quizzes and displaying posters. I would like to say a special thank you to Siva and the staff at Best One who recently sold 100 programmes for Purton Open Gardens.

Helen Dixon

Thinking Cap Corner (*Answers on [page 37](#)*)

- When asked how old she was, Chloe replied "In two years I will be twice as old as I was 5 years ago". How old is she?
- What is the next letter in this sequence? OTTFSS
- What do the words canopy, deft, laughing, stupid and hijack have in common?
- What colour is missing here? Violet, red, blue, green, yellow, orange ...
- What is the only anagram of the word GRAPHICALLY?
- If you were to take two apples from three apples, how many apples would you have?
- What eleven letter word in common usage begins and ends with the letters UND?
- Three waitresses are sharing their tips of £48: Alice gets 3 times more than Jenny and Barbara gets four times as much as Jenny. How much do they get individually?
- A farmer has 7 haystacks in one field and 3 more in another field. How many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in one field?

PURTON PLACARD

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Village outing to Weston-super-Mare

for all ages on Wednesday 6 August
Coaches leaving at 9.30 am.

Returning from Weston at 6.30 pm.

Cost - £13 for children and OAPs
£15 for others

Come and join us for a fun day out!

St Mary's Church

Commemoration of the start of the First World War

Service & Act of Remembrance
at St Mary's Church Purton

Sunday 3 August 2014 at 10.30 am
with the Royal British Legion

Royal British Legion Purton Branch

Annual Horticultural Show

Saturday 23 August: 2 - 7 pm
The Red House Club, Purton

Entries to be registered at Red House Club
on Thursday 21 August: 7.30 - 9 pm

Schedules from Best One, Lower Square
and Toomers, Lydiard Millicent
details from Heather Harris 770850 or
David Herbert 770002

W.I. Cream Teas

on Saturday 30 August
at Vasterne Hill Cottage,

Vasterne Hill
2 - 4.30 pm

Cost £3

Purton Luncheon Club

Cream Teas

Saturday 2 August, 3-5 pm
College Farm House,
High Street

Home made scones
unlimited cups of tea
and entertainment all for £5!
Raffle

Purton Age Concern

Jumble Sale

Saturday 6 September
at the Village Hall
Jumble can be left at the
Village Hall

between 12 noon - 1 pm

Sale starts at 2 pm

Lots of bargains!

Scarecrow Trail

Sat 27 & Sun 28 September
Around Purton

"Fairy Tales &
Nursery Rhymes"

Further information
or to participate, contact:

info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk

or Ali on 01793 772579

The Cedars

High Street, Purton

Top Hats & Tiara's

Garden Party & Barbeque
Sunday 24 August
from 12 Noon

Entertainment by Neil Patterson
a professional Jazz/Swing Singer.
£2.50 Hotdog/Beefburger,
includes salad.

There will also be a Raffle
Everyone Welcome!

All proceeds go to the amenities fund
For more details tel: 01793 772036

Purton Age Concern
Mystery Tour
Wednesday 3 September
Coach leaves at 2 pm
Cost - £13 for village
pensioners
(tea included)
come and join us
for the afternoon!

First World War Centenary



From July: Information boards in
Purton Library

3 August at 10.30 am: Service of
Commemoration at St Mary's
Church

7 September: Your Village Needs
You!!

Cricklade Children's Centre
Fun Activities
with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
At Purton - Dogridge Play Park
For children under 5
(older siblings up to 11 years welcome)

Tuesday 5 August: 2 - 3 pm
Den Building

Tuesday 12 August: 2 - 3 pm
Messy Mark Making

Tuesday 19 August: 2 - 3pm
All About Bugs

Pre-booking is essential for these fun,
free events –
book each activity separately.

Please contact us for more information
Tel: 01793 759187

Email: crickladecc@spurgeons.org

Website: www.crickladecc.org

Follow us on Facebook

Purton Theatre Club

The Purton Theatre Club has been going for a number of years. It was started by Mr and Mrs Glynn Lloyd of Hyde Lane. Upon retiring it was taken up by Cliff and Sue Thomas, also from Hyde Lane. Later Cliff, Sue and their son Josh moved to Baunton Lane near Cirencester as Josh was attending Rendcombe College.

Together they continued organising wonderful theatre trips to Cardiff, Bristol, Cheltenham, Oxford and The Watermill at Newbury.

Sadly, Cliff died this year but his wish was for the Theatre Club to continue. So, many thanks to Val Walker of Peartree Close with help from Dave Manners who have taken on the task of organising theatre trips.

Members are offered a good selection of shows throughout the year. Membership costs £3 a year. New members from the area will be very welcome. The pick-up points are Highridge, Lower Square, Witts Lane, or the reverse order, depending on destination.

An annual dinner is held once a year at Rendcombe College with very fine food and a lovely atmosphere.

Contact Val Walker on 771201.

DOREEN FREEGARD

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 Diary - August 2014

2	Sa	10.00am 3.00pm	<i>to 5pm: Opening of WW1 Exhibition at Purton Museum to 5pm: Luncheon Club Cream Teas at College Farm House</i>
3	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 1.00pm 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church World War One commemorative service at St Mary's Church Guided Tour of WW1 Memorials & Graves at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	M		Britain declared War on Germany, 1914
		3.00pm 6.00pm 10.45pm	<i>to 8pm: Special Opening, WW1 Exhibition at Purton Museum Guided Tour of WW1 Memorials & Graves at St Mary's Church for 11pm: "Lights Out" at Purton War Memorial</i>
5	Tu	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm: Den Building for u-5s, Dogridge Play Park, see p21</i>
6	W	9.30am 10.00am	Age Concern Village outing to Weston "Storytime" at library for pre-school children
8	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
10	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church
12	Tu	10.00am 11.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>Steam on Wiltshire Roads</i> Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House <i>to 3pm: Messy Marks Making for u-5s, Dogridge Play Park, see p21</i> Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
17	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm 7.30pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church Carnival Opening Meeting, Angel Pub Function Room
18	M		Start of Activity Week - see page 34
19	Tu	2.00pm 7.45pm	<i>to 3pm: All About Bugs for u-5s, Dogridge Play Park, see p21</i> Royal British Legion at The Red House
20	W	2.00pm 7.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Bob Townsend - <i>Early Days of Cycling</i>
21	Th	7.30pm	<i>to 9pm: RBL Horticultural Show entries accepted at Red House</i>
23	Sa	2.00pm	<i>to 7pm: RBL Horticultural Show at Red House - auction 7.30pm</i>
24	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12 noon	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church <i>onwards: Garden Party & BBQ at The Cedars, High Street</i>
25	M		Summer Bank Holiday
26	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>Anson's Voyage Round World</i>

	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Duncan Coombs - <i>Climbers and Wall Shrubs</i>
30	Sa 2.00pm	<i>to 4.30pm: W.I. Cream Teas at Vasterne Hill Cottage</i>
31	Su 8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm	Songs of Praise at St Mary's Church

September

3	W 2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour (tea included)
6	Sa 2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Village Hall

Every week

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

Moon Phases

3 August
 10 August
 17 August
 25 August

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

Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

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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 £16 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information call [John Creasey](mailto:John.Creasey@purtonmagazine.co.uk).

Purton Luncheon Club

Our cream tea will be on Saturday, 2 August, 3 pm to 5 pm at College Farm House. Home made scones and unlimited cups of tea and entertainment all for £5! We will also have a raffle. Please join us. All proceeds to go to Purton Luncheon Club



Purton Historical Society



Iron Age Settlement – Ridgeway Farm

Remains of a small Iron Age settlement have been uncovered at Ridgeway Farm which falls within Purton parish boundary. The site is situated to the right of the road from Moredon to Purton, before you arrive at the *Casa Paolo* Italian Restaurant. Several members from the society attended an open day on 21 June 2014 organised by Wessex Archaeology and could view the outline of round houses and various finds from the site, mainly pieces of pottery, parts of tools etc. One skeleton was found which has already been removed from the site for investigation and one Roman brooch, although there is no further evidence of Roman occupation of the site. Andrew Manning, Senior Project engineer has agreed to talk to the Society about the site at some time during 2015. The site will now be covered and a housing development will go ahead.

Annual Outing – Saturday 14 June 2014

The outing to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Spinnaker Tower was well supported and certainly proved to be a very enjoyable day. There was a good variety of attractions to visit and people were free to make their own choice. The Spinnaker tower was a highlight for many members with wonderful 350 degree views of the whole area. The day was fine and clear and it was fascinating to watch the various ferries and boats moving between the harbour and the Solent. The new Mary Rose museum was another very popular choice. In addition to all the historic attractions there were plenty of waterside restaurants and cafes for a leisurely lunch. Arrangements went very smoothly and a big thank-you goes to Helen Dixon for all her hard work in arranging such an interesting and enjoyable day.

Thursday 25 September 2014

There is no monthly meeting during August. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 25 September at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall when John Winterburn will give a presentation about Gallipoli 1915.

Autumn Course commencing Wednesday 8 October – Mr Paul Booy

The Autumn Course will concern *Chicago in American History*. As usual it will run for six weeks.

We shall see how the modern city arose out of a catastrophic fire. Chicago has many first rate museums and art galleries and is famous for its architecture. However, even today the shadow of Al Capone and the gangster period hang over the city.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

TONY & JAN NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com

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.

Museum News

Purton Museum presents its commemoration to mark the Centenary of World War 1 opening on Saturday 2 August 2014 from 10 am to 5 pm.

This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of the 800 Purton residents and their comrades who were involved in this conflict.

We have a comprehensive display of photographs and memorabilia to ensure they are not forgotten.

Also a special evening opening on Monday 4 August 2014 from 4 pm to 8 pm in recognition of the day war was declared.

Normal opening hours Wednesdays 2 - 5 pm; Saturdays 10 - 1 pm.

JAN WALKER, Curator

PADS World War 1 Commemoration



On Sunday 7 September a WW1 army recruitment unit will arrive in Purton to encourage fit young men to join up and fight the enemy overseas. We also want unfit old men who think they might be young, underage young men who lie about their age and anybody who thinks they might like to go and do their bit for the country. We also need an audience, with plenty of participation. We would also like people to dress the part in 1914-type clothing, though this is by no means essential. So just come as you are if you want.

We will be starting on the grass just outside North View, we move on to Play Close, then to the tennis courts ending up at the Village Hall. Wandering musicians will accompany the procession through the village and song sheets will be provided.

Teas will be available at the Village Hall as will a licensed bar. There will be a display in the hall, Edwardian games for the kids – young and old and – the Museum will also be open. Finally, Purton's Bobby Paul will round off the event with a sing-a-long. The recruits will then be marched down to the train station – how many will come back?

At this time in the war – 100 years ago, there was great optimism. It would all be over by Christmas! People were eager to join up, those that didn't were considered cowards. We are trying to regain that atmosphere. It is meant to be a happy event. Of course, at that time, we were unaware of what was to come.

This is a free village event open to everyone and will start Purton's series of events which commemorate World War 1. Please come along and be part of it.

Visit PADS website at <http://padsipurton.magix.net/public>

Save the date for the Community Café launch party!

The Purton Community Café project team would like to invite villagers of all ages, and those from our neighbouring communities to a launch party for the venture. The party will be held at our proposed café venue on Sunday 14 September from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. There will be activities for children and we'll be serving afternoon tea, alongside displays of our plans for the cafe. Meet the team, ask questions about the project and find out how you can get involved.

The venue will be revealed in the next issue of Purton Magazine ...

Great War Project

13. War – August 1914

... But then theory isn't everything after all. On 3 August at 7 am (local time) Belgium refused Germany's ultimatum demanding free passage of its troops through to France, and the same day Britain sent a note to Germany confirming its commitment under the Treaty of London (1839) to protect Belgian sovereignty.

Still considering this a bluff by the British, German troops invaded Belgium at 8.02 am (local time) on 4 August.

4 August 1914, British Declaration of War: The United Kingdom therefore declared war on Germany for the violation of Belgian neutrality. Perhaps another element that Germany had not fully anticipated was that this meant that the entire British Empire was now at war with the German Empire. In the face of the situation, the United States declared its neutrality. As a historical aside, Mahindra Gandhi was on board ship from South Africa and by that time had reached the English Channel when he learned that war had been declared. He arrived in London later that day.

Next day, Montenegro declared war on Austria-Hungary in support of Serbia ... and Germany eventually got round to declaring war on Belgium which it had already invaded the day before. On 6 August, Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia.

The British Empire factor was seen by Germany when the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer SS Pfalz was arrested trying to leave Melbourne with a shot across the bows, said to be the first Allied shot of the War. A German merchant ship commandeered by the Imperial German Navy as a minelayer, SS Königin Luise, was laying mines off English east coast and was sunk by the light cruiser HMS Amphion, which was the first German naval loss of the war. The next day (6 August) Amphion hit one of Königin Luise's mines and sank with 150 British sailors killed, the first British casualties of the war, together with 18 of Königin Luise's crew who had been rescued after their ship's sinking and were being held on board Amphion. German Zeppelins dropped bombs on Liège in Belgium, killing 9 civilians.

The Belgian army may not have been a match for the Germans, but with support, they managed to hold up the German advance for much of August. Without their efforts, Britain and France would not have had time even to get to Belgium to do anything at all. However between 5 and 16 August, in the Battle of Liège, the German Army all but overran and defeated the Belgians, though on 12 August, at the Battle of Haelen, Belgian troops repulsed the Germans. But by 20 August German forces had occupied Brussels.

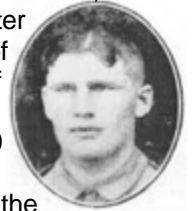
British Empire: In the empire's territories, on 7 August troops of the British Gold Coast Regiment (now Ghana) entered the German West African colony of Togoland and met a German-led police force at a factory in Nuatja, near Lomé. The Togo police opened fire on the patrol, and Trooper Alhaji Grunshi returned fire. He is thought to have been the first soldier in British service to have fired a shot in the war. Togoland surrendered to Britain and France on 26 August. Another first

occurred on 9 August when the light cruiser HMS Birmingham rammed and sank a German submarine U-15 off Fair Isle, the first U-boat lost in action.

In Europe: Between 15 and 24 August, in the Battle of Cer, Serbian troops succeeded in defeating the Austro-Hungarian army, marking the first Entente victory of the war.

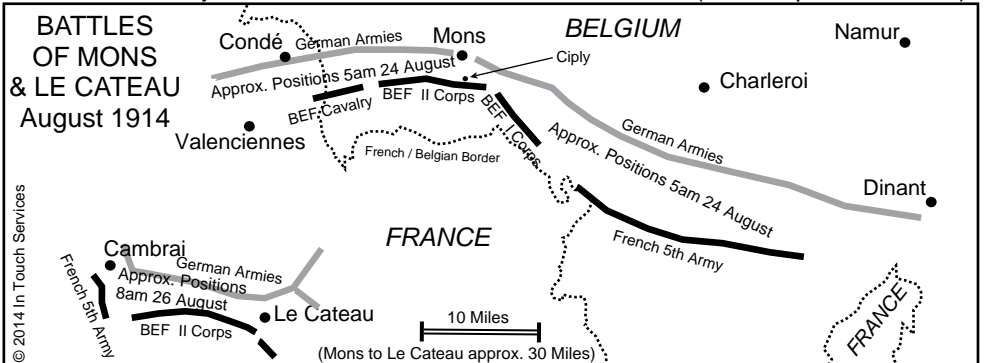
Much more serious was the German victory over the Russian Army at the Battle of Tannenberg (26-30 August). The German Eighth Army almost completely destroyed the Russian Second Army, whose commander Alexander Samsonov was also killed. In a series of follow-up battles, including the First Battle of the Masurian Lakes, the Russian First Army was also put out of action. Russia didn't recover enough to be a fighting force in the war until spring 1915. Tannenberg showed the tactical advantage of being able to move troops rapidly by train. One single German army could out-manoeuvre 2 Russian armies.

British Expeditionary Force: Troops of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) had been mobilised and the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment (still also known as the 1st Duke of Edinburgh's) set sail for Normandy landing at Rouen between 13 and 14 August 1914. Among these from Purton were: Charles James Kibblewhite, Ernest Henry Kibblewhite; Albert Tom King; Thomas Morgan; and Walter Edmond Titcombe. The Battalion moved with 7th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Division to Belgium, where they fought at Mons in the Battle of Ciplu (23 August) under General Smith-Dorrien's II Corps of the BEF. Charles James Kibblewhite (*pictured*) was killed in action* aged 29 on 24 August 1914, the first Purton man to be killed in the war.



Mons was the first major action for the BEF. It managed to hold the German advance temporarily but led to the month-long Great Retreat to the Marne. During the retreat, the Wiltshires later fought at Le Cateau (26-27 August) where British, French and Belgian forces made a successful tactical retreat from the German advance. Further east down the battle line at St Quentin, French forces managed to hold back a German advance. All these battles became known collectively as the Battle for the Frontier.

The next sailing of the 1st Wiltshires brought Purtonian Edward Holder, landing at St Nazaire on 31 August 1914. He joined the battalion at Vailly-sur-Aisne and would later have joined the others at the Battle of the Aisne (7-10 September 1914).



The 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment had been in Gibraltar, but was now returning to England and landed at Southampton on 3 September.

Around the world:

Britain was in alliance with Japan and on 23 August Japan declared war on Germany. The short term advantage for Britain was that German ships were denied use of re-coaling stations in the Pacific.

Despite the war, Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition set sail on the Endurance from England on 8 August in an attempt to cross Antarctica.

On 28 August at the Battle of Heligoland Bight, British cruisers under Admiral Beatty sank 3 German cruisers.

RICK DIXON

* Charles Kibblewhite's name does not appear on the Purton War Memorial. Bob Lloyd in his recently republished CD book *Purton & The Great War* (2014) writes: "Names found on a Memorial are as likely to be because **that person** lived in the area or **had family** who lived there and wished the name to be remembered. A good example for this would be Ernest Harrison; his father was the Vicar at St Mary's, Purton from 1917. He is listed on the Memorial in Purton and also on the War Memorial in Aston Abbotts near Aylesbury where he was married and his wife's family lived. My further research has concentrated both on further research into the dead but more towards those who served and survived the Great War." [*My bold-italics, Rick Dixon*]

Bob Lloyd's CD is available, priced £10, from info@purton1418.co.uk and from In Touch Services.

George Smith: The Flying Cabinet Maker

A lot of things have been written about the First World War – but not about my grandfather, a Mr George Smith of Sherston in Wiltshire.

In his younger years he was apprenticed to a cabinet maker, but as WW1 loomed he became a carpenter repairing the wooden-framed aircraft for the Royal Flying Corp (RFC). Later he became a pilot instructor of these very flimsy aircraft.

As the photos show, training was rudimentary and not always successful. The photos are genuine from my grandfathers' own collection.

He was invalided out of the RFC, with a bad heart, and went on to have six children, one of whom was my mother. He died in his eighties during the 1970s.

CHRIS COMPTON



Lights Out – One Million Candles to Remember

10 pm until 11 pm - Monday 4 August

“The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

Words spoken by Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary in 1914



LIGHTS OUT is an invitation to everyone in the UK to turn off their lights from 10 pm until 11 pm, leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection to mark the 100th Anniversary of the date Great Britain entered the First World War.

The Royal British Legion invites you to take part in this national moment of reflection and we will be holding a candle-lit vigil to mark the Centenary. Please bring your own candle or a special Centenary Candle, available from your local M&S at North Swindon Orbital retail park (www.marksandspencer.com). All profits from the sale of Centenary Candles will support serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all ages and their families. Please come and pay your respects to all those who sacrificed their lives during this conflict.

All are welcome. Please meet at Purton War Memorial at 10.45 pm. For more information go to www.britishlegion.org.uk/lightsout.

Purton & the Great War

Guided walks around the Memorials and graves at St Mary's Church

Sunday 3 August at 1 pm, and Monday 4 August at 6.30 pm

The walk and talk should last approximately 1 hour.

Please meet at the entrance to the Churchyard 5 minutes before the times listed above wearing appropriate clothing. The talk is split into 2 sections, firstly inside the Church followed by a stroll outside in the Churchyard. The ground outside is uneven and extra care is to be taken to the surroundings by all those attending.

BOB LLOYD

www.purton1418.co.uk info@purton1418.co.uk Facebook: Purton and the Great War

Oh What a Lovely War

It is 100 years since the start of World War 1 and this musical play comments on the story of this terrible war through detailed research of the period and uses popular songs of the time, including many well-loved and favourite World War 1 songs to bring the story to life.

A large cast sing, act and dance their way through a wonderful piece of entertainment.

Originally produced by Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal, Stratford in 1963, *Oh What a Lovely War* won numerous awards and has become a classic of the modern theatre.

The Phoenix Players are presenting their production at the Arts Centre, Devizes Road, Swindon from Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 September at 7.30 pm.

Ticket prices are £10, with concessions at £9, and may be reserved by contacting Pauline on 07517 698083. One free seat for every 10 seats booked.

After 8

The University of the Third Age (U3A), was the subject of the June meeting of our After 8 group. “University” because it is an organisation which promotes learning, and “3rd Age” because it is aimed at those who have survived their first age, childhood, weathered the second age, the working years, and arrived at the next period of their lives.



U3A started in France in 1972, and the first British group was formed in 1982 in Cambridge. The organisation is quite unlike a conventional university. Each group is autonomous, and is run by the members of that group according to how they see fit. There is an umbrella body, the Third Age Trust, which can offer advice, resources and expertise, and enables groups to co-operate, share ideas and programmes. There are also regional networks, the members of which can attend each other's study days and events. Swindon U3A is a member of the Thames Valley Network.

Our speaker, Glenys Bently, from Swindon U3A, which was founded in 1987, described its members as being “of like minds and interests, who meet together to share, learn and practise their chosen subject”. No qualifications are required, no awards presented, and only a modest fee of £30 per annum is charged. It is purely about learning for pleasure. Swindon U3A has at least 1,500 members and 125 interest groups. Members can belong to as many groups as they wish, and anybody who is keen to pursue a particular subject can start a new group. The leader of a group is not necessarily the most knowledgeable, as all members contribute and learn together.

The range of interest groups is very wide, covering physical activities, intellectual, cultural and practical skills; pétanque may appeal to you, orienteering, astronomy, making (ukulele anyone?) or listening to music, languages, history groups, travel studies, literature, railways, theatre, arts and crafts in various forms, to name but a few. With so much on offer, those in their third age have possibly never had it so good. As one of our After 8 members remarked “I can't wait to retire”

Further information about Swindon U3A can be found at www.swindonu3a.org.uk and at their open day on 30 August 2014 at St Joseph's College, 10 am to 12.30 pm.

MARY SMITH

Our August meeting will be either a cycle ride or a walk. Please ring Sandra Horsnall on 770157 if you are interested.

Purton & District Guide Dogs

Despite the weather we managed to get a stall set up for the Carnival Fete. At least it stopped raining for the actual procession in which I made an appearance. We took £127.40 on our stall, thanks to our team and all the people who turned out to supporter the Carnival.



Our application has gone in for a stall at the Cricklade Show on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group

The Purton & District Luncheon Club

Over the last month, the Luncheon Club has provided an Exhibition at Purton Museum and had interviewed a large number of members and volunteers. We shall be including these contributions in the Magazine over the next few months:



The Luncheon Club was founded by the late Elizabeth Ward, OBE, and her friend, Lavinia Gordon, with the purpose of providing a hot meal twice a week for elderly people in the Purton area. Owing to the passage of time and Elizabeth's approach to record keeping, it has proved difficult to discover the year, or even the decade, of the club's foundation but we think it probably began in the 1940s or 1950s. At first it was a meals-on-wheels operation, but very soon the Silver Threads Hall became the venue for the social event we know today. While numbers can obviously vary, between twenty-five and thirty-five people receive a hot, two course meal every Tuesday and Thursday, with the potatoes generously supplied by Age Concern through our local butcher, Andrew Hiscock and much of the food purchased locally.

The Luncheon Club is successful thanks to the wholehearted support of the Silver Threads from whom we rent the hall and kitchen, Age Concern with its minibus drivers and shotguns and, of course, Pat Suddaby and all the kitchen volunteers, several of whom are involved in the buying as well as the preparation and serving of the food.

The members

It would be easy to pass older people in the street in Purton and imagine that their lives must have been quiet and uneventful. Here are brief biographies of some Luncheon Club members to remind us all that this is not necessarily true.

Norah Durnford was born in 1918, one of four children of an army family. Her father joined the 1st Battalion Irish Guards in 1901 as a drummer boy at 13, lying about his age, and survived the First World War despite being in France from the beginning. Before retirement, as drum sergeant major he led thirteen massed bands at the Aldershot Tattoo. In 1939 Norah enlisted as a member of the ATS, serving in London during the blitz before doing a variety of war work jobs. In 1945 she married Sergeant Jim Gammons of the RAOC. Norah joined Jim on a several postings abroad, including Jordan in 1956 during the Suez Crisis, when anti-British feeling ran high. After early retirement in Windsor, with family from 1975 they came to Purton, where Norah had first visited relatives in 1935. After Jim died in 1988 Norah moved to Norbury Court, the retirement flats then developed from Norbury House and its land. Next door lived Harold and Joan Durnford and the three became close friends, members of the Luncheon Club, the Silver Threads and its choir. Joan died later and in 1997 Norah and Harold married, the first marriage of Lunch Club and Silver Threads widows and widowers. They lived a very full and happy life together until Harold's sudden death in 2005. Norah treated this severe blow with the energetic courage she had always shown and now, aged 96, is still finding happiness and contentment in her life in Purton.

Barbara Woolford was born in Mildenhall in 1927, and came to Restrop Cottage three years later when her father worked for the Pagintons at Restrop Farm. She and Joy New became close friends from their early days at St Mary's and Barbara still visits Joy at her retirement home in Wroughton. Barbara's first job, a clerical one, was in Swindon during the Second World War, and she cycled there every day for a salary of one guinea a week: a pound and five pence for younger readers. The family moved to Widham Farm House, the picturesque thatched cottage visible on the left as one leaves the village on Station Road. In 1947 Barbara married Nelson, a Purtonian born and bred. After six years of marriage their son Martin was born, with Alan following six years later. Both Nelson and Barbara played major roles in village life, as members of St. Mary's Church, PADS and other clubs. Barbara was a member of WI for over fifty years and is now an equally staunch member of the Silver Threads, Luncheon Club and Coffee and Chat, which she describes as an excellent concept. Nelson and she spent fifty-three very happy years together before he died of an aneurysm, frighteningly at the wheel of his car with Barbara as passenger. Following this bereavement Barbara eventually moved from College Road into Hooks Hill, where she is very comfortably settled.

The Volunteers

The Kitchen Volunteers

The Luncheon Club could not function at all were it not for the different groups of volunteers who turn up every Tuesday and Thursday, to order and buy the food, cook and serve at the tables and clean up afterwards.

In all the years since the Club's foundation, so many people have met in the Silver Threads kitchen for their first shift, somewhat nervous because they didn't know anyone else there, only for the members of that group to become close friends through years of various kitchen crises and laughs. In later times, long after retiring from volunteering, they continue to meet for meals or coffee, supporting one another through sharing life's tragedies and delights.

There are now 32 kitchen volunteers and Pat would be very happy to have several more.

Pat Suddaby: Catering Manager

I volunteered for the Luncheon Club 17 years ago, after the death of my husband. It is one of the best things I have ever done. It is a wonderful way to meet new people and feel part of the community. At the end of every shift you go away with the knowledge that you have provided not only a lunch but an opportunity for people who live on their own to go out and meet and talk to others. I have made new friends and now know so many lovely people.

Purton Age Concern Minibus Drivers & Shotgun

Another group of volunteers without whom the Luncheon Club could not function are the drivers and shotguns of the Age Concern Purton and District Minibuses. Their willingness to go beyond the call of duty, their knowledge of the people they help, their kindness and warmth all make these people very special.

Ten are involved in Luncheon Club duties. Maurice Card, the minibus

coordinator, has the job of planning routes and timings so that everyone is collected at a reasonable time for the meal and returned safely back home afterwards. All this has to be done, of course, while also meeting individual demands for transport to hospital, surgery, dental and other appointments as well as shopping trips out of the village.

John Blackwell

I began driving the minibus in 1988, when Godfrey Price, whom I later succeeded, was the co-ordinator. I then graduated to regular runs with Peg Matthews as my shotgun, and I find that I am still doing variants of that run today, together with my Luncheon Club run, 26 years later. I still find great job satisfaction, make good friends and enjoy all the banter, gossip and local news that form a major part of the pleasure of helping and getting to know people in this way.

Francis Sheppard

Two of the joys of collecting (and returning) Luncheon Club diners are that they all are so very interestingly different and each one always grateful, especially those who are no longer as agile as they clearly once were. Conversations are as varied as the weather and usually encompass all the latest local and national news. Indeed, useful little nuggets of news about others in our community often come first from our passengers while personal aches and pains are usually dismissed quietly and only given in answer to an enquiry. There are times – admittedly very few – when regular routes or pre-planned pick-ups do not happen as predicted yet every lunch club passenger is unfazed even if the start of their siesta is suspended for an additional 10 minutes or so!

More interviews next month ...

Royal British Legion Purton Branch

Annual Horticultural Show

To be held on Saturday 23 August 2014, 2-7 pm (auction of show exhibits at approximately 7.30 pm)

The committee will welcome your entries at The Red House Club Purton on Thursday 21 August from 7.30 - 9 pm.

Schedules are still available from Best One, Lower Square and John Toomer, Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent.

Please come along and join in the fun.

Details: Heather Harris (Hon Sec) 770850 or David Herbert (Chairman) 770002.



Church Floodlighting

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

30 July St Mary's Church will be floodlit in memory of **Albert Parkinson** on the occasion of his birthday. Dearly loved and sadly missed Husband, Dad and Grandad



Floodlighting contact: [Sandra Horsnall](#)

Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge

from 12 July in Wiltshire libraries

This year the national Summer Reading Challenge for 4 to 11 year olds will run in Wiltshire libraries from 12 July to 6 September, and the theme will be 'Mythical Maze'. The challenge is simple, for children to read six books over the summer, tell us about the books and collect 'rewards' to mark their progress. Incentives this year include a neon green wristband, scratch and sniff stickers, and a medal plus certificate on completion.



Mythical Maze is not a competition, but a fun personal challenge to encourage children to read more and use libraries more. Last year 9,330 Wiltshire children joined the challenge, with 5,803 reading all 6 books and 38,441 books being read in total. Families love the challenge and last year 96% of the participants said that by taking part in the challenge their reading had improved a little or a lot.

Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays, and The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge helps get three quarters of a million children into libraries to maintain their reading skills and confidence. It's free, it's fun and it really can make a difference to a child's love of reading – because everything changes when we read.

For further information contact Purton Library . Tel. 01793 770870

Braydon Maize Maze is back!

By the time you read this, the maze will be open, bigger (and hopefully!) better than last year. Come along and join in the fun. We're in Braydon – just come down Pavenhill, cross Braydon Crossroads and follow the signs.



This year we have two sections – an easier one with a Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales theme for the youngsters, and a more complex one for the more intrepid of you. We are happy to say that we will have a few sculptures in there from Pavenhill Sculptures, which were loved by almost everyone who visited us last year.

By fluke our theme ties in with both the Mythical Maze Reading Challenge and the Purton Scarecrow Trail (the trail's theme is also Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes, and we are hoping to have events to tie in with them.

We'd like to offer free entry for every child visiting the Maze with a Reading Challenge starter pack, and we will be planning to have a Reading Afternoon with quizzes, activities and book readings. Make sure you bring your favourite Fairy Tale or Nursery Rhyme book! And if you're a grown-up coming for the day, and dress as a character from a Nursery Rhyme or Fairy Tale, you'll get a free drink!

For the Scarecrow weekend of 27 and 28 September, we're hoping to still be open and we'll have our own scarecrow. If we are still open we will have a reduced entry fee for people following the scarecrow trail.

For more details, please have a look on our website www.braydonmaizemaze.co.uk, or find us on Facebook & Twitter @CornelioMaize

The Purton Scarecrow Trail

Preparation for Scarecrow Trail is gaining momentum. We will have prizes from local businesses for “best scarecrow” as voted for on the quiz entry sheets. The sheets, which will include a map of the scarecrow location, will be available for an entry fee from several outlets around the village just before and during the weekend of the trail. There will be prizes for the winning quiz entrants and a raffle too.



This is good fun for families and folks of all ages and will take a route around Purton, exploring areas that those not familiar with the village will find interesting. Afternoon teas and refreshments will be available around the route and will be shown on the map.

Money raised will go to local charities, so if you have any suggestions for deserving charities, let us know on info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk. Please tell family and friends to come along.

ALISON DAVIES

Activity Week

This year the Activity Week begins on Monday 18 August and finishes on Friday 22 August. Children between 7 years and 11 years are eligible to take part if they live in Purton, attend school here or have another connection with the village (e.g. are staying here with grandparents).

We have no funding for Activity Week this year. Therefore donations will be very welcome, as well as necessary, for us to cover costs. We think that a donation of £5 per day per child is reasonable and hope that those able to make donations will do so. However, we don't want anyone to be unable attend for reasons of costs, so please speak to Mary Nettleton who can help with funding if need be.

We hope to have enough volunteers to enable all children to take part every day. However, we haven't at the moment, so we may have to operate on a first come, first served basis. To help us in our planning we are asking for registration forms to be returned as soon as possible to Mary Nettleton at 4 Church End, Purton Tel 772298. They will be numbered as they come in. We also ask that you stay with your child for registration on the first day so we can check that we can offer them a place.

It is still not too late to volunteer to help during the week and this will ease this pressure on places!

The day will run with activities to take place between 10 am and 3 pm with a lunchtime break at the school and children should bring a packed lunch. This year's activities include sport, cooking, craft, woodwork, board games and art with Toni Robinson. We also have tennis coaching and Jonathan Jungle.

Please make sure children dress suitably for the week in play clothes and suitable shoes. Some activities (sports on the playing field, walks) will take place outside. We therefore advise children to bring with them a hat with a brim, sun block and a waterproof coat to cover all types of summer weather! The indoor activities will take place in St Mary's school. Bicycles are only allowed for transport to and from school and may not be ridden in the playground.

A Tuck Shop will be open once a day where drinks, sweets and crisps can be bought. We are looking forward to welcoming your children during this enjoyable week!

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



'Wildlife and Plants of Seven Fields Nature Reserve' was the subject of our June meeting and Marilyn Beale joined us to speak on the subject. Marilyn has been a resident of Penhill since 1967 and developed an early interest in the site, campaigning for it to be designated as ancient woodland. Until the middle of the 20th century, Seven Fields formed part of the rural farmland to the north of Pinehurst. The site was purchased by the council in the 1950s as part of the Penhill Estate development but the fields to the west continued to be let for hay until 1988. It was finally declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1995. Marilyn is now part of a conservation group that works with a team of rangers who ensure that the reserve is managed and looked after in a sensitive way.

The reserve is an example of unimproved grassland and due to the nutrient poor soil, boasts over 200 recorded flowers and grasses. The first flower of the year is coltsfoot, followed in March/April by wood anemones. These grow from rhizomes when there is no canopy on the trees. Other plant species that grow here include early spotted orchids, vetches, ragwort, hawkweed, wild carrot, much beloved by flower arrangers and yellow rattle, so called from the rattle-like sound produced when the pods dry off.

Following the introduction of mown path routes through the meadows it was found that the mowers regularly strayed over path edges. As a result the ground became so enriched that ox-eye daisies were encouraged to flourish.

Owing to the wide variety of plant species, the meadows provide feeding and breeding stations for a diversity of insects including, crane fly, grasshoppers, moths and a myriad of butterflies including marbled white, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood, orange tip, peacock and red admiral. These in turn attract other wildlife such as birds and mammals.

One project undertaken by the conservation group was the introduction of nesting boxes. However this work was delayed when it was discovered that greater spotted woodpeckers were enlarging the holes in the newly sited nesting boxes in order to gain access for themselves.

With the onset of Dutch Elm disease, felling of diseased trees was undertaken. However cutting through the tree trunks proved difficult. Further investigation showed the presence of lead shot and it transpired that members of 'Dad's Army' had been using the trees for target practice!

Marilyn's enthusiasm for her subject was clear to see and David Herbert offered a vote of thanks for her most interesting talk on this local urban oasis.

Congratulations to 1st Maureen Griffin and 2nd Jill Herbert who were the only two entrants in our competition 'A collection of herbs'. Come on members! Surely we can improve on the number of entries for our July competition 'A Lavender-Themed Craft'.

If you are interested in gardening, and would like to come along and join us, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 August at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall when our speaker will be Duncan Coombs. The subject of his talk will be 'Climbers and Wall Shrubs' and our competition will be 'A Bloom from a Climber'.

LINDA ROBERTS, Chair & MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Rainbows have now finished the alphabet! **Y** was a yellow meeting when they ate bananas, made a sunshine collage and played a yellow Kim's game. **Z** was for zoo so they went outside with homemade "binoculars" to do an animal quiz.

All age groups have got out and about this month: the Rainbows walked to Purton Library where they played a "shopping game" organised by the librarian to help them explore the library. 1st Purton Brownies tried their hand at orienteering at Lydiard Park and another week visited our County campsite for geocaching and low ropes. 2nd Purton Brownies have also visited Lydiard Park where they learnt some map reading to find pictures around the park. Another evening they had an archery taster session. Not to be outdone, the Guides too visited Lydiard Park; their activity was wide games organised by Sarah as part of her Baden-Powell Challenge. The eldest Brownies joined the Guides for a canoeing session at Coate Water. Niamh enjoyed the water more than most which was fortunate as she fell in!

1st Purton Brownies were very grateful for the support of friends and families at their fundraising evening for Children with Cancer UK. A cake sale, raffle, refreshments and quizzes raised a total of £135.59.

The World Cup has not escaped us – the Guides have completed the Football Go For It Challenge, including dribbling over an obstacle course, tasting isotonic drinks and commentating on a match. Maybe they can give England some tips for Russia 2018!

Eleven Purton Guides joined 100 others from across Wiltshire North for a weekend of camping at the County campsite, Chilton Farm. Thunder and lightning didn't put them off and they enjoyed a hike and a range of activities related to inventions. These included first aid, eating chocolate and a football tournament.

The beginning of July saw a coach load of 58 Brownies, Guides and Leaders head off to Wincanton Racecourse for Zoom, a South West Region event celebrating The Big Brownie Birthday. Along with 6,000 others they enjoyed circus skills, big top performances, inflatables, street theatre, crafts, games and music. They also cheered on Kelly and Katy-Erin who took part in the grand parade along the race track.

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



Thinking Cap Corner - Answers (from [page 19](#))

- a. Chloe is twelve
- b. The letter E for "eight"
- c. (One, Two, Three, Four etc)
- d. They all contain three consecutive letter
- e. Calligraphy
- f. The two you took
- g. Underground
- h. Jenny gets £6, Alice £18 and Barbara £24
- i. One haystack – note the words "if he combined them all"
- d. Indigo (colours of the rainbow)
- e. Calligraphy
- f. The two you took
- g. Underground
- h. Jenny gets £6, Alice £18 and Barbara £24
- i. One haystack – note the words "if he combined them all"

With just over a month of the summer league season to go the Purton senior teams are performing very well. In Division One the Men's A and Ladies' A are currently in first place and the Mixed A in second place. It looks like the title in the Ladies' division will be decided by the outcome of the match between us and Swindon due to take place the first week of August. The same can be said of the Mixed Division.

The Ladies B have all but won Division Two needing only 1 point from their remaining two matches to be sure of being crowned champions. Well done Mary, Teresa, Rachel and Sass!

The Men's C and D are in a tussle to be promoted from their respective divisions as are the Mixed D team.

So all in all the season looks like being another successful one!

The junior teams have completed their fixtures with the U18 team suffering a heavy defeat to a very strong Pewsey side and the 14U team losing an extremely close match to Great Bedwyn, the result of which was decided by a match tie-break in the doubles. Unfortunately Oli and Tom lost it by 10-8.

Once the league season is over the club is holding a men's and ladies' doubles tournament for the members. This will take place on Sunday 31 August with partners being drawn from a hat.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Bowls Club

What a day it was for the Carnival, I'm sure everybody was worried that it would not happen, the rain was incessant in the morning and we all got soaked setting up the gazebo in the school field. But every cloud has a silver lining and the sun shone just at the right time, we had plenty of people coming over to see us, and talk to us about bowls. I think generally everybody was happy with the way the day turned out.

Our green was being used that day for a Mens Bowls Wiltshire game and despite the green being completely under water in the morning, went off successfully in the afternoon, thank goodness the drainage is so good now.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to carry our new banner and man the gazebo, they had a busy day, but seemed to really enjoy it. There was friendly banter between all of us, and quite a bit from the crowds lining the streets as well.

By the time you read this we will have had our Play Bowls Day at the club where all the people we spoke to at the Carnival came along and played on our bowls green with the proper equipment; I will let you know how it went next month.

Some other news from the ladies section; three have been picked to represent Wiltshire in the Johns Trophy competition, and one to play at Leamington as part of the Amy Rose team (under 31's). Best of luck to all of them.

Club fixtures are going well, I think we are about mid-table in all our leagues, I will have a comprehensive list in next month's issue. Some of our friendly games have had to be cancelled because of lack of players, but I think membership levels is something that all clubs are concerned about.

PETER BERRY



Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

Results have been encouraging in the first half of the season and all senior and junior teams have recorded some encouraging and rewarding victories. Two U13 players making a mark are Barack and Keron who, in a recent match, scored 99 and 104 not out – very notable achievements.



The grounds and pitches attract an increasing amount of praise from visiting players and spectators. The club is indebted to a small group of workers whose work is respected countywide.

Fixtures at Purton in August

2 nd	1 st XI v Nationwide	1.00pm	17 th	U11 v Biddestone	10.30am
6 th	U13 Wilts Girls		17 th	U14 Wilts Boys v Wales	1.00pm
	v Herefordshire	1.00pm	23 rd	2 nd XI v Burbage	1.00pm
9 th	2 nd XI v Marshfield	1.00pm	24 th	U13 v Biddestone	1.30pm
10 th	U15 v Calne	1.30pm	30 th	2 nd XI v Lechlade	1.00pm
16 th	1 st XI v Great Bedwyn	1.00pm			

From the Archives

On Sunday 6 July 2014 at Lords, the MCC XI played ‘The Rest of the World’ to commemorate the bicentenary of the first match played on the current Lord’s ground two hundred years ago between MCC and Hertfordshire on 24 June 1814.

As the extracts from the first match show, Edward Hayward Budd, a Purton member and player from 1825 to 1852 appeared for the MCC. In 1814 EH Budd was recognised as one of the finest players in England and he was, of course, on the winning side.

JOE GARDNER

Purton FC

Chairman Alan Eastwood is looking forward to the new forthcoming season with just the one Senior side competing again in the UHlsport Hellenic League Div IL West.



Already he has been honoured by the Hellenic league having received the League’s Meritorious Service award for over 40 years service to Purton FC at their Annual General Meeting in June to add to his Honorary Member Award that he received from the Wilts FA in 2010.

Under new Manager Justin Miller, who has replaced Chris Penick after ten seasons with the club, along with Dave Gee, Nick McCrae and Mark Jordan, pre season training started on Tuesday 1 July and will continue on Thursdays and Tuesdays thereafter, unless playing a game starting at 7 pm at the Red House Ground. Six pre- season friendlies have been arranged, three at home and three away and Club Groundsman Colin Richards has done great work in preparing the Red House Pitch for the new campaign.

Several players have sadly left the club but Manager Miller have signed newcomers Lee Toomey, Steven Davies, Dave Slattery, Rory Sproule, Mark

Jordan and Ben Parsons, with Pete Temple returning to the club after a season at Malmesbury Victoria and more will be signed in the weeks to come adding to the ones who re-sign from last season's squad.

The team start their league fixtures on Saturday 9 August while Purton Youth sides will start in the first week of September with Youth Team Chairman Gary Norman sorting out age groups and management teams to run his selected aged teams.

Purton hope last season's well supported sides again turn up for the new campaign and during the season will be arranging some fund raising events and hope local 'Purtonians' will support them in their endeavours.

ALAN EASTWOOD, *Chairman*

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Witts Lane, Jewels Ash, Waite Meads Close and Pear Tree Close*

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 ...

Baptism:

22 June William Edwin David Hodges *at St Mary's Church*

Weddings:

14 June Grant James William Songhurst and Stacie Bodin
at St Mary's Church

21 June Stuart Hillis and Amy Taylor *at St Mary's Church*

Blessing of Marriage:

14 June Alistair Moradi and Nell Bryden *at St Mary's Church*

In Memoriam

24 August 1914 **Charles James Kibblewhite** killed in action, aged 29, during the Battle of Ciplly (Mons), the first Purton man to be killed in the Great War.

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 ...



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. Minibus available - contact Maurice Card, tel 770338.

BOB TINSON