

Purton Magazine



*Back to School: St Mary's old school buildings
photo: Carole Glead, member of Purton Artists*

September 2014

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
<i>(Wednesdays: 2 - 5pm; Saturdays: 10am - 1 pm)</i>		
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	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

.The arrival of September all too often signals a change in the seasons, especially for sports clubs and this issue there are some encouraging reports from clubs in Purton as their seasons draw to a close. The tennis club's season is reaching a nail-biting conclusion for the Ladies A team with details also about the various successes of the other teams on [page 32](#).

The Ladies of Purton Bowls club also seem to have grabbed the limelight on [page 31](#) with the leading four winning the county fours title and representing the county at Leamington Spa. Helping the gender balance a little are the cricketers of Purton with the Under 13 squad becoming champions of their division while the 1st XI are sitting second in their new league at the time of writing. Also on [page 31](#) there is good news on a national and professional county level for a current and past Purton cricketer.

There are two new events in the village for September are inside. We are to have a new community café with the official launch party for "Pips" on Sunday 14 September (see [page 21](#)) and a Scarecrow Trail on the last weekend in the month with the details on [page 15](#).

However, the majority of contributions this month are about Purton remembering the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. Perhaps the highlight was the poignancy of a single candle, described on [pages 5](#) and [25](#) and in some letters on [page 18](#). Many arrived with their own candle and each was placed on the Cenotaph which was originally erected in honour of those who lost their lives in that dreadful war. As the names of the fallen were read out, the candles were gradually removed until just a single candle remained.

The 14th part of Rick Dixon's Great War Project on [page 26](#) details much of the action in September 1914 with descriptions of the major battles and a list of men with Purton associations who served with the 1st Wilts. On Sunday 7 September, the PADS Travelling Theatre will be presenting several playlets around the village that will benefit from some audience participation; see [page 25](#).

Although most online dictionaries claimed that the word simply doesn't exist, Wiktionary suggests that to muddle is "*to dawdle aimlessly, to idle time away*" but in this case we believe it's actually an internet-based learning system – turn to [page 13](#) to see which group wants to know!

4th

verse of Binyon's poem
"For the Fallen" is the
best remembered
– see [page 27](#)

360

shoeboxes is the target
for this year's contribution
from the community
– see [page 36](#)

£50k

fine and 5 years
in prison possible
for fly-tipping
– see [page 5](#)

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

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Parish Council News



Purton Parish Council Walk – What better way to spend a late summer Sunday afternoon than to join in with the Purton Parish Council walk, enjoy the lovely local scenery and meet with friends.

The walk is on Sunday 21 September setting out at 2 pm, starting from the lay-by opposite Purton Cenotaph on the High Street. The walk is approximately 5km/3.1miles in distance and the route takes in the cricket field, Collins Lane and Wits Lane before returning to the lay-by.

There is no need to book – just turn up and enjoy. For more information telephone 771532, or call at 31 High Street and ask for George.

These Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

N13/04298/FUL *Hafaway House, Hoggs Lane*, replacement garage with room above.

N14/04457/FUL *Land at Watkins Corner*, formation of a manege.

N14/04681/FUL *25 Glevum Close*, single storey rear extension and conservatory.

N14/04614/LBC *Swindon & Cricklade Railway*, reproduction of original sign to bridge including weight limit plate.

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.

World War 1 Candle Vigil – local historian Bob Lloyd led a candle vigil on the evening of 4 August at Purton Cenotaph. The date marked the 100th anniversary of the date Great Britain entered the First World War. Many people of all ages attended the Purton candle vigil to remember.

Administrative Officer – the Parish Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Lesley Miles to the role of Administrative Officer from 19 August. Lesley is a familiar face to many in the Parish as she already works for the Council as Bookings Clerk, and she will now combine the two roles.

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

The Parish Council has vacancies for Councillors. If you would like to consider becoming a Councillor why not contact the Parish Clerk or speak to one of the existing Councillors to find out more about the role? It can be a very interesting and rewarding way of getting involved in the community and helping to deal with many aspects of village life.

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 on the wall adjacent to the side door (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.

Purton Open Gardens 2014

All the hard work by participants was rewarded by fine weather after 12.00 on Saturday and ticket sales allowed the committee to distribute a total of £1,600 to local charities. However sales were down on previous years, perhaps because of an array of competing sporting events on TV. The funds were given as follows:-



World War 1 Commemoration Group	£375
Luncheon Club at Silver Threads	£400
Jubilee Gardens	£100
Purton Cricket Club	£175
Community Café Project	£375
Purton Under 5's (St Mary's school site)	£175

A small float was retained for paying for repairs to the Millennium Garden (sited at the entrance to The Peak) wall, weed control and planting by volunteers.

Thank you to everybody who supported Open Gardens. In 2 years' time we are thinking about holding the event earlier in the year. Please consider joining as a participant. We note that there are many suitable, pretty, interesting gardens as we walk around the village, even if they are just viewed from the road. Perhaps a street of several gardens could combine to put on a visual show without ticket holders actually entering the properties?

NICK YERBURY

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 26 September: 10 am - 12 noon at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

The Macmillan Coffee Morning is a good excuse to meet up with friends and acquaintances for coffee and cake. Every £1 we raise will help to make sure we can provide support for people facing cancer in Wiltshire and across the UK.

So far we have 22 Macmillan nurses and professionals working in Wiltshire and last year the support telephone line helped with the questions and worries of 722 people in our area, but we still need to do more.

Do join us in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall on Friday 26 September. We will have stalls with plants, books, cakes etc, or try your luck on our raffle and tombola.

VILMA MUNRO, 771259



News From The Trustees

Village Hall Complex

On Sunday 7 September the Village Hall car park has been booked and will be closed all day for the World War 1 commemoration. No cars to be left overnight. Please comply with these instructions.

Could we congratulate Paul and David for the lovely display of flowers around the Village Hall and the Institute. They are really beautiful – a credit to you both.

The Purton War Memorial & Village Centre

We are concerned about the possibility of drugs being used, sold or passed on at the Centre. We feel parents should be aware that this is happening. What makes us suspicious is that cars have been seen taking younger people away singly and then bringing them back. All this has been reported to the Police who are keeping a watchful eye on things. We feel sorry to mention this when it gives us so much pleasure to see so many children enjoying themselves, especially during the holidays.

Could we say how disappointed and sorry we were that the users' meeting with the Trustees had to be cancelled because some of the users couldn't make it at the last minute – this was after a great many 'phone calls trying to find a suitable night that everyone could make. We will be fixing another night to meet and hope that that meeting goes ahead as we are keen to hear everyone's views and where we can help.

When you read this the football season will have started and we wish them well and hope they have an enjoyable season. We wish the new manager Justin Miller every success and a warm welcome back to the Club. As Trustees we are disappointed that there is only one senior side this year as we feel you need a reserve side as a stepping stone for players to the first team to bring younger players on. Hopefully the youth sides will be successful and progress into the senior sides.

The Bowls Club season will be drawing to a close with mixed results – the ladies in particular have done very well. We are sure they have all enjoyed the season. They would have liked a few more members this year but we are sure, with their hospitality, excellent green and lovely surroundings, their membership will improve next year.

The Tennis Club has had a very successful summer season with the chance to win several titles in the various leagues that the teams are in, so congratulations to all at the Tennis Club. Does their success stem from the fact that they coach children? The older members support and encourage them which we are sure goes into making a thriving club, so well done to the Tennis Club. Now they have floodlights they will have a winter season ahead of them, so we wish them every success in the winter leagues.

TONY PRICE & DAVID WOOLFORD, Trustees

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 26 September 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).

The Cenotaph

I thought it appropriate to say a little bit about the maintenance side of the Cenotaph as we are remembering the start of World War 1 and it was erected in honour of those people who lost their lives in that dreadful war.

During my time it has been maintained by volunteers – early on they even cut the grass but now the Parish Council groundsmen cut it. John Lilley, along with daughter Amanda and son-in-law Steve, cut the hedges for which we are exceedingly grateful. In the early days the Cenotaph was in the centre of the plot with a laurel hedge all round the boundary but that was all altered when the road was straightened out. The old road is where the layby is now – they even moved Queen Anne's gate!

Could I commend Roger Lawrence for all the invaluable work he has put in on the Cenotaph over many years – keeping it tidy and a pleasure to look at – sometimes a lone figure who kept it all going. Did he take over from the likes of Les Smith, Frank Glass and Albert Clifford etc.? ... as, before these, the members of Toc H did it – John Wheeler, Fred Miles and Jim Bunce etc. to name but a few. Roger did get one or two to help him at times, like Brian Merrett and Keith Mobey, who have sadly died (our best wishes go to Bebe, Brian's wife, who is moving to Royal Wootton Bassett to be near her daughter). Then there was Ron Saunders and Bruce D'Arcy Masters who had to give up through ill health like Roger and, of course, that stalwart of the Royal British Legion Ernie Paish, who is still helping along with Bob Stevens, Chris Gleed, Ron Paish and Steve Goodall. Unfortunately we have had to say goodbye to Geoff Tappern, who has moved away. Not only would I like to thank Geoff for his help on the Cenotaph but also for all his other input into the village. Many thanks Geoff. Another person we shall sadly miss is Roy Mayl, who used to grow and give us quite a lot of special coloured plants to help make our colour scheme around the centre piece like the red geraniums. He was a great help to us over the years with his contributions and our thoughts and prayers are with Roy's family in their loss.

If anyone feels they would like to join us on the working party, we usually meet on Tuesday mornings for about an hour – give me a ring on 770696. Once again, very many thanks, Roger, for keeping it all going over the years.

I would like to close by saying what a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives it was when a good number of villagers assembled at the Cenotaph on 4 August from 10 to 11 pm with their lighted candles. As people arrived they placed their candles on the Cenotaph and we all stood in silence to honour the dead. Bob Lloyd spoke about the outbreak of the war and then read out the names of those on the memorial and others who were not recorded there. He asked that we gradually remove our candles while he was doing this until just one candle was left bringing to an end a very touching evening. Thank you to the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion and to Bob Lloyd for making it such a memorable occasion.

TONY PRICE

Purton & District Age Concern



Thanks go to Sue Giles for her Dementia Presentation before our committee meeting on 5 August. It was very informative, enlightening and Sue's style of presentation made a difficult subject easier to understand. It certainly gave us a lot to think about especially the 5 main points we should all know about dementia which are: dementia is not a natural part of ageing; dementia is caused by diseases of the brain; dementia is not just about losing your memory; it's possible to live well with dementia; and finally there's more to a person than the dementia. Thanks again Sue, we will wear our Dementia Friend badges with pride.

Sadly we have lost another great supporter of Age Concern – Roy Mayl. Roy always supplied our market stalls at Pavenhill with lots of nice plants for us to sell. Our thoughts are with all Roy's family at this sad time.

Future Events:

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 phone 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!

Mystery Tour – Our final mystery tour of 2014 is on Wednesday 1 October with a 10 am start. Cost including lunch is £13 for village pensioners and £14.50 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please contact your street warden before Monday 22 September if you would like to go, or Tony on 770696.

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.

Antiques & Collectables Fayre – This will be held on Sunday 19 October from 10.30 am - 4.30 pm at the Village Hall. There will be lots of stalls selling a variety of items. Admission is 50p and refreshments will be available. For further information and to book a table please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339.

Past Events: Annual outing to Weston-super-Mare – Over 50 people went on the day trip to Weston and what lovely weather they had, sunny with a bit of a breeze so it wasn't too hot. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Information: Wiltshire Good Neighbours – Ellen Blacker is our local Good Neighbour Co-ordinator, she can be contacted on 07557 110414. Ellen can provide information on a whole range of subjects affecting older people such as benefits advice, where to get aids and equipment to make life easier and emergency

(pendant) alarm systems, just to name a few. Please give her a call if you think she can be of help to you. Thanks Ellen for helping the lady I referred to you recently.

Cricklade Computer Club – Do you need help with computer basics? If so, there is free tuition from Wiltshire Digital Champion Volunteers every Monday from 10 am – 12 noon in the café at Cricklade Leisure Centre, Stone Lane, Cricklade. Just turn up with your laptop or tablet and you will be offered friendly computer support. I can now do things with my iPad I never thought possible!

Finally, thanks to everyone involved with the recent Lunch Club afternoon tea. We were served delicious scones with jam and cream, an assortment of cakes with cups of tea or coffee, topped off by a walk round Caroline and Hector's beautiful garden; the perfect end to a lovely afternoon.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Ted Wicks - My Dad

Dad passed away on 30 June at Athelstan House, Malmesbury. Tony Price wrote a lovely piece about Dad in last month's magazine outlining his life.

Over the past few years many people in Purton and The Lydiards have got used to seeing Dad and me together, whether it was in the Doctor's surgery, on trips or just out and about in general. In that time I have learnt that on the whole Dad was well liked and respected, although his opinion was known to ruffle a few feathers! He was always greeted with smiles and, if he was lucky, a kiss from the ladies.

Let's face it, when you get to 92 there is not always something to smile about. I know that Dad enjoyed company and some days he was very down and out but made a miraculous recovery if he was going out. Tony and the Purton Age Concern were very good to him. A mystery trip, followed by a lovely lunch or tea was his favourite outing. As was our annual trip to Weston-Super-Mare, where he enjoyed his fish and chips and his once a year, Knicker Bocker Glory! Dad did like his grub! He was also made so welcome at The Lydiard Lunch Club. Old and new friends made a Wednesday something to look forward to. He could never say enough about how he enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone who made My Dad feel so special and wanted.

Some people called him Pearl's Dad. Even after being married for 35 years, I am less known as Jamie Lait's wife, but as Pearl Wicks – Ted Wicks' daughter. And of that I am proud.

The wonderful attendance of Dad's funeral was a testament to his popularity; I think most of us would be pleased with half the attendance.

I would like to reiterate the thanks already given on behalf of the family and I would like to include Dr McKemey and all the staff at Purton surgery not only for being so good to My Dad, but also giving me great support when needed. Many thanks too for the help given by Deb and Mandy making those lovely cakes for the wake.

There are so many people who have been so kind and I hope I have not missed anyone out. My friends and closest family, Jamie, Rachel, Clare and her partner Aaron have been so supportive through a very sad and difficult time, not forgetting my brother and sister-in-law Neil and Deb who share in knowing how special and important My Dad was in my life.

Life over the past few years has not always been joy and laughter and some days they have been pretty hard for Dad, and myself. But knowing there are those who care made things easier for us both.

There is a big hollow in my heart. God Bless Dad.

PEARL LAIT

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank every one who attended Our Dad, Ted Wicks' funeral on 14 July. The church at Lydiard Millicent was full and I have been told that there were people standing in the porch.

Also thank you for all the cards, messages and donations received in his memory, which at this time stands at £572.30 and will be equally shared between Purton Age Concern and The Lydiard Lunch Club.

I would also like to thank Tricia who took the service and Joe, Dad's good friend, who gave the reading. Special thanks to Joan and her friends who did a wonderful job of catering for so many in the Village Hall following the service. Thanks too, to Howard Taylor at the Sun Inn for allowing so many people use his car park.

PEARL LAIT

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.

Jubilee Gardens Project

Jubilee Gardens is horticultural training centre for adults with learning disabilities. We are a long established charity based at Church Bush Hall in Purton Stoke. We serve Swindon, Wiltshire and the surrounding areas.

Students find a safe and welcoming environment in which they can build everyday knowledge and skills to improve quality of their lives.

Our market stall where we sell our flowers and vegetables is a popular local feature and we enjoy much support from local people for our open days and other events.

We have a vacancy for a Director to join our Board of seven Directors who manage the charity. The Board meets in the evening every five weeks. If you would like to take an interest in our work and become a Director please contact the Chairman of the Board, Geoff Ham: geoffham@talktalk.net



Purton Luncheon Club Cream Teas

The committee of the Luncheon Club would like to thank very warmly indeed all who were involved in making the Cream Teas fundraising event of 2 August, such a happy success in spite of threatening weather. The late decision that the weather could not be trusted meant a move from the lovely gardens of College Farm House to the more mundane location of the Silver Threads Hall. Here imaginative committee members and kitchen volunteers used their creative instincts to transform the stage into a garden bordered with shrubs and furnished with deckchairs, a parasol and a table with glasses.



Chalice, our much-loved local group, performed in this setting with typical gusto, entertaining us with a selection of folk songs ranging in tone from sad to protesting to joyous. They were received with great acclaim. When she had finished singing, the soloist, Val Evans, exchanged her mike for her pinny and reverted to her volunteer role by helping to clear the tables. Many other volunteers and visitors also stayed behind to help in the clearing-up operation.

A very sincere thank-you to all who provided a wide variety of raffle prizes or baked such delicious cakes and scones for us and brought them to College Farm House in the morning's heavy rainfall. We also thank all those who supported us by coming to the hall that afternoon, when the clouds seemed full of rain. It is a tribute to you all that we raised over £350 in total and served more than fifty visitors.

Eventually the sun decided to smile and Hector and Caroline McLean kindly invited people to enjoy a visit to their garden as they made their way home.

DIANA THOMBS, Chairman

The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon

'Money and support where Wiltshire people need it most'

Are you a community group? Do you need more funding? We can help you!



If you work with people in Wiltshire who need help and support – young or old, disabled or in need – you can apply for funding to help with the costs of your project and make life better for your community.

Apply now for a Community Grant for up to £5,000 and to the Comic Relief communities fund for around £1,000 - 2,000. Visit www.wscf.org.uk/grants to find out more about the grants available.

To get started, complete an 'expression of interest' survey on our website by the beginning of October. If you qualify for a grant we will send you an application form to complete.

Find out more about funding for your community project by visiting www.wscf.org.uk/grants or call us on **01380 729284** to find out more about how we can help.

After 8

Despite the name of the organisation, we met at Helen's home at seven in order to have the maximum time to enjoy the barbeque and the delightful garden with mature trees hiding the rock face of one of the disused Purton quarries.



We were extremely fortunate with the sunny weather and were able to relax and chat surrounded by so many flowers on the terrace. There was a choice of sun or shade and even the luxury of a heater as it became darker and cooler. As usual for an After Eight meal, there was a superb variety of food and drink.

When we left at about 10 o'clock after a most enjoyable evening, some of us were put to shame by the Restrop contingent who set off to walk into the High Street and home.

GWYNETH DATSON

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16 September at Helen's: "Bring Board Games to Play". For further information contact Avril on 771542.

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



Our own meeting of 16 July was an Open Meeting and there were some visitors who we hope might return. The spread of cakes would bring me back, I know! They were delicious and it was obvious that somebody had spent a great deal of thought into the refreshments for this meeting.

The speaker was "A Modern Military Mother" (Clare McAughton) and it wasn't a weepy, as you might have expected, but an aspect of military wives' lives that we hadn't considered before, which is ... although the husbands are, of course, lovingly welcomed when they return from a spell of duty, they inevitably throw the family's whole pattern of living into disarray. It really was a funny story – and Clare had turned it into a book, too, with more to come. Having children to organise (and discipline) as well, this busy lady certainly earned our respect, and delight at her vivacious delivery.

There was a small, but amazing, display of First World War Memorabilia on the competition table – for instance, two small diaries from 1912! Medals and photos were there, too, every one deserving a prize. It is good that so many members still have memories of their grandparents to hand. Younger members obviously enjoyed handling history, and I felt foolish at not keeping notes of what my parents and grandparents had told me. We really should, as it all slips away when we get older, especially names.

As for the Sales table, groaning with fresh paperbacks and preserves and boxes of black- and redcurrants, and rhubarb ... And the Committee is taking last orders for next year's diaries, and calendars (with lovely photographs). It was a true WI night! We shall soon have the men demanding to join, I shouldn't wonder!

You could say that our next speaker, for 17 September, is surplus to requirements, as Eunice Salmon's talk is entitled "Keep Young and Beautiful". But we can always learn something new, I know, I know. The Competition is "Your favourite powder compact" – every one a reminder of former lover boys, which one to choose? Social time will be given over to tea and chat, and there certainly will

be plenty to talk about, after such an evening! (Beware, if you see me lurking behind you with my notebook at the ready ... this sounds the kind of meeting where unexpected slips of the tongue can offer a great story!)

I am so looking forward to seeing you all, and to welcoming visitors, on 17 September. This should be a light-hearted and enjoyable evening for us all, I'm sure. And please continue to bring items for the Sales table as it does help with funds and is often interesting in itself. Happy moodling till then – no, I still don't know what it means – could someone enlighten me, please?

CONSTANCE REED, tel 771571

Purton & District Probus Club

The report for July is something of a 'selfie' – both meetings were addressed by our own members.

On the 8th Paul Booy, known to Bradon Forest and the local Historical Society, delivered a comprehensive analysis of the social and economic circumstances that led to the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party between 1933 & 1939. Ineffective political parties in Germany, apathy and unemployment allowed Hitler to eliminate all political opposition and assume absolute power. He endorsed his public popularity by mobilising the Workforce with massive building projects and rearmament. Between 1933 & 1939 unemployment in Germany was reduced from 6 million to less than half a million. Whereas most Probus members are familiar with the record of World War 2, few of us are old enough to be aware of the circumstances in the years leading up to it, hence Paul's talk was very well received.

On the 22nd David Sweet, our Club Secretary, gave a memorable Powerpoint presentation of 'The Dust Bowl', the devastation and erosion of the Great Plains at the heart of North America. Before the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 the Plains were inhabited by native Indians, bison and fur traders. In spite of a rainfall of only 10 - 14 inches per year, the grassland was stable. Around 1860/70 the idea 'Manifest Destiny' encouraged the suppression of the Indians by the slaughter (1872 -1874) of 4.5 million buffalo, land sales on a massive scale and pioneering into the area. This, followed by intensive ranching and wheat farming for immediate gain, destabilised what little topsoil there was. Successive droughts in the 1930s and unpredictable winds from the Rockies caused mile-high dust storms, turning the plains into a wasteland, burying homesteaders hopes under huge dunes of dust resulting in a near total exodus. 350 million tons, lifted 10,000 ft in the air, spread over the eastern states and was detected 300 miles beyond the Atlantic seaboard. Steinbeck described the horrors in 'The Grapes of Wrath' and more recently Timothy Egan with 'The Long Darkness'. Some measures have since been taken to try to restore the grasslands.

Purton Probus meets at 10 am every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Red House Lounge. Future meetings 26 August - Anson's Voyage. 9 September - Banking Then & Now. 23 September - Battle of Castillon (1453). New members and visitors welcome.

BOB STEVENS

Purton Medical Practice Seasonal Flu Clinics

Purton Surgery will be commencing its seasonal flu clinics at the end of September and would initially like to invite the following people to call the surgery on 770207 to make an appointment

- Anyone over 65 years of age
- In receipt of a Carers Allowance
- Pregnant Ladies
- Healthy 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Anyone age from 6 months-64 years who have one or more of the following:
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Chronic Heart Disease
 - Chronic Renal failure
 - Have undergone a splenectomy
 - Severe Asthma resulting in recent hospitalisation or taking inhaled steroids on an ongoing basis (i.e. not seasonal)

To minimise disruption to our other services flu vaccination clinics will be limited to the following dates only. The dates will be as follows:

Purton Medical Practice – Thursday 25 September, Saturday 4 October, Tuesday 14 October and Saturday 18 October.

We intend to virtually complete our vaccination programme by the end of October. Please ring to make an appointment in one of these clinics from 3 September onwards. Please note that patients who are given an appointment who do not fulfil NHS criteria will be turned away as we are unable to give this vaccine privately.

Following police concerns last year about traffic congestion at Green Gable branch surgery, we ask all patients who are able to attend Purton clinics to please do so. Thank you.

Purton Scarecrow Trail

The Trail is all set for Saturday and Sunday 27 & 28 September. We have prizes from local businesses for “best scarecrow” as voted for on the quiz entry sheets. The sheets can be bought from Best One, Purton House Organic Farm shop and the Royal George from 20 September and during the weekend of the trail. This will include a map of the scarecrow locations. Entry will be £2 and open 10 am - 5 pm each day. There will be prizes for the winning quiz entrants.



This is good fun for families and folk 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 donations, let us know on info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk. Please tell family and friends to come along.

The names of the winners will be available in the November issue of Purton Magazine.

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

Purton Magazine 10 years ago was celebrating the Athens Olympics effect on local sportsmen and women. Leading the Purton honours board in the September

2004 issue were the Purton Bowling Club Ladies team who had become the new Wiltshire Champions having defeated the formidable Box club on Pewsey's Green. Buoyed on by that success, they then travelled to Andover to beat the Isle of Wight in the Regional Finals. Not to be outdone, the Men's team also reached the English National Finals at Worthing.

Although Purton Tennis club had mixed fortunes with their teams in 2004 (following a very successful 2003 season), they were able to report record attendances of up to 67 players at their Junior section meetings on Saturday mornings with three teams competing in the Wiltshire Junior League.

10 years ago there were a couple of milestones featured in Purton Magazine. Firstly PADS were rehearsing to present their 30th anniversary play, *The Decorator*, a comedy by Donald Churchill and the synopsis of the play highlighted that it seemed to involve several sexual escapades; "say no more!"

The other milestone was that 10 years ago, John Harris, our village butcher, announced that he was about to retire from his business and hand over to our current butcher, Andrew Hiscock. John had been on The Parade for 22 years and even had the village in mind when on holiday one Christmas he was seen on Dartmoor sizing up some local alpacas (but only out of interest and not for resale, he assured the Purton "spy" who spotted him!).

Local shops, especially like a local butcher, are a good barometer of a village community. With every increasing competition by the major supermarkets, a local butcher's shop has to provide excellent quality of service as well as produce, to remain in business. It is to their considerable credit that Andrew and his team have carried on serving our village ever since John's retirement 10 years ago and long may we continue to support them and enable them to remain a key element of our community.

All past issues from January 2004 (but without advertisements) can be accessed through our on-line archive. Please visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk.

We Record ...

Baptism:

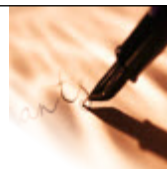
20 July

Oliver Ben Smith at St Mary's Church

In Memoriam

22 Sept 1914

Henry Philip Drury, of Greenhill and Purton, killed in action, aged 29, during Battle of Aisne Heights. No known grave.



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 ...

Harvest Flowers

I know it seems a bit early to start talking about Harvest Festival, while we are still enjoying this beautiful summer, but I am giving you plenty of notice that the Harvest service in St Mary's Church will be on Sunday 5 October.

If you would like to bring some Harvest flowers along to St Mary's, please do feel very, very welcome.

Give me a ring and I will make sure you are informed of the best time to bring your flowers. We would love to have as many people involved as possible, so if you would like to see your local church looking its Harvest best, please do contact Libbie: 771018.

Thank you so much.

Prayer for Purton

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

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.

Church Floodlighting

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



- 4 September The Church will be floodlit for **Martin Bunce (Bunny)**, in fond memory on his 60th birthday. Love from Ann and Reg, Paul and Helen, Sharon and families
- 6 September The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Doris Wadsworth**, whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered and so sadly missed. Reg, Jean, Mark and all her dear family.

Floodlighting contact: [Sandra Horsnall](#)

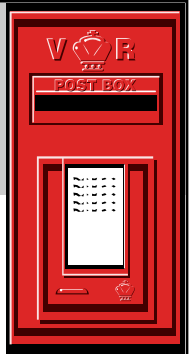
Coffee & Chat

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

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.



■ WW1 WALK & TALK

Can I please thank all those who attended my walk and talk events at St Mary's church on 3 & 4 August. My planned walks of 1 hour ended up taking 2 hours but I think everyone gained something from the event and another £80 was raised for Combat Stress, many thanks. Can I also thank Purton Parish Council and all those who attended the candle vigil at the War Memorial on the evening of 4 August. What was good to see was the cross range of ages present.

PURTON REMEMBERS.

Bob Lloyd

■ WW1 COMMEMORATIONS

May I express my thanks and appreciation for the recent events held in Purton commemorating the start of the First World War a century ago.

I particularly enjoyed the tour of the church and churchyard pointing out the Rolls of Honour and showing us the graves of some who died who are buried, or commemorated there. The candlelit ceremony held at the war memorial, "Lights Out", on the evening of Monday 4 August was particularly touching and tastefully done. A candle lit and extinguished for every name on the memorial, read out by Bob Lloyd the organiser of these events.

I would like to thank Bob for his hard work and amazing research which made these events so memorable.

He is a serving member of the armed forces, receives no payment for doing

this work and any donations are passed on to Combat Stress, a charity founded (rather aptly) in 1919 for those returning home with shell shock. Its work is still sadly needed. I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to him for helping, with other residents of Purton, to make this sad event so memorable.

Jill Watts

■ HISTORICAL SUMMER

I would just like to say to you all how much I enjoyed my stay up at Purton this summer. All of the historical commemorations were very interesting, especially to me, who is going to visit the WW1 battlefields in France and Belgium in November. I would like to personally say a huge thank-you to Bob Lloyd, who organised the brilliant WW1 tour of the church and cemetery, pointing many things out you wouldn't notice at a glance.

As well as this I would like to thank him for the words said on the night of 4 August at the standing vigil. Words that helped us to remember the horror our world faced 100 years ago. Words to remember those who gave their lives so that we may be free. As well as being remembered in his words, they were also remembered in the exhibition currently in Purton museum. Personally, I thought that the exhibition was really good, fitting well amongst the collection of assorted Victorian items. I must also give some appreciation to

the posters and display boards that are part of the exhibition; they are extremely well designed and made!

To top off this wonderful holiday, Marion Hobbs organised a lovely walk highlighting the historical parts of the village. The stroll took us from the village hall up to the wayside cross, and then up to St Mary's where Hector McLean showed us around the medieval church with expert knowledge. And all of this was followed by LOVELY cream tea.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed all of my historical escapades around the village and I hope that things like it keep going through the WW1 centenary and maybe even after that! I would like to emphasise even more my thanks to all who organised these events and the participants who made the events what they were.

David Booy (12), Stafford

■ CHARITY RUN

I would like to say thank you to Silver Threads and to my neighbours in Vasterne Close for supporting me in my cancer charity run. Also to my husband Gerry who was by my side on every day of training.

Mrs Hazel Beckett

■ FLOWERS

Please can I use the magazine to convey very grateful thanks to all who are responsible for the fantastic flower displays in the village this summer. The huge planters up at the Top Shops have been a delight; and the hanging baskets around the library and Village Hall have been stupendous. Thank you for all the hard work put into the

planting, watering and general maintenance of these displays. I am sure all Purton villagers will agree they have made the village look especially beautiful throughout the last few weeks and months

From a grateful Purtonian

■ THEATRE CLUB

On reading the piece about the Theatre Club in the August magazine I felt that I should put pen to paper to correct the records. (Sorry Doreen!)

The club was not started by Glynn and Marjorie Lloyd. It was started in 1972 by my late husband, Cmdr Peter Robson, then of Claredon House.

Anne Blagbrough, then of The Live and Let live, was Transport Manager.

Peter was always trying to keep prices low to include as many villagers as possible. When Evita first came to London in 1978 the club only received a small fraction of the number of tickets requested and names were drawn from a hat to get the few lucky winners.

Peter passed the running of the club to Glynn and Marjorie in 1979 when he left the village temporarily.

Jean Robson, Highridge Close

■ GARDEN PARTY AT QUARRY FARM

Sue and family would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who either attended the above event or donated money to it. They are pleased to report that The Prospect Hospice received a donation of £2,500 as a result!

■ GET WELL WISHES

Wishing you well, Pauline. We're waiting for your return!

The members of Silver Threads

Something to Think About

It takes a long time to become young.

Pablo Picasso

PURTON PLACARD

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

W.I. Cream Teas

on Saturday 30 August
at Vasterne Hill Cottage,
Vasterne Hill
2 - 4.30 pm
Cost £3

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

First World War Centenary

Information boards in
Purton Library

Sunday 7 September
PADS Travelling Theatre
Your Village Needs You!!
Details on page 35



St Mary's Church, Purton **Barn Dance** Saturday 4 October 7 pm

Village Hall, Purton
All welcome
Bring and Share Supper Licensed Bar
Tickets Adults £5,
children (16 and under) £2.50
Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila 770970,
Val 771201, Jane 772422

Purton Age Concern **3B's x 2 Evening**

Friday 10 October at 7.30 pm
In the Silver Threads Hall
Cost £6 and includes supper
Ring Ron & Heather Harris on
770850 for admission tickets
Join us for a fun evening!

Purton Age Concern **Jumble Sale**

Saturday 6 September
at the Village Hall
Sale starts at 2 pm
Jumble can be left at the
Village Hall
between 12 noon & 1pm.
Lots of bargains!

SHOEBOX FUND RAISING DAY

35 High Street, Purton
Saturday 27 September
10 am - 3 pm
LUNCHES £5
(Served from 12 noon)
Morning raffle Afternoon raffle
Bric-a-brac Tombola Cakes Books
Jigsaws
Admission £1 for tea/coffee/biscuits

Purton Age Concern **Antiques & Collectables Fayre**

Sunday 19 October
10.30 am - 4.30 pm
At the Village Hall
Admission 50p
refreshments available
Enquiries & to book a table
contact Jenny Barnes on
770339

Purton Age Concern

Mystery Tours

Cost - £13 each tour
for village pensioners

Wednesday 3 September

Coach leaves at 2 pm
(tea included)
come and join us for the
afternoon!

Wednesday 1 October

Coach leaves at 10 am
(lunch included)
Join us for our last mystery tour
of 2014!

Group for Patients - Purton and Green
Gable Surgery

Talk on Arthritis

Wednesday 22 October 7.30 - 9 pm
Purton Surgery

Speakers:

Dr David Collins Consultant
Rheumatologist

& Director of Research,
Great Western Hospital

Hazell Dunnett - Arthritis Care

Adrienne Noke - Arthritis Research UK

Free event but tickets required due to
limited seating.

Available from September

Contact Purton Surgery,
tel 01793 770207

Purton Community Café

It's the announcement you've all been waiting for!

After whetting your appetites in last month's village magazine, the Community Café committee is very excited to announce that the proposed venue for the café is the function room at the back of the Purton Club. We felt this ticked virtually all the requirement boxes as it's on a main route through the village, has a nearby bus stop and safe road crossing point, has a car park with level access, is spacious with room for pushchairs/wheelchairs etc and has bags of potential. What's more, the management team at the club are really enthusiastic about the project and have been helpful and supportive.

We are also delighted to announce that the name of the café will be 'Pips', which is not only short, snappy and fun but also draws on Purton's pear growing heritage. Over the past few weeks there has been an online vote via the café's Facebook page for a logo which will be used on signage and publicity material. It's been a close-run thing but after some fantastic feedback, the people of Purton have spoken and the winning design chosen. If you've not joined already visit facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe

The response to the online vote has been brilliant and the project has really been gaining momentum, so we look forward to seeing lots of you at the Pips official launch party on **Sunday 14 September** at the **Purton Club function room, from 2.30 - 4.30 pm**. It's your chance to see our plans for the venue, how the project is progressing, find out how you can get involved, and enjoy afternoon tea with your friends! Everyone is welcome and there will be activities for children.



Purton Diary - September 2014

2	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Films by Dave Seviour
3	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour (with tea included)
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
6	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at Village Hall
7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		2.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : PADS WW1 playlets around village, starting Willis Way - see page 25 .
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>Banking then and now</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church - Patronal festival
		2.30pm	<i>to 4.30pm</i> : Pips Community Café launch party at Purton Club, Station Road
15	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Andrew Fleet - Barnabas Fund
16	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: The Bobby Van
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: "Bring Board games to Play" at Helen's
17	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Eunice Salmon - <i>Keep Young and Beautiful</i>
21	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
		2.00pm	Parish Council Walk starting from lay-by opposite cenotaph
		5.00pm	Youth Service at St Mary's Church
23	Tu		Autumn Equinox
		10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>Battle of Castillon (1453)</i>
		10.30am	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Mini-Show
25	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society, Village Hall: John Winterburn - <i>Gallipoli 1915</i>
27	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 3pm</i> : Shoebox Fundraising Day at 35 High Street

		10.00am	to 3pm: Purton Scarecrow Trail - see page 15
		8.00pm	Tennis Club Race Night, Red House Club - all welcome (p46)
28	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	to 3pm: Purton Scarecrow Trail - see page 15
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
30	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Memories

October

1	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour (with lunch included)
4	S	7.00pm	Barn Dance at Village Hall with Bring & Share supper

Every week

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

Moon Phases

 2 September
  8 September
  15 September
  23 September

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

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

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

Purton Historical Society



Walk the paths of History – Marion Hobbs

On the morning of Saturday 19 July at least 12 members and guests assembled at Dogridge for the walk led by Marion. The weather was not exactly kind with very heavy rain showers but we were not deterred. We headed off over the fields to Ringsbury camp via Mud Lane and returned to Pavenhill along the footpath at the back of Ringsbury Close. We continued into Upper Pavenhill and turned right to return to our starting point via the allotments with a detour to view Mr Herbert's magnificent onions! Marion explained various points to us on the way about ancient byways and different buildings. A big thank-you to Marion for organising and leading the walk which was both enjoyable and informative.

The monthly meetings re-commence in September as follows:

Thursday 25 September 2014 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall Gallipoli 1915 – John Winterburn

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the British-led invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula, this talk will examine the history of the campaign from both the British and Turkish perspectives. Using historic and modern photographs the talk will illustrate some of the battlefield landscapes and describe how these



are being interpreted and memorialised today by Britain, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand. The picture is *The Landing at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli*, by David Rowlands.

Future 2014 Diary Dates – further details in future magazines

Thursday 23 October: The Archaeology of Bradon Forest - Mike Stone (Village Hall)

Thursday 27 November: WW1 The first 18 months - Bill King (Village Hall)

Friday 5 December: Annual Christmas Social (Silver Threads Hall)

New members and visitors are always welcome

TONY & JAN NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com

Museum News

Our commemoration of the bicentenary of World War 1 is now well under way. Brian Freegard, Steve Griffiths from Artworking and Bob Lloyd have made an exceptional job of the memorial boards, many thanks to them for all their hard work. These boards depict the museum's collection of photographs of local servicemen involved in the Great War. It seems even more important as our knowledge of events unfold in the 1914-18 period that these local men and their contribution should not be forgotten.

On a personal note I have discovered a photograph of my Great Uncle Evelyn Ovens from Lydiard Millicent in this collection. I can now put a face to the name!

The memorial service at the church on Sunday 3 August was beautifully conducted and was very poignant, as was the gathering at the War Memorial late in the evening of 4 August. However familiar the names of the fallen have become

at the museum, when the list of these brave men was read out loud on both occasions it was very moving indeed.

Bob Lloyd made excellent and very informative tours of the churchyard and his amazing research has made our job at the museum much easier – thanks Bob. Thanks also to Steve and Carol at Artworking for the welcome donation of indestructible posters and photocopying. Much gratitude also to Brian Davis for making hardboard stands for us to display our posters. Last but not least what a wonderful collection of paintings were made for us by St Mary's School. We were able to decorate the entrance hall with these works of art mostly of poppies but some WW1 tanks and guns crept in! This kind donation, arranged by Mrs Rushen was much appreciated.

We will be pleased to see you at the museum on a Wednesday afternoon 2-5 pm or Saturday morning 10 am to 1 pm.

JAN WALKER, *Curator*

Purton Remembers WW1

In case you've missed previous issues of the Village Magazine and just to remind you in case you've forgotten, here are the details of Purton's next event in commemorating World War 1.



PADS Travelling Theatre will be presenting a number of playlets set around a recruitment drive in 1914. This did not happen in reality as most recruits joined up in Swindon, but we're using that well known get-out clause – poetic licence.

We will be starting with a playlet at Willis Way at 2 pm on Sunday 7 September. We then walk to Play Close, singing suitable songs where we perform another playlet and then on to The Village Hall car park with more singing and audience participation. There, you can have a 1914 tea (donations welcome to cover costs) and try out some old fashioned games. The museum will be open; there is an exhibition and film show in the Village Hall plus a licensed bar. Entertainment will be provided by Bobby Paul.

We need recruits, audience participation and if you'd like to dress up, please do. But please come along and enjoy the afternoon. There's no entry fee and it's meant to be a happy, fun event. At this stage of the war, there was great optimism – after all it was all going to be over by Christmas but we will be finishing at around 6.30.

We do have permission to close most of the Village Hall car park for this event and of course, parking around the village might be a bit awkward so please walk if you can. For more information ring Tony or Sue Richardson 01793 772581.

Visit PADS website – <http://padspurton.magix.net/public>

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

OFFERED: NEFF Electric Hob, white. 580x510mm. 4 solid plates. Good clean working order. Tel: 01793 770477.

OFFERED: Assorted rockery stones various sizes (approx. 20). Tel: 01793 770004.

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

Great War Project

Part 14: September 1914

Following the August battles at Mons and Le Cateau, the German armies quickly approached the River Marne northeast of Paris. The allied victory at 1st Battle of the Marne (3-9 Sept), caused the Germans to retreat to the line of the River Aisne and they fortified the high ground north of the river. Of a total of 2 million fighting men on both sides, half a million were killed at the Marne. It was the most concentrated slaughter of the whole war.

The Battle of the Aisne was fought between 7-10 September 1914, with subsidiary actions to 28 September. Henry Philip Drury, of Purton (born Greenhill, 1885) serving with the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment had arrived in France on 31 August 1914. He joined his Battalion at Vailly on 19 September. At the Battle of Aisne Heights half a mile east of Vailly, 20 September, 1st Wilts were with II Corps of the BEF 2nd Division. Drury was killed in action on 22 September 1914, aged 29. He had enlisted before the war in 1903. Along with others, he was buried close to where he fell but in an unmarked grave.

The actions at the Aisne continued until 28 September, but quickly became a side issue. Both sides attempted to use the fighting on the Aisne to pin their opponents in place, while their remaining mobile armies took part in the Race to the Sea, where each attempted to find an opening to outflank their enemy. By the time the Race to the Sea and the first battle of Ypres came to an end, the Western Front had taken shape – a 475 mile long line of fortifications running from the North Sea to the Swiss border.

Although a stalemate had arisen, the German army bombarded Rheims destroying much of the cathedral and the city on 21 September.

During the Marne offensive, on 8 September, Private Thomas Highgate became the first British soldier to be executed for desertion during the War.

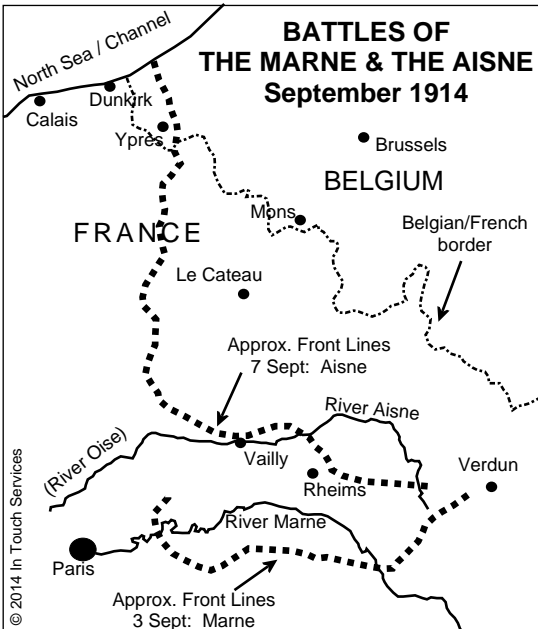
12 September is an important date: The Schlieffen Plan for the German war strategy timed the occupation of Paris for Day 39. Germany invaded Belgium early on 4 August so they should have been in Paris by 12 September. Instead they had been turned back at the Marne and the plan was stalled.

On 3 September, the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment landed at Southampton having been recalled from Gibraltar. They moved to Lyndhurst where they were



Left: La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial to the Missing.

The Memorial commemorates 3,740 officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who fell at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne between the end of August and early October 1914 who have no known graves.



placed under the command of 21st Brigade in 7th Division.

At sea, on 5 September the British scout cruiser HMS Pathfinder was sunk by a German submarine (U-21) in the Firth of Forth off Edinburgh, the first ship ever to be sunk by a self-propelled torpedo fired from a submarine. Then on 22 September, U-9 torpedoed three Royal Navy armoured cruisers in the North Sea, HMS Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue, with the death of more than 1,400 men.

In Africa, South African troops opened hostilities in German South-West Africa (modern-day Namibia) with an assault on the Ramansdrift police station on 13 September and later, on 21 September, British Imperial police forces captured

Schuckmannsburg in the Caprivi Strip of German South-West Africa.

Elsewhere round the world: on 1 September the name of the city of Saint Petersburg in Russia was changed to Petrograd. The same day, the last surviving passenger pigeon "Martha" died at Cincinnati Zoo. On 3 September, Pope Benedict XV succeeded Pope Pius X as the 258th pope.

The poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon (*pictured*) was first published in The Times on 21 September, after the Battles of the Marne and the Aisne: it's fourth verse (of 7) is the most known:



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

The following men with Purton associations served at Aisne with the 1st Wilts:

Date Arrived France

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 13 Aug | Thomas Morgan | James Pound |
| | Daniel George Bull | Walter Edmond Titcombe |
| 14 Aug | Albert Greenaway | 22 Aug Walter Reginald Beacham |
| | Ernest Henry Kibblewhite | 31 Aug Henry, Philip Drury |
| | Albert Tom King | Edward Holder |

Arriving in France on 21 September and serving at Neuve Chapelle:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| William A Coward | Albert John King |
| Henry Reginald Jefferies | |

Purton men serving with other regiments were:

Active Service Date

24 Jul	Charles Ernest Strange, Royal Marines.	18 Aug	Francis Charles Titcombe, Royal Engineers.
4 Aug	Harold Rogers Ward, Wiltshire Yeomanry, Labour Corps.	22 Aug	William G Selwood, 1/ Hants Regiment.
11 Aug	Mervyn Painter, Army Service Corps	11 Sep	Mervyn Stronge Richardson, 2 nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers.
10 Aug	George Henry Charles Mills, Army Service Corps.	18 Sep	Edward Ernest Francis Albert Parsons, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
15 Aug	Wilfred Eggleton Cook, 2 nd Battalion Manchester Regiment.	24 Sep	John Painter (emigrated 1911), 9 th Battalion Australian Imperial Force.
16 Aug	Charles C Lander, Army Service Corps.		

RICK DIXON

Errata: In Part 13, I mistyped some dates as 'July' (the month during which I was typing) which should of course have been August: Germany invaded Belgium on 4 August 1914; Japan declared war on Germany on 23 August 1914. The internet edition was corrected before being uploaded. *R.D.*

Our Family's War

Edward, Ernest and Sidney Holder

Mac (Malcolm) Holder of Victoria, Australia, and formerly of Purton, writes:

Edward* Holder was my dad's brother. Dad [Ernest† Holder] also served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy and there was another brother Sidney‡.

All three came home: Edward lost an eye and had severe gout, the result of trench warfare. Sidney was badly shell shocked and spent the rest of his life in a care home in London.

Dad was lucky; he was on the New York run and came back unscathed.

Notes by Rick Dixon, from Bob Lloyd's research:

* Edward Holder had joined the army in 1903, aged 18. On the outbreak of war he was remobilised from the Army reserve and arrived in France with the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, 600 HSE Labour Corps, on 31 August 1914, joining the Battalion at Vailly. He later transferred to the 13th Battalion Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Regiment.

† Ernest Holder enlisted on 23 November 1916 and was posted to 4 August 1917 to HMS Cornwall, a Monmouth-class armoured cruiser. Cornwall was on convoy escort duties from 1917 to the end of the war.

‡ Sidney Holder's name is listed in the Memorial book in St Mary's Church where his regiment is given as Royal Engineers.

<p>We have already received a number of contributions for this section, for which we are most grateful. If you want to share a memory of your family's life in the Great War, in the forces or the home front, please send it to us at one of the addresses on page 4. We will include it at an appropriate date.</p>

Volunteer Centre, Wiltshire

Change tack, give back!

Do you want something new to do? If you are looking for a new challenge, would like to meet some new people or want to fill a few spare hours then volunteering could be what you need. There are many different ways you can help out a local group and reap benefits for you too.



There are many different ways you can get involved, from becoming a befriender to conservation tasks, from driving to committee roles or from fundraising to IT support. Here are just a few of the 1500 opportunities we have in Wiltshire:

- First Aid Community Educator with the Red Cross
- Witness Service Volunteer
- Conservation Volunteer for The Conservation Volunteers
- Volunteer Helper at Stay and Play Groups with Spurgeons, Malmesbury

Volunteering is a two-way process, the organisation gains from your time and skills and you benefit too. This is what some of Wiltshire's current volunteers have to say about what they get from volunteering:

- "Volunteering is a great way to widen your social circle"
- "Volunteering gave me the time, space and confidence to make the right decision about my career"
- "I'm really enjoying being part of a team and contributing, feeling wanted and needed"

So whether you've got a few hours a month or a day a week you can get involved with volunteering. Get in touch with us and we can help find the best role for you. Visit our website: www.volunteercentrewiltshire.org.uk or speak to one of our Volunteering Advisers on 0845 521 6224.

Purton & District Guide Dogs

Weather permitting we will have had a Stall at the Cricklade Show on the Bank Holiday Monday – I will tell you how we got on next month. Talking of which a reminder that we will have our Jumble Sale in the Silver Threads Hall on 4 October, and The Cricklade Band and their Academy will be giving us a concert in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 October.

Thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier. Please call me, Ellen Blacker on 07557 110414 or email me at rwbrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk



WHAT'S ON?

Lydiard Millicent Art Exhibition: at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

Our annual art exhibition in September is just around the corner; this year we've got another fantastic weekend lined up of original framed and unframed paintings for sale, as well as hand crafted cards, art materials and some wonderful pictures created by some of the pupils from our local Primary school. If you haven't attended the art exhibition before, why not pop along and have a glass of wine or a cuppa and I guarantee you won't be disappointed, there's always a friendly face to chat to and you never know you might fall in love with a picture and simply 'HAVE TO HAVE IT!'

Our Preview evening kicks off with wine and nibbles on

Friday 19 September from 6 pm until 9 pm

then **Saturday 20 from 10 am until 6 pm**

and **Sunday 21 from 10 am until 5 pm**

Please come along and have a browse and support our local artists. If you'd like more information or would like to join our art group please call Tracey Rapson, 770996.

The Guild of Wiltshire Artists Autumn Exhibition

The Guild of Wiltshire Artists is holding its Autumn exhibition from Monday to Saturday, **22-27 September** at **St Peter's Church**, High Street, **Marlborough** SN8 1HQ. The exhibition is open 10 am to 4.30 pm and entry is free.

A range of subject matter, styles and media will provide interest for a wide audience and most works will be for sale.

Dursley Male Voice Choir in Concert

This very popular local choir will be performing at the **Bingham Hall, Cirencester** on **Saturday 27 September**. The choir will be supported by MJ-UK Music and Arts, the talented youth group of singers.

The performance commences at 7.30 pm and doors open at 6.45 pm. Tickets at £10 each are available from Cirencester Visitors Information Centre, Cotswold Care Hospice Shop and Sue Ryder shop in the Market Place.

All proceeds from this event will be used to support the following charities: Cotswold Care Hospice, Sue Ryder Leckhampton Hospice and Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Educational Project.

The Merchant's House Autumn Lecture

"Sleepwalking into conflict?" British and Continental attitudes on the eve of the Great War.

A lecture by David Du Croz (former Head of History at Marlborough College) and Michael Hart (former Head of History at Shrewsbury School).

Thursday 9 October at 7.30 pm in St Peter's Church, **Marlborough**. Tickets £12 (£9 MH Friends) available from The Merchant's House shop, or 01672 511491.

Purton Bowls Club



The Play Bowls Day on 12 July held on our green was very successful, all the people who signed up at the Carnival turned up to play, and we have recruited some new members for the club. Thanks to Vic Austin, our coach, for organising everybody, and to all the other members that turned up to help. We are very lucky to have such a willing group of bowlers.

We had our furthest away friendly match, which is an annual event, against Windsor on 10 August, we left our clubhouse at 10 am and had time to explore the town before the match, and despite the torrential rain had a very nice day out – well done Phil – and the weather was kind for the duration of the game, just! They will be visiting us next year and we will look forward to that.

The men have had mixed results in the league matches but have maintained good positions so far, we are only a small club compared to some of the towns we play against, but we manage to win more than we lose. In fact this year we have managed our best results against the best clubs in the Wilts and Swindon & District leagues.

Our ladies have been doing well and Chris, Julie, Sue and Alison won the County fours title in July and represented Wiltshire at Leamington Spa, unfortunately losing in the first round after a very closely-fought game. They are currently second in the Swindon & District league and mid-table in the afternoon triples, so well done to them.

Most of our Club Competitions have reached the final stages which will be played on the weekend of 20-21 September. Why not come along and enjoy the day with us? We will have refreshments on offer to all who attend.

We still have some spaces on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for coaching for new players, anybody interested should come along. We have plenty of bowls of all sizes, so just bring a pair of flat shoes. This season is coming to an end, but that doesn't mean you can't prepare yourself for next year.

By the time you read this we will be preparing for our Bowls Tour, which this year is going to Lynton. We will be away for three nights with four games on the schedule. There is always plenty of free time to enjoy the area, and this is always a popular event in our calendar.

PETER BERRY

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



With four weeks of the season remaining, the U13 squad has become champions of its division clinching the title with a convincing win against Shrivenham. The 1st XI, recovering from a hesitant start, is in second place and hoping for good cricket weather for the rest of the season to give the club a chance of becoming winner of the league.

News Flash - Good news about a current Purton player and a recent one Elijah Samuel (15), currently opening for the 1st XI, attended the famous Bunbury Festival where he hoped to win a place on the England Development Programme. Many of those who have attended the Festival have progressed to play County and International cricket.

Craig Miles, now well established in the Gloucestershire CC squad, featured in

a record stand at the recent Cheltenham Cricket Festival where with Liam Norwell he put on 137 runs for the last wicket which broke the previous record set in 1923 by 6 runs.

JOE GARDNER



The season is reaching a nail-biting conclusion with just a few re-arranged matches to be played. The Ladies A are just one point away from becoming Division One Champions but Swindon, in second place, stand in their way. We could have clinched the title when we played Swindon in the last scheduled match of the season but after an incredibly well-fought match we lost by 5 sets to 3. This leaves us with just 2 sets to play to finish the home tie against Swindon with the score standing at 3 sets all. We, therefore, need to win one of these 2 sets to become Champions again!

The Ladies B have, as suggested last month, secured the Division 2 title and will join the A team in Division One next year. The Ladies C have struggled after promotion last year but have managed to secure a place in Division Three again next season and the Ladies D have finished in a creditable mid-table position in Division Five.

In the Men's leagues the A team appear to have blown their chance to retain their Division One title by losing the last match of the season thus leaving the door open for Pewsey A to overtake them if they win their match against Wootton Bassett. It isn't very often that we cheer for our local rivals to win! The B team have done well to retain their Division One status and the C and D teams still have a chance to gain promotion from Division 4 and 6 respectively. The C team, in particular, look as though they should be successful in this aim with the D team relying on other teams to do them a favour.

In the Mixed leagues the A team look as though they are going to finish runners-up unless Chiseldon can somehow defeat Swindon in their last match. The B team have finished in a creditable mid-table position in Division One. The C team, after promotion last year, have been relegated and the D team have been promoted from Division 6 as runners-up.

So, all in all, another successful year in league tennis.

The Saturday morning junior club sessions and the mini-tennis coaching sessions have been very well attended over the summer as have the summer camps run by Matty Hall during the school holidays.

Away from the courts the club will be holding a Race Night at the Red House Club on Saturday 27 September with an 8 pm start. This will be preceded by our annual Junior Presentation which will commence at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend the Race Night and if you can't come why not buy a horse which will be available from committee members at the end of August.

NICOLA GARDNER

A Date for your Diary

Purton Artists Annual Exhibition is on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November 2014 at Purton Village Hall.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The end of the summer term was largely taken up with goodbyes and transition:

The Rainbows held a 'Pot of Gold' meeting for Megan and Ellie who are moving on to Brownies in September; this included Brown Owl and the four Brownie Sixers from 1st Purton Brownies helping out and telling the Rainbows about some of the exciting things that Brownies get up to.

1st Purton Brownies said goodbye to Lucy, Katy, Maria and Freya, who are all progressing to Guides. Their choice of final meeting was an evening comprising their favourite games and food. 2nd Purton Brownies spent the last two weeks of term on goodbyes, not surprising as they had seven girls leaving to go on to Guides: Katy-Erin, Rhea, Shauna, Holly, Kelly, Emma and Georgie. They had their own take on the Commonwealth Games; five countries were represented and they played hockey, bowls and football and also held relay, running, throwing and obstacle races.

Although Guides weren't saying any goodbyes, to celebrate the end of term they organised a BBQ. As is traditional for Guides, where there are flames, there must also be marshmallows!

Rainbows also fitted in a walk to St Mary's Church where they met Judith who showed the Rainbows how the font is used for baptisms and talked to the Rainbows about saying thank you for things in our lives. The Rainbows were able to explore the church and Judith gave the Rainbows a prayer book for use at their meetings. Thank you to Judith for making the visit special.

1st Purton Brownies held a Mexican-themed evening in honour of one of their Leaders who was heading off with other Leaders from Wiltshire North to Mexico and a visit to *Our Cabaña*; this is one of the four Guide World Centres. We're looking forward to hearing about her trip in the autumn.

The eldest Brownies from the two Purton Brownie units took part in the final County Big Brownie Birthday event, which was a weekend camp at our County campsite enjoyed by 130 girls and their Leaders. Highlights included circus skills performances and workshops, campfire singing, face painting, crafts, a night-time walk, balloon modelling, water games/fights (which included the Leaders getting VERY wet) and of course the excitement of camping. The fly-past from the Red Arrows was also a special touch!

The Brownies, their Leaders (and probably also the Brownies' parents) are now taking a breath to recover from what's been a jam-packed two terms of Big Brownie Birthday celebrations. It really has been a fantastic time to be a Brownie with so many special events organised – the Brownies' uniforms and sashes are bulging with special commemorative badges! Most girls in the units have also completed The Big Brownie Birthday Challenge and gained those badges too.

Guides Taya and Zoe, along with Guide Leader Rachel, went to Girlguiding's Foxlease in the New Forest to attend 'TechAdventure', a weekend of hands-on workshops to learn basics of computer science. Thirty-three Guides used simple, inexpensive, code-it-yourself Raspberry Pi computers supplied by Google, as well as simple coding programmes like Scratch and ApplInventor. The weekend

included geocaching around the estate and culminated in a Dragons' Den style challenge, in which all Guides competed to design the most innovative app for Girlguiding. The winning app will be available to download soon! All the Guides who attended received a 'TechAdventure 2014' badge, and a Raspberry Pi to keep. According to Taya, the weekend was "AWESOME"!

At the time of writing, Purton Guides are on camp along with Guides from Melksham and Telford at our County campsite and having a great time. They've been on a hike, played a wide game and gone swimming as well as enjoyed the traditional aspects of Guide camp such as campfire singing, camp cooking and dodging the rain!

The beginning of September sees a change of District Commissioner for us. A big thank-you must go to Jo Begg, who has worked very hard and provided excellent support and leadership for us over the last three years, including masterminding several District events for all age groups to take part in. We welcome Rachel Mead to the role from September.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



On The Lighter Side

The Goldberg Brothers - The Inventors of the Automobile Air Conditioner

The four Goldberg brothers, Lowell, Norman, Hiram, and Max, invented and developed the first automobile air-conditioner. On July 17, 1946, the temperature in Detroit was 97 degrees.

The four brothers walked into old man Henry Ford's office and sweet-talked his secretary into telling him that four gentlemen were there with the most exciting innovation in the auto industry since the electric starter. Henry was curious and invited them into his office.

They refused and instead asked that he come out to the parking lot to their car. They persuaded him to get into the car, which was about 130 degrees, turned on the air conditioner, and cooled the car off immediately.

The old man got very excited and invited them back to the office, where he offered them \$3 million for the patent.

The brothers refused, saying they would settle for \$2 million, but they wanted the recognition by having a label, 'The Goldberg Air-Conditioner', on the dashboard of each car in which it was installed.

Now old man Ford was more than just a little anti-Jewish, and there was no way he was going to put the Goldberg's name on two million Fords.

They haggled back and forth for about two hours and finally agreed on \$4 million and that just their first names would be shown.

And so to this day, all Ford air conditioners show ... Lo, Norm, Hi, and Max ... on the controls.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We were joined by our guest, Andrew Bullock, at our July meeting on the subject of 'Lavenders and Buddleia'. Andrew runs The Lavender Garden at Kingscote, near Tetbury.

Andrew began by telling us that he used to be an actor, "Not the world's greatest", he added. He explained that he used to enjoy catching and watching butterflies as a child. His interest in photography in the early 1990s led him to using butterflies as his subjects, and slowly he became more aware of the plants that he could photograph the butterflies on.

Andrew eventually bought his own house which had a small square garden covered in builder's rubble. He bought himself a herb book and seeds, along with lavenders and buddleias to attract butterflies. Suddenly he found that he had 50 buddleias and was hooked! Noticing a lavender nursery near Dursley that had been closed for over a year, he made enquiries and ended up signing the lease and now runs it. Fourteen years on he now maintains a national buddleia collection and stocks over a hundred different lavenders and buddleias.

The name lavender comes from the Latin '*lavare*' meaning *to wash*. What we think of as English lavender is actually native to France, Italy, and Switzerland, although it is hardy in this country. There are two types of 'English' lavender: *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Lavandula x intermedia*.

Lavandula angustifolia is narrow leaved and tends to be more compact. *Angustifolias* can be planted a foot apart, centre to centre. There are 50 to 60 different types, mostly around the same height. Many are ideal for cooking, and can be used in scones, biscuits and cakes. The variety 'Little Lady' has a sugary taste and is an excellent addition to trout.

As well as 'Little Lady', with its exceptionally sweet smell and pale blue flowers, there are many varieties to choose from. These include the well known deep blue 'Hidcote' and 'Munstead' lavenders, 'Peter Pan' (lighter and smaller than Hidcote), "Folgate (sapphire blue) and 'Dursley White' (raised by Andrew's nursery) with sweetly scented white flowers, attractive to bumblebees.

Andrew explained his very useful pruning guide for *angustifolia* lavenders, which is the 8, 8, 8 rule. Prune on the eighth day of the eighth month, August, to a height of 8" from the ground. This should be done to the same height each year. It then has the rest of the summer to make new growth ready for the winter months.

Intermedia lavenders are broader and larger than the *angustifolias*, and although strongly scented, do not have such a sweet aroma. Lavender oil can be produced from both types, although *angustifolias* produce a sweeter oil while *intermedias* are more useful as an antiseptic or insect repellent. They are not suitable for culinary purposes.

Varieties of *Lavandula x intermedia* include: Grosso (a low plant with long stems), Sussex (longer flowers) and Fragrant Memories (silver grey leaves with blue flowers). They need more care when pruning which should be done from the first year in about the second week of September. They do not like shooting from old wood so should be cut about an inch above where the wood changes colour to

the newer growth. They should be planted 18" apart.

Stoeches lavenders, known as French or butterfly lavenders, are native to Southern France, Spain and Portugal, and are not as hardy as the 'English' varieties. If cut quickly after flowering they will continue to flower all summer. Varieties include 'Snowman' (pure white) and 'Tiara' (large white flags on blue heads).

Lavenders should either be planted in pots with multi-purpose compost and added grit and a bit of bone meal, or in the ground. Be careful not to overwater. Lavender will need feeding after the second year with bone meal or fish, blood and bone. Do not use manure.

Moving on to buddleias, Andrew explained that they are named after the Rev. Adam Buddle. They must be planted in a sunny, well drained position. Buddleias should be pruned to knee to waist height, the best time being in April to bring them into flower in August when butterflies and bees are more prolific. However, globosa buddleias should be pruned after flowering.

Recommended varieties include: 'Purple Friend' (davidii cultivar: compact, purple), globosa (orange ball flowers, very big plant) and x weyeriana 'Moonlight' (yellow/apricot flowers from August to October). Andrew added that it seems butterflies have no preference to colour; they seem to enjoy all buddleias!

Tony Price kindly proposed a vote of thanks on our behalf, adding that he was unsure he would be that interested in the subject but actually thoroughly enjoyed it! Andrew's previous career as an actor shone through and he gave us an interesting and entertaining evening.

Andrew judged our competition 'A Lavender Themed Craft', with several beautiful entries. Congratulations go to our winners: 1st Mary Read, 2nd Linda Roberts and 3rd Lorna Comley.

We meet again at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23 September for our mini-show, which is a friendly evening where we all judge the entries, including tasting the cooking entries! Itineraries for the classes will be available from members of the committee. Visitors and new members will be most welcome to join us for the evening.

LINDA ROBERTS, Chair & MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary

Shoebox News

Our Fund Raising Day this year is Saturday 27 September at 35 High Street from 10 am to 3 pm with lunches being served from 12 noon. Tea and coffee will be available all day. The project is gaining momentum now and we still hope to be able to send 360 filled boxes, along with any extras that are filled by individual people and given to



us. The cost to send each box is now £3 so we will have to raise £1,080 for transportation. All money raised on our day is for this purpose. Please come and support us if you can. If you need any information, please ring 770686.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator

Left: Flashback to last year - a van loaded with shoeboxes

The Purton & District Luncheon Club

Continuing the interviews Diana Thombs started last month:

The members

Henry Fimmers

Henry was born in 1925 near Leverkeusen in Germany. He remembers his young teen years as a time of strict wartime rationing. He and his mother would often visit her sister, married to a farmer who would give them a very welcome bacon pig, partly cut and put into suitcases. Henry had to carry these cases to the station, and then home, but had to show no sign at all of the literally dead weight he was carrying for fear of being noticed by anyone official, when confiscation and punishment would follow.

His education culminated in a mechanical apprenticeship but at seventeen he was conscripted into a tank regiment for the rest of the war. He has vivid, haunting memories of one incident in Königsberg, when his unit's tanks halted for lack of fuel, helpless in the face of the advancing Russians. There they saw two large cruise ships overloaded with civilians trying to escape the war zone. The Russians torpedoed them, making this the biggest loss of life at sea in that war. After this tragic incident Henry's unit had to hurriedly build floats, load the tanks on them and half walk, half swim, to an island in the estuary. Later they completed their withdrawal to Speenemunde on open rail wagons often bombed by the allies.

Henry's unit made its way to Berlin just as the war was ending. He surrendered to Americans and with many others was questioned in a field surrounded by machine guns. This process provided three categories of PoWs: those aged 45-50+ with no Nazi beliefs were immediately repatriated, those with suspicious sympathies were sent elsewhere and the vast mass, like Henry, were forwarded through the system. For Henry this eventually meant a British PoW camp for eight hundred men at Baydon, near Aldbourne, reached via Denmark and Belgium. Here they all stayed, working on local farms but living under PoW conditions until 1948, when they were free to stay in England or return to Germany.

By this time Henry had met Betty, the daughter of the cook whom the farmer he worked for had employed to cook for his workers. Another local farmer poached Henry, already known as a good reliable worker, with the promise of a cottage, so Henry and Betty married in 1948, with Henry's practical abilities helping him to improve the cottage. They came to Purton in 1952, still in farming, and Henry greatly improved their cottage in Clardon Lane before they moved to a new bungalow in Restrop View in 1966, where he delighted all local children with his wonderful Christmas displays for many years.

Henry left farming to work at the Metal Box factory until it closed, after which he spent sixteen years at Hill's Brickworks in the boiler room before his final job in Swindon Ridgeway Precision. He and Betty had three daughters, the youngest of whom, Charlotte, lives and works in Purton and encouraged Henry to join the Luncheon Club, as Betty had volunteered to cook there. In retirement both were keen members of the Gardeners' Guild, the Historical Society and Age Concern.



Pauline Ward

Pauline, now 92, was born in 1921 in Maresfield, Sussex. Her father was in the Civil Service so his job meant the family moved frequently to different parts of the country. She left school at 14 and a half and took the Pitman's Secretarial Courses, her first job being at a solicitors' company in Lincoln's Inn Field. With the declaration of war, Pauline continued secretarial work, now with the Naafi. After D Day this job took her and 50 other young women to Arromanches, Bayeux, Caen, Bruges and Ostend. When she married in 1947 she and John discovered that before they had even met she had been following in his footsteps in France as he, a mechanical engineer, had also been following the D Day landings to recover as many abandoned vehicles as possible. A happy marriage produced 2 sons and a daughter, with Pauline using her secretarial skills whenever possible in the various moves John's job demanded. In 1970 they moved to Purton and the 44 years she has lived here is the longest Pauline has ever stayed in one place. Since John's sadly early death she has involved herself in village life, playing a major part in Purton Follies, the Helping Hand, the Carnival, the Open Door and Silver Threads. Her OBE was awarded in recognition of all her community work. While advancing age meant her withdrawal from some of these groups, she is still secretary of the Silver Threads and acts as its liaison officer with the Luncheon Club and is still to be seen most days walking up through the village with her trusty set of wheels.

Nesta Maskrey

Nesta was born in 1922 in a cottage in Lower Pavenhill. She left St Mary's at 14 to work in Mr Smith's drapers shop in the High Street. Later she went to Red Lodge as a housemaid, but with the advent of war was conscripted to work at the Great Western workshop as a rivet hotter. This was noisy, dangerous and dirty work, involving holding the rivets by means of tongs over a furnace, regulating the temperature of the furnace via foot bellows. Nesta had to judge exactly when the rivets were heated enough to be malleable when the riveter hammered them into the fire box. If she had allowed them to overheat, the riveter's hammer blows distorted the rivets and rendered them useless. At this time she helped on days off at a church canteen run by her aunt. Here she met her future husband, then serving in the army. They married in 1945 and moved to his home town of Boston, in Lincolnshire. In 1947 they had their son, Michael, but Nesta was widowed less than 2 years later, and moved back to Purton and her parents' house. Her weekly widow's pension was £1 and her family allowance 10/- (50p). Nesta was determined that in spite of a very tight financial situation, Michael, who had already lost one parent, would not lose the other one to work while he was at home. It was a struggle, but somehow she managed, choosing jobs that enabled her to be home when he was. She cleaned St Mary's church for years, helped at the Wightmans especially when they held social events raising money for the Lifeboats and other charities. When Michael reached school age she worked in the school kitchen so that she was always home during school holidays. In 1951 they moved into the cottage in Battlewell, with its long, private and beautiful cottage garden, where she

has now lived for 63 years. With his mother's support Michael flourished academically at school and, later, Sheffield University, following a career in medicine which culminated in a professorship at Hobart University, Tasmania. Nesta is now a great great grandmother, and enjoys many visits from the family in Tasmania. After her retirement from the school kitchen she volunteered at Luncheon Club for several years until she broke her arm quite badly, so now is content to be waited on for a change, and very much enjoys her meals and the companionship.

Joan Garlick

Joan was born in Sheffield in 1932. She left school at 14 and worked as a Post Office telephonist until she was 34, when she was given the then customary dowry by the company on her marriage. In those low-tech days, a local telephone exchange would often be housed in someone's back room and Joan enjoyed being the relief telephonist under such informal circumstances. She also enjoyed training new telephonists. After marriage she and her husband, Wally, moved to Coln St Aldwyn's, where they ran a grocery on one side of the main road and a petrol station on the other. In those days of minimal washing facilities within the home, the village boasted a communal bath house, now a listed building. Later they moved to Down Ampney, where Wally was in the AA and Joan ran a small shop selling clothing and dress materials. After the shop closed, Joan rode her scooter to Burford and to Cirencester when working at a launderette and dry cleaning business. They moved to Purton, to Restrop View, in 1980, but unhappily Wally died just 4 years later. Their daughter, Gillian, and grandsons Alec and Kane, also live in Purton, and Gillian is a hard-working member of one of the Luncheon Club's kitchen teams. Before a well-deserved retirement at the age of 73, Joan worked at the Carrefour supermarket, where Asda now is, North View and the Cedars. As well as the Luncheon Club, Joan is a member of Gardeners' Guild, the Women's Fellowship and the WI.

Marjory Backhouse

Marjory, who can be seen at every lunch meeting collecting everyone's money, was born in Leeds in 1930. On her marriage to a junior school headmaster she moved to a village near Pontefract and to her great delight would often be asked to take the reception class. They had 2 children, a son who now lives and works in the USA and a daughter who lives in Hilmarton. Her husband died in 2000, and Marjory was recovering from that blow when 2 years later she was suddenly and unexpectedly attacked by the cruel disease of rheumatoid arthritis. All who know her will not be surprised to learn that while she sensibly recognised that she needed some help, she did not wish to live too close to her daughter in Hilmarton. Thus she chose Purton, and both Marjory and Purton have been blessed by this choice: Marjory because Purton is a friendly village with a strong sense of community, and Purton because the village has gained such a friendly, happy and positive character always willing to give of herself. It is true that her rheumatoid arthritis has marched on, but so, dauntlessly, has Marjory. She is positively Purton's bionic woman, with

new knees, new hips, new elbows and, soon, her third, yes, third, new shoulder. One shoulder was replaced so long ago that she had worn it out and so is due for yet another replacement. So Marjory will soon be seen riding up the High Street in her buggy and her shopping bags, with renewed energy and commitment to making the most of whatever life offers.

The Volunteers

Margaret Goodall

I moved to Purton about 9 years ago, when about to retire. At that time I knew no one in the village so was drawn to respond to Elizabeth Ward's appeal for volunteers to help at Luncheon Club. I joined a team then led by Jean Simpkins, and all made me so welcome that I quickly became an integral part of it. With the passing of the years I have now become the leader of a brilliant team. We work together very well, with much laughter as well as the occasional crisis, so that I look forward to meeting them all every other Thursday. I realise that the meal we provide, hot and delicious though it may be, is only part of the lunchtime experience for our members. It's also a social occasion for them to meet their friends and maintain a role in the community. I know I can never meet the criteria involved in being a true "Purtonian", but through my experience of Luncheon Club I have achieved a sense of belonging in the village, mainly thanks to the friends I have made there and from serving our lovely members, many of whom genuinely own the right to that title. So here's to Purton Luncheon Club, its members and all the volunteers who make it possible. Long may it prosper.

Purton Age Concern Minibus Drivers and Shotguns

Ben Baxter

Compared to many Purton residents I am a comparative newcomer, having lived in the village a mere seventeen years. I realised from the beginning that a lot of people were involved in all sorts of voluntary work to improve life in the community but at that time I was in full time employment with little chance of doing much locally.

When I stopped full time work I realised I had some spare time which could be used to get me more involved in village activities. Thus, when asked whether being a shotgun on the Age Concern Bus appealed to me I decided to give it a go. After a couple of years as a shotgun I graduated to driving when required and now do either as needs dictate.

One of the regular duties is the twice weekly lunch club meetings at the Silver Threads Hall. Patrons of lunches can be collected from their homes, taken to lunch and after a cup of tea are returned home. I would guess from the reaction of those we pick up on their return from lunch that they really enjoy being able to meet up with other people, chat and have a meal with no buying, cooking or washing upon their part is involved. They do not even have to worry much about the weather.

It takes a couple of hours or so of my time but I really enjoy meeting all the people and feel it is appreciated by those who use the bus and I can give a little back to the village.

We will conclude this series next month with 6 more interviews ...
