

# Purton *Magazine*



*From Vine to Wine, The Pear Tree at Purton  
photo: Clive Webber, member of Purton Artists*

October 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: <a href="mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk">vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a></i>	
<i>Curate:</i>	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email <a href="mailto:curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk">curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a></i>	
<i>Wardens:</i>	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
<i>Administrator:</i>	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email <a href="mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk">administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a></i>	
<i>Web site:</i>	<i><a href="http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk">www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</a></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

There are so many different things going on in our relatively small community and it is quite a privilege to be able to reproduce all the articles and other contributions that we receive each month detailing all the events and activities.

This month there are some articles recounting the achievements and activities of Purtonians past as well as current people in our community. 100 years ago on 24 October, a German attack near Reutel, a village some 6 miles east of Ypres, led to the capture of 8 Purton men. Their names are listed on [page 24](#) in Rick Dixon's Great War Project and several of the surnames are recognisable among our current community.

Then, on [page 22](#), there is a report on the re-enactment of the World War 1 military recruitment drives by PADS, in association with the Purton Historical Society, around the village. Even though there weren't any in Purton 100 years ago, PADS recreated what they thought it might have been like had the recruitment drive visited Purton. Based on a script by Len Page, people were encouraging their menfolk to sign up and defeat the enemy. The serious part of the proceedings came right at the end when 14 recruits were marched off to catch the train to Devizes – exactly the same number of Purtonians who had signed up on 14 September 1914.

7 years before then, Leslie Holland was born and he later became a well know local artist. Now it turns out that his granddaughter Anna just happened to be in the right place at the right time. The right place was outside Blackwells bookshop in Oxford and the right time was in 2005 when she spotted a display of famous book covers in the window, including a poster of the 1932 edition of *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley that was designed by her grandfather. One outcome is that the Executors of Leslie Holland's estate have provided generous funding to Purton Artists and more details of this special story are on [page 10](#).

Back in 1995, another man connected with Purton was awarded "Groundsman of the Month" in *Cricket World* magazine and we learn on [page 29](#) that his prize was a tour of Lords, the Headquarters of the game.

There are many other articles inside that, in future years, could easily be seen as other Purtonians making their mark on our community.

8

Purton men  
taken prisoner  
100 years ago  
in World War 1  
– see [page 24](#)

62%

5+ A\* to C  
GCSE grades achieved  
by Bradon Forest  
students  
– see [page 13](#)

£398

raised for Jubilee  
Gardens project last  
month at Sainsbury's  
store at Stratton  
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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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**Also on line at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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## Parish Council News



**Purton Parish Council Donations Programme** – The Parish Council makes small grant awards twice a year to support local clubs and organisations which provide services that help residents in the Parish of Purton.

The next awards will be made in February 2015 which is not so far away. If you are involved with a group that could do more for local people with the help of an award from the Parish Council, please contact The Parish Clerk for an application form. The deadline for submitted applications will be in late January 2015.

**Road Closures** – Wiltshire Council will be carrying out road resurfacing work which will involve the temporary road closure of Bagbury Lane, Purton and Lydiard Millicent from its junction with C414 Restrop Road to its junction with C28 Lydiard Green. The work will be carried out between 08.00 and 17.00 on Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 October. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses although delays can be expected. An alternative route will be via C414 Restrop Road to C28 Lydiard Green.

**Remembrance Day Road Closure** – Sunday 9 November 2014 – as usual the section of The High Street, Purton between Purton Vets at number 77 and The Peak will be closed to traffic for approximately an hour from 2.15 - 3.15 pm to allow the people of Purton to pay their respects and remember those who lost their lives in conflict. Road access will be closed to that part of the High Street, and to College Road and Hooks Hill.

**Community Speed Watch update** – a Community Speed Watch group has now been established at The Fox. The Parish Council is looking for further volunteers for another location – Restrop Road. We currently have two volunteers but need another four. If you are able to help at Restrop Road please contact the Parish Council.

**Adverts on lamp posts** – there has been a recent proliferation of adverts and notices on Purton lamp posts, bus shelters, telegraph poles etc. It is illegal to post such notices but just as importantly they tend to make the local environment look untidy. If you wish to advertise items or events please contact the various organisations in the Parish which have noticeboards and other display facilities, and remember to take down notices once the item is sold or the event has passed.

**Purton Community Phone Box** – have you tried using the Community Phone Box that stands outside Purton Library? In the last six months over 180 calls were made from it (an average of one per day), and it was used 500 times for the internet. The phone box can be used to make free local phone calls, and to view information on the screen about the community with details of events going on or useful information. You can access the internet within 100 metres of the phone box and this will be listed on your device as Purton WIFI. One phone call per day? Come on, I'm sure the community can make more use than this of the facility.

**Paul Baker** – the Parish Council said farewell to our Head Groundsman on 5 September. Over the last 2½ years Paul, with the help of Assistant Groundsman David Rawlings has done a great job looking after the open spaces around Purton,

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as well as creating and maintaining the dazzling flower beds and containers that have been such a feature in the community. Best wishes to Paul in his new job.

**The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:**

- N14/04774/FUL *Kempsters Court, 2 High Street:* conversion of barn outbuilding to dwelling.
- N14/04775/FUL *Kempsters Court, 2 High Street:* single storey side extension.
- N14/05078/FUL *Battlewell Lodge, 1 Battlewell:* new dormer window over existing car port.
- N13/06861/ADV *Hills Industrial Estate, Mopes Lane:* erection of V-shaped signage.
- N14/05423/FUL *18 Station Road:* two-storey side and rear extension.
- N14/05920/FUL *14 Locks Lane:* two-storey side and single storey rear extension.
- N14/05664/FUL *2 Pavenhill:* courtyard first floor extension.
- N14/05992/FUL *Bentham House Farm, Bentham Lane:* demolition of redundant agricultural building and erection of new cattle shed.
- N13/03517/FUL *Buryhill Farm, Buryhill, Braydon, Royal Wootton Bassett:* retention of dwelling for ancillary domestic use.

**The following Planning Applications have been refused by Wiltshire Council:**

- N14/05065/FUL *14 Mustang Way:* garage door and external front elevation works - resubmission of 14/02588/FUL.

**How to contact the Parish Council:**

Telephone number 01793 771066

email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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, 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](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and sign up today.

## We Record ...

*Baptism:*

24 August Robert Savage at St Mary's Church

*In Memoriam*

24 October 1914 **Henry Reginald Jefferies**, killed in action, Neuve Chapelle. 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 ...*



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## Purton & District Age Concern



This month I would like to appeal for “LOCAL HEROES” to make a difference in our community by volunteering as a minibus driver or “shotgun” (driver’s assistant). If you are newly retired or have a few hours to spare each week/fortnight/month please consider volunteering to help the elderly and disabled residents in Purton. Our minibuses are seen every day driving up and down the village taking people to the GP surgery, the shops or Post Office, to Day Care at The Cedars and Lunch Club at the Silver Threads Hall and many other local outings. We supply the training – you get the feel good factor of knowing what an asset the minibuses are to the people who use them and how much the service users appreciate all the drivers and shotguns. For more information please contact our Minibus Co-ordinator – **Maurice Card on 770338.**

### Future Events

**October 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 to book your place before Monday 22 September. Please can I stress the importance of booking your place on our trips and events through your street warden if requested to do so. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**3B’s x2 Evening** – This is on Friday 10 October at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall but is **SOLD OUT.**

**Antiques & Collectables Fayre** – This is 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

**September mystery tour** – 49 people went on this mystery tour; the route went via Highworth, Kingston Bagpuize, Witney and Chipping Norton and stopped for tea served by Churchill WI, and what a tea it was; plenty of sandwiches and cakes and endless cups of tea and a lovely “doggie” bag to take home. The journey home was via Stow on the Wold, Northleach and Cirencester and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

**Jumble sale** – This was our latest fundraising event on Saturday 6 September. We had a successful couple of hours and raised £275.45. Thanks to everyone who donated items for us to sell. Our next jumble sale will be in February 2015, further details nearer the time.

### Information

**Wiltshire Digital Champions** – Following on from last months article about computer tuition at Cricklade Leisure Centre, if you are unable to get to the Leisure Centre the Digital Champions are available to teach you what you want to know, at your own pace, in your own home (using your own equipment). Please contact the Wiltshire Online office on 01225 793349 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, congratulations go to Vicki Fowler and her team at Wiltshire Caring Hands. It's a year since Vicki opened her care home and what a successful year it's been for her. Keep up the good work Vicki and best wishes for the future.

LOUISE TIDMAN

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2014

**25 October to 8 November**

Can you help with this year's Poppy Appeal? Extra help is always needed both with the house-to-house collections in the village, and also with the collections held at the West Swindon shopping centre on the Thursday and Friday of each week.

Please contact Mrs Joyce Berry or Mrs Shirley Lawrence on 01793 771084. We will be very pleased to hear from you.



## Gardener required

**2 hours per week at Purton Under 5's.** Registered Charity No. 1031501

For general weeding, tidying borders etc and for sweeping/vacuuming the garden.

Please send details to [purtonplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:purtonplaygroup@gmail.com)

EMILY ROGERS, Tel: 01793 771723

Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup

St Mary's C of E Primary School Site

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## Geoff Bishop

My dad, Geoff Bishop, passed away peacefully at home on Friday 5 September. He had been living at home with me, his grandson Christopher and son in law Malcolm for the last 18 months, spending weeks here and there in hospital as required .

Dad was ill for some time, with the last weeks being the most difficult for him when he was unable to be moved, had an oxygen machine, found eating and drinking difficult and took many forms of painkillers. We would like to give a big thank-you to: the Doctors and Receptionists at Purton Surgery who were very helpful during his illness. The Community Nurses who showed great compassion in caring for him. And Linnet, Nilvah and Simon from Nissi Care Solutions who treated him with great respect and allowed him his dignity at a very difficult time.

Geoff was not known to many people in Purton as he was not able to get about, but we would also like to say thank you to his new friends Pauline Ward and Richard and Hazel Woodbridge. However if you were a model railway enthusiast you may have seen him with one of his many layouts at exhibitions both local and further afield.

LYNDA WARREN



## 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.

## Flaxlands Annual Charity Fundraising Craft Fayre

Last year's event was a huge success and we raised over £1,700 for charity. This year there will be lots of fabulous stalls selling unique gifts. Delicious cakes and homemade food will be served all day. There is ample free parking and activities for the children. Don't miss this event:

Charity Christmas Craft Fayre  
Flaxlands Manor Farm, Flaxlands  
Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8DY  
10.30 am - 3.30 pm on 25 October

This year we are fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis.

KEVIN & LIZ HICKLING, Organisers

## Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 31 October 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).

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## Purton Artists

### Leslie Holland - An Iconic Purton Artist - (1907-2005)

Generous funding from the Executors for the estate of the late Leslie Holland has enabled Purton Artists to establish a web site [www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk](http://www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk) and to set up an Art Competition with Bradon Forest School with Art Vouchers as prizes. We are hoping that this encourages some younger members to join Purton Artists.

This was all made possible quite by chance. Someone was in the right place at the right time.

In 2005, Anna Hirsch-Holland, who at the time was a student at the University of Oxford, was walking down Broad Street in Oxford, when she spotted a display of famous book cover posters in the window of Blackwells Bookshop. It included a poster designed by her late Granddad, Leslie Holland. It was of the 1932 edition of *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. She bought one to put on her wall and noticed some small print on the poster saying that the company who printed it had not managed to identify the designer, even though Leslie's signature appears faintly on the poster.

She mentioned this to her father Matt Holland, who is one of Leslie's sons. Matt contacted the company, Bookish Designs, who had printed the poster. They said it had proved to be the most popular of the 12 designs they were selling.

Matt made an agreement with them for the estate of Leslie Holland to receive royalties from sales of this design. It is from these royalties that the Executors have very generously given Purton Artists some funding for the next five years.

Purton Artists would like to thank the Executors of Leslie Holland's estate for their bequest in memory of him.

Please visit our web site [www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk](http://www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk) to find out more and come along to our Annual Purton Artists Exhibition in Purton Village Hall in

### **November 2014**

Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm - 9 pm
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 am - 4 pm

You will be able to view a poster of Leslie Holland's poster of the *Brave New World's* book cover of 1932.

*AVRIL AINSCOUGH, member of Purton Artists*

## Free Taster Sessions for Singers

The JT Performance Trust has a few September vacancies on Tuesdays in its youngest singing classes for gifted and talented singers, aged 5 upwards.

The teenage Girls Concert Choir, who have twice reached the national finals of Music for Youth, also has space for new singers.

Scholarship places are possible.

You can book a Free Taster Session now via our website [www.jtpttrust.org](http://www.jtpttrust.org) or by contacting [info@jtpttrust.org](mailto:info@jtpttrust.org).

*JANICE THOMPSON, Director, JTP Trust  
Singing Teacher and Vocal Coach*

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## After 8 – Summer Walk

It was brought to my attention, by other members of the group, that I should be organising an outing during August so ...

On Thursday 21 August a select group of 8 members of After 8 ventured forth to Cricklade (that well known Saxon town on the river Thames). Our route took us along the Thames Path, over the disused canal, to the Old Railway Line. From there we continued through Cerney Wick to pick up the towpath beside the Thames and Severn Canal. Not to be missed was one of the Round Houses (to be found only along the Thames and Severn Canal, I understand).

It appears that the main thrust of restoration work being tackled at present, by the Cotswold Canals Trust, is the restoring of Weymoor Bridge, Latton. Locks on the canal can be clearly seen but the canal itself is becoming overgrown with Himalayan balsam, nettles and bullrushes.

The towpath neatly led us back to North Meadow, Cricklade and so to the Red Lion Inn for refreshment, discussion and laughter. A pleasant evening was had by all (I think) with topics of conversation ranging from the wildlife spotted during our walk, the mountain of work being carried out by volunteers of the Cotswold Canals Trust and finally catching up with holidays that various members had embarked on during the summer.

SANDRA HORSNALL

After 8 meets once a month in members homes, discussing a wide range of topics. Please feel free to join us. Contact: Avril on 01793 771542 or any other After 8 member. We look forward to welcoming you. Dates of our meetings are shown in the diary section of the Purton Magazine. Next meeting: Tuesday 7 October – ‘Treasure Trail’ at 8 pm at Sheila’s.

## Purton Evening WI [purtonevewi.wordpress.com](http://purtonevewi.wordpress.com)

Our speaker for the 20 August was Bob Townsend on “Early Days of Cycling”. The competition brought in some amusing photos and entries: every one a winner.

In the WI it is not often that you hear talk of ladies’ and gentlemen’s private parts, unless it is a particularly medical programme. However, common sense must tell us that this is quite an important part where cycling is concerned! There were a few chuckles at the changes of design of bicycles and underwear, from Mrs Bloomer onwards, to ensure the comfort of the cyclist, especially on longer journeys. It was quite a thought-provoking talk by Mr Townsend and greatly enjoyed.

Volunteers were needed to help at, or to provide scones and cakes and other items for a fund-raising Cream Tea, held on Saturday afternoon, 30 August, at our President’s home on Vasterne Hill. No shortage of kind ladies willing to put on the smart overalls and get cracking! So we were blessed with good weather, willing hands, and a lovely crowd of tea-takers who produced an amiable hum of gossip. We also benefited from tables carrying a variety of items for sale, and a generous raffle, altogether a lovely teatime when a very useful £214.67 was raised for our funds. Thank you to helpers and consumers alike!



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The meeting of 15 October will be open to visitors – “including husbands”, it says on the programme. Presumably anyone who takes an interest in current affairs will welcome this talk, entitled “Ebola, Chernobyl and the KGB”, with speaker Rob Hyde-Bales. This is so topical that it really behoves everyone to turn up. Discussion is always an interesting part of our programmes and we are not above asking earth-shattering questions to which no-one knows the answer! The competition is an African memento, but please don't bring ebola ... no, I realise it isn't a subject for cheap jokes. Social time is marked down for a quiz (and vodka cocktails and nibbles – wow!). It should be a memorable evening.

See page 3 of the Purton Magazine, September issue – and note that a kindly person (to whom, many thanks) has located what “to muddle” means! It seems that Wiktionary (what's that? – this puzzlement could continue indefinitely) “suggests that to muddle is ‘to dawdle aimlessly, to idle time away’ but in this case we believe it is actually an internet-based learning system”. I really am glad to know, and I find that the Wiktionary meaning suits me to a tee.

Now I shall say au revoir till 15 October and – truly – happy moodling!

CONSTANCE REED, Tel: 771571

## Wessex Male Choir's new Musical Director

Wessex Male Choir is delighted to announce the appointment of Katrine Reimers as its new Musical Director. Following a decision by Rob Elliott, choir founder and previous Musical Director, to step down at the end of 2013, Katrine was asked to take over the post and has now agreed to stay on permanently. The choir looks forward to a long and happy future together.

Katrine (*pictured right*), with extensive experience from national opera and community music groups, has brought a fresh approach to male voice singing – including a lightness of touch and a deeper understanding of the music – which Wessex choristers have embraced with enthusiasm. The proof has been in the choirs' recent sell-out concerts, which have attracted a large number of prospective new choristers.

Wessex rehearses in the Abbey Meads Church, Abbey Meads Village Centre, Elstree Way, North Swindon SN25 4YX on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm with the

the new season in progress . Planning is well underway for the 2014/15 concert season, featuring several Swindon events including the choirs' annual Christmas concert, and possible choral competitions in the offing.

Any male over 18 years who is keen to learn more about the choir is encouraged to visit its website at [www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk](http://www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk) or contact [membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk)



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## 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.

## Bradon Forest School News [www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk)



**Summer 2014 Exam Results:** You may have seen from the local press that we are celebrating a record year at Bradon Forest. As judged by the government's 'gold standard' (5+ A\*-C including English and Maths), as a school we rose to 62%. This continues the progress highlighted by Ofsted last May.

Behind this figure lies the stories of many individual students who achieved superbly last summer. On behalf of all at Bradon Forest, I would like to congratulate all our Year 11 students on their achievements.

**Bradon Forest School Open Events:** We are running an Open Morning and an Open Evening for Year 6 parents and pupils this year along with our Open Morning tour week at the end of September. Please note we also welcome parents and pupils from Year 5 to come and look at the school. However if you miss the September dates then please don't worry just contact Mrs Hayden, our Admissions Manager on 01793 770570, to arrange a tour of the school at your earliest convenience.

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

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

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# Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

In the October 2004 magazine there was a lovely report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Purton Pram/Barrow race. 14 teams took part, each consisting of 3 people, two pushing and one riding with a lot of effort clearly also going into the appropriate fancy dress as well, judging by the photographs. The race involved visiting 6 drinking establishments in the village with each team having to consume 1½ pints at each stop. For the record, 3 wise monkeys only took 37 minutes to complete the course whereas the Purton Paramedics took three times longer although we are sure they would be a lot faster in an emergency!

Yet, when this piece is being written 10 years later, we learn that the annual four-legged and wheelbarrow races that take place in the Wiltshire village of Pewsey have been curtailed by health and safety edicts. Traditionally the four legged race in that village sees teams of three competitors tying a leg to each other and also involving 'pit-stops' at four local pubs.

Yet, this year – in 2014 – teams trying to win the race will have to go teetotal if, according to the Police, they don't want to fall foul of the Licensing Act which bans the drinking of alcohol "at speed". So teams in Pewsey can either stick to soft drinks while racing around the circuit just as fast as they can or start 5 minutes after the teetotal race and have as many alcoholic drinks as they like, but only if they promise to complete the course very slowly!

10 years ago Purton Magazine was considering how a value could be put on a community and what it is worth to live in Purton compared with anywhere else. Clearly different people will have different 'valuations' based on their own preferences and experiences but all the many and varied local events and activities which are regularly reported in this magazine will surely go a long way to enhance the value of living in Purton.

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

## The Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion Purton Branch Horticultural Show Committee would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone involved with our show in August. Thanks go to The Red House committee for the rooms, our sponsors Hills Group Ltd, and John Toomers Garden Centre, the cup and plaque sponsors, the advertisers, the judges, the helpers, and most of all the exhibitors without which the show would not be able to take place. You will be pleased to know that it was our best show ever! We made over £600 profit for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. So thank you everyone; hope to see you in 2015!



HEATHER HARRIS, Hon. Sec.

## Shoebox News

Purton Methodist Church will be open on Saturday 18 October from 10 am to 12 noon. This will be to receive any filled boxes and contributions towards this project.



SYLVIA FREEMANTLE

## Church Floodlighting

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



- 16 August The Church was floodlit to remember the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the death of our Mum and Nan **Mavis Hedges**. Always in our thoughts. From Ann, Nigel, Jane, Sarah, Daniel, Declan, Darryl and Dominic and Poppy
- 30 September St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **John Boast**, on the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Miss you and love you always. Wife Carol and all the family. And in memory of **Shaun Adam Roberts**, our tiny Great Grandson, who was stillborn on 11 August 2007. Now cradled in the arms of Jesus. God Bless and always in our thoughts.
- 1 October St Mary's will be floodlit for **Douglas Spackman**, who died 1 October 1995: and for **Queenie Kelly** who died 19 October 1999. Always in our thoughts. Della and Dennis.
- 2 October St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Roy Albert Bultitude** on the anniversary of his death. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love from Deborah and Alan.
- 2 October St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Lilian Slade**. 9.2.24 - 2.10.12 Forever loved and so sadly missed by Ron, Geoff, Lyn, Ted, Linda and families
- 4 & 5 October St Mary's will be floodlit on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 October for the **Harvest Barn Dance** in the Village Hall and the **Harvest celebration** for all God's gifts, on Harvest Sunday.

Floodlighting contact: Libbie Sheppard: 771018.

If there are any difficulties with the floodlights we apologise. We try our best, but sometimes there are complications due to the weather etc

We would like to thank Sandra Horsnall for taking responsibility for the bookings during the past year. Also thanks to church helpers who set the lights in the absence of the usual team!

## Something to Think About

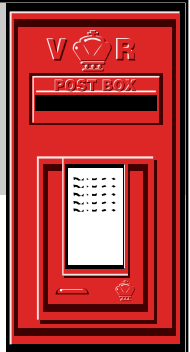
Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open.

*Elmer G. Letterman*



# 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.



## ■ WORLD CHALLENGE

I would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who supported me at my race and quiz nights, the bonus ball draw and all the people who gave me small jobs and donations in aid of my World Challenge expedition to Norway on 16 July. It was an amazing adventure with five days of trekking through the Norwegian wilderness, with its spectacular views and two days of canoeing down the Otra river. I also did rock climbing (very scary) and white water rafting down a very rapid section of the river.

Once again, a huge thank-you to everyone who supported me in my fundraising efforts.

*James Howse*

## ■ REMEMBERING WW1

Many thanks to Sue and Tony Richardson for the PADS performance and letting me have my information stand inside the hall. As a result another £61 was raised for COMBAT STRESS and more people came and talked about Purton and further afield. More events are in the planning stages: the next will be a talk at Purton Museum about researching military records online, information to follow when dates are confirmed.

*Bob Lloyd*

## ■ PADS AND THE WW1 RE-ENACTMENT

What a wonderful afternoon of fun and village camaraderie! PADS put on a very enjoyable re-enactment of the 'call-up' of young men to go off to fight for

King and country.

Purtonians turned out in costume to enjoy the event and we all ended up in the Village Hall car park being entertained, while we ate a huge tea and drank beers and teas.

Thank you so much to PADS for such a fun afternoon. It was a triumph and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. And, although I have lived in the village for over 38 years, it's the first time I have been to a party in the car park ... brilliant village fun!

Thank you

*Libbie Sheppard  
a grateful Purtonian*

## ■ WHEELBARROW

Sir, may I through your columns enquire after the whereabouts of my classic green wheelbarrow? It is easily identified by having a slow puncture, evidence of mortar mixing inside and a small split down one side rim. It has been removed from my garden without my permission. Thank you.

*Nick Yerbury, 770552*

## ■ DOG MESS

It has come to our attention that, around the fields of Common Platt and Purton, not everyone is acting as responsible dog owners.

It is illegal to dispose of dog mess on someone's land and you could be fined. Just because you can't see it does not make it right. It can also be a danger to children and wildlife.

*continued ...*



Would dog owners also be aware that there are deer in these fields. If you cannot be absolutely certain that your dog will not disturb or chase wildlife,

please be in control and put your dog on a lead when you are in the vicinity of wildlife.

*Name & Address supplied*

## Purton & District Probus Club



On 12 August, Peter Donovan gave a talk 'Steam on Wiltshire Roads', a nostalgic presentation covering many aspects of steam power: Road maintenance, haulage, ploughing, threshing and transport. An interesting local pioneer of steam in agriculture was John Fowler of Melksham, Wiltshire. Fowler's initial motivation was cutting drainage channels using a steam-driven windlass and cable. He then designed a see-saw plough with multiple tines and, using an engine at each end of the field, demonstrated in 1856, a very successful method of ploughing which defeated all the competition. His brothers continued the business establishing a manufacturing company in Leeds which produced a whole range of steam engines including the Showman's Loco' used by travelling fairs and circuses. Many examples of steam engines can be seen in action at a local ploughing match, held annually, this year at Shifford Manor, Oxfordshire on 27 September.

On 20 August, Denis Cartwright a local historian from Tetbury, gave an account of Anson's voyage around the world 1740-44. (20 years before Captain Cook's 1<sup>st</sup> voyage!) Whilst Great Britain was at war with Spain, following the 'Jenkins Ear' incident, Commodore George Anson led a squadron of eight ships to disrupt or capture Spain's possessions in the Pacific. HMS Centurion, Gloucester, Severn, Pearl, Wager, sloop Tryal plus 2 store ships, Anna and Industry set sail for the southern oceans. Successive disasters, sickness such as scurvy and typhus reduced the squadron to Centurion alone. Pearl and Severn failed to round Cape Horn and returned home. HMS Wager foundered on Chile and the crew mutinied. Anson reached Juan Fernandez in June 1741 with 3 ships. The crews had fallen from 961 to 335. Anson sacked Paita in Peru in November 1741 and won some prizes but scurvy and leaking ships compelled him to assemble all the remaining survivors into Centurion. Rested and refitted in Trinian he sailed to Macau (November 1742). After considerable difficulty with the Chinese he sailed on searching for one of the Manila Galleons – Spanish vessels trading from Mexico to the Philippines. He caught up and captured the 'Neustra Señora de Covadorga' carrying 1.3 million pieces of 8. He returned to Macau, using some of the money to stock and refit. After helping the Chinese to quell a massive fire he sailed for England via the Cape of Good Hope, arriving home in late 1744. The prize money made him a rich man for life, some of it he spent on extending Shugborough, the family residence. Our speaker delivered a very entertaining account.

Purton Probus meets at 10 am every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Red House lounge. If you are recently retired we are looking for new members and visitors are always welcome. Coming programme: 14 October - "Banking then and Now". 28 October - "George Stephenson".

*BOB STEVENS*

# PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Age Concern  
**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

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



**Sue Ryder Care**

Evening Wear Sale  
Saturday 15 November  
at the Cricklade Shop  
- plus raffle -  
Refreshments on sale  
9.30 am to 5 pm  
All welcome

Purton Guide Dogs  
**Cricklade Band & Academy**

in concert  
at Purton Village Hall  
7.30 pm on Thursday 9 October  
Tickets £6

Purton Tennis Club

**Race Night**  
Saturday 27 September  
The Red House  
7.30 pm

Purton Age Concern  
**Mystery Tours**

Cost - £13 each tour  
for village pensioners

**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

**Ashgrove House Nursing Home**  
will be holding

### **a Coffee Morning**

for MacMillan Cancer Support  
Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning  
**on Friday 10 October : 10 am -  
12 noon**

Please join us for coffee and cake,  
Tombola, Christmas gift ideas  
and crafts.

### **All Soul's Service**

St Mary's Church Purton  
Sunday 2 November : 5 pm

To have loved ones  
remembered in the service  
contact Rosie Harris 01793 773035  
on a Tues or Thurs morning,  
or email  
[administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk)  
by 30 October.

### **Harvest Festival**

Village Parade Service  
at St Mary's Church Purton  
Sunday 5 October  
10.30 am  
All welcome!

### **Scarecrow Trail**

Sat 27 & Sun 28  
September  
Around Purton



"Fairy tales & Nursery  
Rhymes"

Further information or to  
participate, contact:  
[info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk](mailto:info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk)  
or Ali on 01793 772579

Purton Guide Dogs

### **Jumble Sale**

2 pm on Sat 4 October  
Silver Threads Hall

### **WI Food Fest**

Saturday 25 October

12 noon to 4 pm

Purton Village Hall

Exhibitors

Homemade Soups - Cakes

Teas & Coffees

Entry £1 (under 16 free)

01793 770648

SWINDON & NORTH WILTSHIRE SCOUTS

# **FIREWORK & BONFIRE SPECTACULAR**

**1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**at Lydiard Park**

**£8 Adult**

**£3 3-14 years**

- + Gates open 5.30pm
- + Cars via Hook St
- + Bonfire lit 6pm
- + Live Music
- + Entertainment

Please leave your own  
fireworks and sparklers at home!

**plscouts.org.uk**

**phone: 534500**



Organised by 1<sup>st</sup> Purton & Lydiard Scout Group

## Purton Diary - October 2014

1	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour (with lunch included)
2	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		8.00pm	PADS Open Readings for Panto at the Red House
4	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall ( <i>for Guide Dogs</i> )
		7.00pm	Barn Dance at Village Hall with Bring & Share supper
5	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service Parade and Harvest at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
7	Tu	8.00pm	After 8: "Treasure Trail" led by Avril at Sheila's
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
		7.30pm	Cricklade Band Concert at Village Hall ( <i>for Guide Dogs</i> )
10	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		10.00am	Coffee Morning at Ashgrove House ( <i>for Macmillans</i> )
12	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
13	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
14	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>Banking then and Now</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Purton Silver Threads: <i>Co-op Choir</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
15	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Rob Hyde Bales - <i>Ebola, Chernobyl &amp; the KGB</i> ( <b>Open Meeting</b> - husbands welcome)
18	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Shoebox Day at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall ( <i>for Silver Threads</i> )
19	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	<i>to 4.30pm</i> : Antiques & Collectables Fayre at the Village Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
20	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Sharon Lloyd - <i>Working with students with learning difficulties</i>
21	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
22	W	7.30pm	Arthritis Talk, Purton Surgery
23	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Mike Stone - <i>The archaeology of Braydon Forest</i>
25	Sa	12noon	<i>to 4pm</i> : Purton Evening WI Food Fest at Village Hall
26	Su		<b>End of British Summer Time</b> - clocks go back
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church

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	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
28	Tu 10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>George Stephenson</i>
	2.00pm	Purton Silver Threads: <i>W.I. Entertainers</i>
	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: <i>George Allway - We Made a Garden</i>
30	Th 3.30pm	Communion at the Cedars

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### November

2	Su 5.00pm	All Souls Service at St Mary's Church
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### Every week

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

### Moon Phases

☾ 1 October	○ 8 October	◐ 15 October	● 23 October
☾ 30 October			

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](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)  
 Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

## Purton Evening WI Food Fest

Following the success of our very first food festival last year, we are running another one this year (I wonder if it might become an annual event?) on Saturday, 25 October at the Village Hall from 12 noon to 4 pm.

We will be welcoming some of the food producers who came last year and some new ones. Come along and start planning your Christmas menu and you might even be able to cross off a few items on that pressie list!

We will be serving light refreshments including homemade soup and cakes as well as the usual tea and coffee and some of our exhibitors may tempt you with a few samples of food as well!

There will be activities for the children.

Entry is £1 and children under 16 free.

For further information or if you would like to exhibit please ring Helen on 01793 770648 or email [mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk)

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# Purton Remembers WW1

100 years ago, World War 1 military recruitment drives were taking place throughout the land. There wasn't actually one in Purton.



However, on 7 September this year, as part of the World War 1 commemorations, we suspended reality and created our own version of what might have been. Using a script written by Len Page and a huge amount of poetic licence, PADS, in association with Purton Historic Society, recreated what we thought it may have been like had the recruitment drive visited Purton.

It was meant to be an entertaining occasion. People were encouraging their menfolk to sign up to defeat the enemy. The serious part came right at the end when, after Revd Judith Wells' prayer for their safe return, the 14 recruits were marched off to catch the train to Devizes. The same number, from Purton, had signed up on 14 September 1914. They were all waved off cheerfully but as they were marched down the village, the audience were informed that 4 of those recruits would not be returning. Brian Broad played *The Last Post* and *Reveille* as Bert Hicks lowered and raised the Union Flag. This brought a rather serious note to what had been a light-hearted day. A lot of people commented that, at this point, there were a few tears, and a lot of goosebumps – just the effect that we were after. The displays and films inside the hall also brought a sense of reality to the day. Bob Lloyd, who has researched extensively on Purton's war effort, was present to inform those who wanted to know more. He was also able to raise £62 for COMBAT STRESS.



The weather was very kind to us, a bit too hot for us soldiers in our thick uniforms. A lot of people dressed up and entered the spirit of the occasion and there was a marvellous village atmosphere with people sitting in the village hall car park chatting, drinking tea, beer and eating cake. We've often asked for cakes to be donated for various events we've run and Purton has always come up trumps. This time was no



exception, so thank you to all those who donated their time and ingredients to provide us with a great variety of cakes.







Of course, as is usual with an event like this, there are so many people to thank. Our music act, Bobby Paul was unable to be there due to circumstances way beyond his control. So at the last minute, Diana Meares and her daughter, Anna (Anna was also the “gobby” girl who felt she had every right to go and fight the Hun) stepped in to play the piano for us. We soldiers stepped in to sing (sorry about that) but it looked like

everybody was enjoying themselves despite that. Thank you to Len Page for his script (we very nearly got it all right which makes a change). Thank you also to all those who turned up to set up and tidy up afterwards, without you all we couldn't arrange anything. Thanks also to all you who came along.

There will be various war-related events over the next four years. I'm already working on my next project and will be starting on that in spring 2015. I'll keep you all informed as I'll also be wanting a lot of help with it.

TONY RICHARDSON



## Purton Historical Society

**Thursday 23 October 2014 – Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**The Archaeology of Braydon Forest by Mike Stone**

The area of Braydon Forest provided plentiful supplies of both wild and managed woodland, which was used from the Roman period up to the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the production of pottery, bricks and tiles. The presentation will look at the large Roman tile works near Minety, which supplied Roman building materials to Cirencester, the Roman Baths in Bath and many other settlements and villas in North Wiltshire and the Cotswolds. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century a group of potters set up their production centres around Minety and produced their products up to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, their products being marketed over a large area reaching as far as the east coast of Ireland. In the late 16<sup>th</sup>/early 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery production moved to Kent End, Ashton Keynes in order to be nearer its main markets in Cirencester. Later the potters also produced clay pipes and bricks and the industry closed at the end of the First World War. Samples of Roman to modern products will be available at the meeting.

Future Diary Dates – further details in future magazines

- Thursday 27 November: WW1 The first 18 months – Bill King at the Village Hall
- Friday 5 December: Annual Christmas Social at the Silver Threads Hall

New members and visitors are always welcome.

TONY & JAN NEATE, [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com)

Telephone 01793 770117



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# Great War Project

## Part 15: October 1914

Germany's "Race to the Sea", after their stalled advance on Paris, attempted to get round the Belgian, British and French front lines to seize an alternative route westwards. Even by late August, the German army had reached Antwerp at the head of the River Scheldt estuary (about 45 miles from the North Sea coast) and held it under siege for much of September.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment completed its transfer from Gibraltar, via Lyndhurst and landed at Zeebrugge on 7 October as part of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of 7<sup>th</sup> Division, ordered to defend Antwerp. However, by the time they arrived, the city was already falling and the Antwerp garrison surrendered on 9 October. The 7<sup>th</sup> was redeployed to hold bridges and other strategic points to help the westward evacuation of 33,000 soldiers of the Antwerp garrison (around one third of the total Belgian army) who escaped north to Holland, to be interned for the rest of the war. A million civilian refugees left for Britain, Holland and France – most later returned but many remained in Holland after 1918. Once the Belgians had passed through, the 7<sup>th</sup> was moved west, where the infantry entrenched in front of Ypres, the first British troops to get there.

After actions in early October, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres was fought between 19 October and 22 November with heavy losses for the 7<sup>th</sup> Division while they held back the German advance. On 24 October, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wilts were at Reutel, a village some 6 miles east of Ypres, a German attack led to the capture of 8 Purton men of the Battalion: James Clarke, Arthur Cook, Raymond Dixon, Herbert Fisher, Edwin Iles, William Morgan, Edwin Painter and William Titcombe. They were held as Prisoners of War for the next 4 years: Herbert Fisher died of pneumonia in 1918 while still a POW.

Henry Reginald Jefferies (*pictured*) served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Wilts, arriving in France in September, and joined the Battalion with reinforcements at La Couture. On 23 October they moved to Neuve Chapelle. Just after midnight the following day shelling of the Battalion's trenches and the nearby village continued until 7 pm. Shell fire blew in many of the trenches with the soldiers in them buried as a result. Henry Jefferies was killed in action that day and has no known grave though he was reportedly buried in a trench south of Neuve Chapelle church. He is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial.



Further north, the Belgian army held the German advance at the Battle of the Yser (16 - 31 October) with heavy losses.

Another Purton man, Victor Howard Phelps had joined the Royal Navy in 1913. On 21 October 1914 he joined the company of the super-dreadnought battleship HMS Audacious (23,400 tons). On 27 October Audacious hit a mine off Tory Island, north-west of Ireland. The light cruiser HMS Liverpool, part of the accompanying fleet, stood by and the White Star liner Olympic, elder sister of the



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ill-fated Titanic, arrived on the scene. The crew of Audacious were taken off by 7.15 pm with the ship visibly sinking. Audacious floated upside down until 9 pm, when three explosions threw wreckage 800 yards to hit and kill a petty officer on Liverpool ... the only casualty in the sinking. The loss of Audacious was only officially announced in The Times 4 years later on 14 November 1918, three days after the end of the war.

Arriving in France in October 1914 with the Wiltshire Regiment would have been the following men with Purton associations:

**1<sup>st</sup> Wilts** Thomas Painter

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wilts** (*those starred taken POW, 24 October*)

James Clark*	James Linsell	Edwin Lewis Iles*
Arthur Nelson Cook*	William Titcombe*	William George Morgan*
Raymond Philip Baker Dixon*	Herbert Fisher*	Edwin C Painter

**11<sup>th</sup> Hussars** Alan Wortley Barrington-Foote

### **Other Locations**

To India: William James Hedges 1/4 Wilts, 14<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Corps  
Royal Navy: Victor Howard Phelps

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### *Elsewhere round the world:*

On 3 October, 25,000 Canadian troops embarked on an escorted transport convoy, all arriving safely in England on 14 October. They were mobilised to the Western Front in 1915.

On 28 October in the naval Battle of the Malacca Straits (Penang), Malaya, the German cruiser Emden sank a Russian cruiser Zhemchug, and a French destroyer Mousquet, in harbour before escaping. The same day the assassins of Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo, were sentenced to death, except Gavrilo Princip who was under 20 at the time and received twenty years imprisonment.

On 29 October, Turkey declared war on Russia and Turkish warships shelled the Russian Black Sea ports; Russia, France, and Britain declared war on Turkey separately between 1 and 5 November. On 31 October, at the Battle of the Vistula River, Russia defeated German and Austro-Hungarian forces around Warsaw.

In October 1914, Ivor Novello published *Keep the Home Fires Burning* in response to the battles of August and September including Mons, the Marne and the Aisne. There are many other songs associated with the Great War, but many of them pre-dated it. *Goodbye Dolly I must leave you*, (Paul Barnes & Will D. Cobb) for example was written in America at the time of the Spanish-American War (1898). It featured the line "See - the boys in blue are marching and I can no longer stay", because of the American blue uniforms of that time. It was changed to "See - the soldier boys are marching" for the British audience and was popularised in the Music Halls during the Boer War (1901-02). *Boiled Beef and Carrots* (Charles Collins & Fred Murray) dates from 1909, while *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* (Jack Judge) was first performed in 1912.

RICK DIXON

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# Our Family's War

## Bonny

*Dick Scott writes:* The photo is of Bonny, my aunt's pony and trap standing outside Pry Farm. The photo was sent to me by my cousin Diana Bush née King. Written on the back is "Bonny sent to war 1914 - nearly broke our hearts". Bonny was Diana's mother, Mrs Flo King's (née Scott) pony which she drove daily



to Miss Fentemen's school in Bath Road, Old Town until Bonny was requisitioned by the army for the War effort.

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.

## Autumn Course

### Chicago in American History

A series of six weekly talks organized by the Purton Historical Society.

Venue: Silver Threads Hall, Purton.

Speaker: Mr. P. Booy B.ed. Hist. Hons.

All Meetings take place on Wednesday Evenings at 7.30 pm

Course Fees: £22 on the night, £20 if booked previously.

Further Information: Inez Gale (770138) or Paul Booy (770755)

- 8 October:** Settlement; The Treaty of Greenville; Fort Dearborn
- 15 October:** The Gilded Age; Robber Barons; The Pullman Affair
- 22 October:** The Haymarket Affair; Anarchism; Interesting Ladies of Chicago
- 5 November:** Architecture; The Columbian Exposition 1893
- 12 November:** Prohibition; Prohibition and the Ladies; Al Capone; Myth and Reality
- 19 November:** The Loeb-Leopold Case; Murder most foul; Museums, art and Culture



*Beauty ...*



*... and the Beast*

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## Harvest Flowers

If you would like to bring some Harvest flowers along to St Mary's for the Harvest Festival services on October 5, please do feel very, very welcome.

This year we shall be especially grateful for any gifts of pot plants as well as cut flowers, to add to the decorations. We hope that, after the Harvest celebrations, we shall then be able to distribute these to people in the village who are sick, or recently bereaved.

I suggest you bring your flowers to St Mary's on Saturday morning 4 October, between 10 am and 12 noon.

Please contact Jane Smith if you want more details.

We would love to have as many people involved as possible and we hope St Mary's Church will look at its Harvest best.

Please contact Jane 772422 or Libbie 771018. Thank you so much

## All Soul's Service

At St Mary's Church Purton on Sunday 2 November at 5 pm.

All are welcome to remember and give thanks to God for those who have died.

If you would like loved ones who have died remembered in the service please contact the parish administrator Rosie Harris 01793 773035 on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, or email [administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk)

Please can we receive names by 30 October.

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common and Locks Lane*.

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.

## 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 & District Guide Dogs

We had our stall at the Cricklade Show on the Bank Holiday Monday. The weather of course affected the visitor numbers but we made a total of £80.70.

A reminder that we have our Jumble Sale in the Silver Threads Hall at 2 pm on 4 October and The Cricklade Band and their Academy will be giving us a concert in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on 9 October – tickets £6.

Thank you for your continued support.

*BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group*

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## Jubilee Gardens Project

Sainsbury's store in Stratton is proud to announce that their nominated Charity of the Year for 2014/15 is Jubilee Gardens Project, a Purton Stoke based charity set up to provide education and training for adults who, because of varying degrees of mental and physical disability, experience learning difficulties. This month's in-store launch raised a total of £398.17 through



various activities including tombola and a book sale and the outlet's Charity Coordinator, Tricia Carter, hopes this will be just the start of a successful twelve months of fund raising for this very worthy cause. 'We are always grateful to our wonderful customers for the way they support our efforts' she says, 'and with Jubilee Gardens being such a well-known local charity we are confident that they will continue to help us throughout the coming year.' A full range of exciting events is currently being planned and both Sainsbury's and Jubilee Gardens are looking forward to releasing further details. 'What we can say' Tricia continues, 'is that we are organising a Sponsored Walk on Saturday 13 September and a number of our colleagues, together with several personnel from Jubilee Gardens, will be taking part. We are hoping that this will raise another bumper figure to put towards our final total.'

The photograph shows Tricia Carter of Sainsbury's, flanked by Bruce Porter of Jubilee Gardens Project together with some of his pupils, at Sainsbury's Stratton store to celebrate the launch of their year as the store's nominated charity.

*BARRIE MATTHEWS, PR Ambassador, Sainsbury's, Stratton*

## Swindon Foggys

Are you in pain? Do you feel isolated and lost? Lonely and confused? Don't struggle alone, come along to a Foggys meeting.

We hold friendly meets twice a month; the first Wednesday of the month, 12 - 2 pm at Liden Community Centre, Barrington Close, Liden, Swindon SN3 6HF and every third Monday of the month, also 12 - 2 pm, at the Boundary House, 1 The Street, Moredon, Swindon SN25 3ER.

We hold social events every month and due to an *Awards 4 All* grant, we offer free Hydrotherapy sessions (and jacuzzi) every Monday, for an hour at Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool for our paid members.

We offer advice, support, a shoulder to lean on, where you can chat about anything, everything and nothing. It's amazingly relieving to know you're not alone.

We are dedicated to providing support, raising awareness and promoting positivity, for "invisible conditions", primarily for Arthritis and Rheumatic Conditions, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and M.E., Endometriosis, Fibromyalgia, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Polymyalgia Rheumatica and Giant Cell Arteritis, Seasonal Affective Disorder and Trigeminal Neuralgia.

You can contact us 0844 887 2377 or 0844 887 2485 between 12 and 4 pm. Our website is [www.butyoudontlooksick.co.uk](http://www.butyoudontlooksick.co.uk) and Chairman/Group Founder [deb.cooke@butyoudontlooksick.co.uk](mailto:deb.cooke@butyoudontlooksick.co.uk)



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## Purton Bowls Club

Now that the season has finished, it's time to reflect on how we did as a club.



Silverware has once again been won at both County and Swindon & District level. We are the ladies' county fours champions and the men's over 60's county champions this year.

Our ladies won the Swindon & District evening league and our men were successful in the Swindon & District afternoon triples league, finishing top of division 3. They also claimed runner up spot in the knock out competition.

We have been busy with some of our club orientated events recently. The Bartlett Trophy, which is played every year, was again a good fundraiser, and this year it was decided the money raised would be used for the club. The fish and chip night was definitely different with a challenge that stretched all our members in a sort of 'target' bowls; and the club triples, where names were blindly picked to make up the teams and the two best teams played for the trophy on the Finals day.

Unfortunately because of the lack of players available in not only the friendly matches but also some of the league matches, selection has been difficult at times and we will have to think about this for the new season in 2015. There is a feeling that we would be better served having more social events for club members next year, and this will be talked about in the closed season.

If you are interested in joining us next season then please keep an eye out in future publications of when we will be meeting again as a club and come along and find out what we are all about.

The green has stood up amazingly well this year and this is all thanks to Graham Price and his team for all their hard work through the closed season and the regular maintenance and cutting three times a week during the season.

Well that's it for another season outdoors, let's hope we all winter well.

*PETER BERRY*

## Purton Cricket Club [purton.play-cricket.com](http://purton.play-cricket.com)

At the end of a successful season the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished second in the Wiltshire League of the WEPL and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI came a most creditable eighth (only 7 points behind the fifth placed team) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI competition. Individual players who did well were Tom Bowler with most runs in the league (700) and he was also third in the most wickets category where he took 33. Aki Gomel was the second highest wicket taker with 34. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI competition Dave Allen (280 runs) came ninth and in the bowling table Joe Dunn (12 wickets) came 19<sup>th</sup> and Alex Duffell, aged 13, did extremely well to take 10 wickets. In the wicket keeping section 1<sup>st</sup> XI keeper Sam Pinchin took 18 catches and made 8 stumpings, putting him in first position and well ahead of his nearest challenger.



### **From the Archives**

The cricket report for May 1995 from the Purton Magazine –

'A very successful race night was held at the Red House on Saturday 18 March when a profit of £570 was made for club funds, £20 of which was donated to the

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Purton Youth Club. The members would like to thank all those who helped and supported us on this evening especially our sponsors, Mr Terry Crumbie and the ladies on the tote.

On 27 March Alec Grant and club chairman, John Bartlett, spent a day at Lords cricket ground. This was the prize won by Alec Grant when he was announced as "Groundsman of the Month" for February in "Cricket World" magazine. Alec and John had a tour of all the facilities and even the groundsman at Lords told Alec he has trouble with worms on the cricket pitches!

The 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication is currently with the printer and should be available by the beginning of May.

From 1 May a small exhibition will also be on display in the museum for three weeks and people are most welcome to look at items illustrating some of the club's history.

We hope the villagers will support us during the coming season. The first home match is on 22 April and the league programme starts on 6 May when the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI entertain Lodway.'

JOE GARDNER

  
Purton Tennis Club

The final few matches of the league season have been completed with mixed fortunes. The Men's C team won their last match thus ensuring they became Division 4 Champions. Well done to Glynn, Ashley, Paul, Daniel and particularly Ethan Gunton who has come all the way through the junior ranks at the club. The Men's D gained a second promotion in as many years coming runners up in Division 6. The Men's A and Mixed A came runners up in Division 1 after Wootton Bassett and Chiseldon failed to do us a favour in their last matches! Unfortunately, the Ladies A failed in their quest to become Division 1 Champions and had to settle for a third successive runners up spot. Swindon proved to be too strong with their young county player who came into the team just to play us!

The end of season ladies' and men's tournaments proved very popular. Ten men and twelve ladies enjoyed a day of competitive but friendly tennis, good food and lovely weather. The format proved successful with A and B team players combining with C and D players to make a more even contest. The winners were Nicola Gardner and Janet Saunders, Justin Miller and Andy Taylor.

The annual Junior Singles' tournament took place on Saturday 6 September and Oliver Madsen retained his Junior Boys title against Tom Kendall with a comfortable win. There was a new winner on the girls' side with Rosie Hannay beating Daisy Kendall in the Senior Girls event.

The club now looks forward to the Winter League which starts in October. We have again entered 4 teams and with the coaching continuing after school the courts will remain busy in the winter months.

NICOLA GARDNER

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

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

## Purton & District Darts League

As I write this it will be my last as I have now resigned from the role of Secretary with immediate effect.



This is now a new start of the season for everyone with some changes to the playing order as per the AGM. If you have any queries or questions please see Bim or a member of the Committee.

I would just like to thank you all for your support and I will continue to play darts so won't get rid of me that easily!

Thanks again to you all.

LISA

## Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

There's very little to report on since last month, other than the Leaders having a rest and recharging their batteries for the Autumn!



At the time of writing, Rainbows, Guides and 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies have had just one meeting in the new term. All three units welcomed new members: four new Rainbows, four new Brownies and, wait for it ... ten new Guides! The units heard each other's holiday news and played getting to know you games, the Rainbows being lucky enough to do so in glorious afternoon sunshine.

The Rainbow unit had some exciting news to share. Sarah, who's one of their members, was awarded a joint 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Girlguiding South West Region's Rustle, Bustle and Squeak bird colouring competition. There were over 400 entries so that was quite an achievement. She was delighted to win a bag of goodies. Purton Brownies also boasted some winners. One of the groups who attended the Region's Big Brownie Birthday Zoom event in July were winners of a trail which they'd taken part in. Georgie, Jessica, Tamzin and Daisy received goodie bags too.

All of the guiding units will be entering scarecrows in the Purton Scarecrow trail at the end of September and 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies have already got started on constructing theirs. Scarecrow stuffing with straw makes quite a mess!

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](mailto:braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). You can also register interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

[www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision](https://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision)



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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.



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## Wiltshire Good Neighbours



### Should I stay or should I move?

Deciding whether to move or stay put can be one of the most difficult decisions to make as you get older.

### Why might you need to think about moving?

Is your house too big? Is it difficult and expensive to heat? Are you worried about repairs/updates – perhaps you need to replace old windows or the roof? Are you finding it difficult to manage the stairs or use the bath because of ill health? Is it difficult to keep the garden looking as good as it used to?

Have you found it more difficult to get out and about since giving up your car? Perhaps you miss some of the social activities you used to enjoy.

### But what are the options?

Before making a decision about moving you need to know what your options are. Staying put with some help? Home Improvement Agency? Adaptations? Equity release? Rented? Leasehold? Purchased? Sheltered housing? Extra Care? Retirement village? Where – nearby, near relatives/friends, near shops, social activities?

There is a lot to think about!

### Want to talk about it?

If you would like to talk about the options available for YOU, call me on 07557 110414 or email: [rwbcrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:rwbcrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk)

## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

It's time to be thinking of Pantomime again.

"King Arthur" will be performed on 5, 6 & 7 February 2015. We are holding readings for this at the Red House on Tuesday 30 September and Thursday 2 October, so if you are over 18 and fancy trying for a part, please come along.

If any children want to be involved, would their parents contact either Kate Bath on 771442 or Lindsey Hall 771890. We rehearse Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 pm - 10 pm but children are not needed until January. 14's and under have to have a responsible adult with them at rehearsals.

We also need back-stage crew and front of house so any offers of help are gratefully accepted.

If you want more information about PADS in general, please contact Lindsey 771890 or Sue 772581



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For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £16 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information call John Creasey, [john@creasey.org](mailto:john@creasey.org)



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## The Purton & District Luncheon Club

*Concluding the interviews by Diana Thombs:*

### **The members**

#### **Della Kelly**

Della is one half of the other Luncheon Club and Silver Threads marriage. Born in 1922 at Bradford-on-Avon she shocked her father by deciding to become a Land Girl during WW2 when, in his opinion, she could have enjoyed a safe, warm and well paid office job. But Della, who already had several cups for running while at school, felt she needed something more energetic with fresh air. She and the late Joan O'Leary would often reminisce at lunch about the horrors, as well as the joys, of Land Girl life. Her grandfather was a tailor and it was partly from him that Della gained her interest and ability in needlework and hand crafts. Her life with her first husband was mainly spent in Marlborough and it was after his death that she moved to Norbury Court in 1998 as her married daughter lived in Shaw. She joined Luncheon Club in the same year on the persuasion of Harold Durnford, and when Dennis first asked her whether she would like to see the film *The Green Mile* she refused, saying she had some knitting to finish. Happily for romance, the film had a long run in Swindon, and when Dennis asked her a second time, she accepted and the result was a second happy marriage for them both.

#### **Dennis Kelly**

Dennis, Della's junior by 4 years, was born in Torrington, Devon, one of 12 children. At one period many of them, including Dennis, went into a children's home to give their mother a break, but the family was later reunited in Bideford. By 1939 their father was working in Plymouth Docks and, after the declaration of war, as an ARP warden. A friend of his father, working on the railway, asked if Dennis, aged 15, would like to become an engine cleaner on the wagons. Dennis agreed and so began a lifetime of service in the GWR. He was initially based in Plymouth, before moving to Swindon. There were 250 sets of 2 men, fireman and driver. When Dennis began he was No.500, the newest entrant. When he retired aged 60 he was No.1. He lived in Vasterne Close with his first wife, but after she died he was encouraged to join the Luncheon Club where he met Della. He has always been a strong supporter of the club, working for 5 years as shotgun for Graham Hale, whose wife, Valerie, still volunteers in the kitchen. Both Della Kelly and he are also members of the Gardeners' Guild and Dennis worked for 5 years as shotgun with Graham Hale as a Purton minibus driver on the Luncheon Club run.

#### **Frank Unstead**

Frank was born in London in 1922 and had just left school when he was called up to serve in the Air Force as a member of the ground staff, servicing the gliders of the Army Airborne. Frank's responsibilities related to installing and checking the radio equipment the gliders used to keep in contact with each other and with their base. The Hotspur gliders were the 10 man training ones and the twin engine Dakota was the plane used to take the smaller gliders into the sky before release. When Frank went up in gliders to check the radios they would be cast off 25 miles



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away to glide back to their airport. After the war Frank joined the Overseas Crown Agents, and was involved in servicing communications equipment in airports throughout what was then, still, the British Empire. He lived in Malta, Tripoli, Nairobi, Mogadishu and many other cities, for 15 years until the end of Empire when International Air Radio took over his responsibilities under contract to the newly independent countries. Finally he worked for Unicorn Shipping Lines still in communications, and was based in Durban, India and South America, including Brazil. He retired at 66, in 1988, and came to live in England for the first time since the war. He moved to Wiltshire in the late 1990s and to Hooks Hill in 2005. He very much enjoys the renewed mobility he has gained from his buggy, the food and companionship of our Luncheon Club as well as the Wednesday one in Lydiard Millicent and is very grateful to Age Concern and the drivers of the minibuses, which he often uses up to four times a week.

### **The Volunteers**

#### **Val Evans**

We moved to Purton in 2005 and I volunteered at Luncheon Club to enable me to know people. I began helping once a month, but now, because of a shortage of volunteers I work one day each week. I buy all the vegetables except for potatoes, which Age Concern kindly donates and keep accounts for reimbursement. It is a busy time, from 10am until 1.30, but is very rewarding as the members are so appreciative of both the food and the companionship they enjoy.

#### **Pat Breeds**

We have lived in Purton for 32 years. After retiring from teaching I saw a piece in the Purton Magazine asking for volunteers and so I have worked in the kitchen for about 17 years. I very much enjoy the camaraderie of the kitchen team ... lots of laughs and a few disasters, such as when a Pyrex jug full of milk exploded in the microwave! Serving the food to the members is an opportunity to get to know them. I have made many close friends thanks to the Club over the years.

### **Purton Age Concern Minibus Drivers and Shotguns**

#### **Graham Price**

I became involved with the mini bus squad when I finished work in 2000 and soon joined the rota for Lunch Club/ Silver Threads duties on alternate Tuesdays, sharing these duties with John Blackwell and Joe Ricketts. When Joe gave up a couple of years ago, John and I continued, covering all Lunch Club runs which fall on the Tuesday of Silver Threads.

I enjoy transporting members into Lunch Club as it gives me the opportunity to either, chat and reminisce with "old" Purtonians or become acquainted with those who are relative newcomers to Purton. It is also rewarding to know that we are helping some members whose visit to Lunch Club is one of the few chances they have to get out of their own home and socialize with others.

### **Wise Words**

Friendship make prosperity more shining and lessens adversity by dividing and sharing it.

*Cicero (44 B.C.)*

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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We welcomed Duncan Coombs to our August meeting for a talk on 'Climbers and Wall Shrubs'. Duncan is a popular speaker at our meetings and we were particularly pleased to see him on this occasion, back on form, following his recent hospital stay. Duncan has a brilliant knack of drawing members into his talks to humorous effect, so with a slide show to emphasise his ideas for growing climbers and wall shrubs, we knew we were in for a treat.

He began his talk by highlighting some of the reasons for growing climbers and wall shrubs. They include:

- To 'soften things up'. By growing ivy and pyracantha on the wall of a new house for example, will provide colour and form, alleviating bland lines of the new property.
- In a small garden 'vertical' gardening can be produced by planting colourful, flowering climbers against border fences. Similarly attractive climbers can be used for screening. Clematis Markham Pink is an ideal specimen for this.
- Large gardens can include a pergola that can be clothed in climbers, purple vine and vitus for example. A pergola supported by 12 stakes, could allow for a different variety of clematis to be grown against each of the 12 stakes, one for each month of the year.
- Similarly a rustic framework lends itself to rambling roses, Rosa Dreaming Spires for example that will flower all through the summer. Ramblers that have a tendency to wave around in the wind should be tied in.
- In winter, evergreen climbers such as ivy will provide interest and texture whilst providing habitat where birds can nest. A bee keeper will 'pat you on the back' if you grow an ivy as they flower late in October and are therefore a good source of nectar for bees when other flowers are on the wane.
- When an old apple or pear tree needs to be cut down it can provide an ideal support for a climber, the rose American Pillar for example.

Duncan recommended that we should always question the suitability of a plant to its intended framework in terms of their 'look'. For instance, planting a yellow honeysuckle against a black garden shed will show off the honeysuckle to perfection. He went on to suggest some colour combinations for climbers, the everlasting sweet pea The Bride grown against a purple Berberis, for example, will provide a stunning combination. As will the Scottish Trumpet flower grown against a golden Yew hedge. Humulus Lupulus Aurea grown against purple Beech will provide a vibrant, jazzy mix and variegated Holly with the pink scented flowering Buddleia Alternifolia is stunning.

We were advised to always match the vigour of the plant to the space available. Ivy, when grown against a wall, will have no harmful effect on the wall and is an easy plant to remove and control. However the climbing Hydrangea Petiolaris is a structural engineer's nightmare and should be avoided. Wisteria when grown on a firm timbered pergola will still be flourishing in 70 years although it begs us to question whether the pergola will still be holding the wisteria up or vice versa!!

When it comes to wall shrubs Abutilon is a good specimen. It doesn't climb and although it's inclined to be tender, on a south or west facing wall it will come

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through the winter. It does have a tendency to flop however and should be tied in against the wall.

Duncan recommended Apple, Pear or Peach for growing as a cordon or espalier against a wall or fence. The advantages are two-fold, beautiful flowers in spring with the prospect of luscious fruit to follow.

Duncan explained that we should always determine which way the wall or fencing is facing before deciding on the planting. On a north facing wall, if the space is open, then Pyracantha, Ornamental Quince and Vines would be suitable. Similarly Cotoneaster will grow well on a north facing wall and bees love it. Clematis Nelly Moser always fares better on a shady wall as its flowers fade in the sun.

On a warm wall Mimosa will survive a mild winter as will the variegated climber, Actinidia kolomikta, although it does not suffer late spring frosts lightly but with Wisteria, sun is the key, as the more sun the better it flowers.

A vote of thanks for Duncan's informative and entertaining talk produced a warm response from members.

Duncan kindly judged the entries for the competition 'A Bloom from a Climber'. Congratulations to our winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Lorna Comley; 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Goodall; 3<sup>rd</sup> Doreen Freegard.

If you are interested in gardening, and would like to come along and join us, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28 October at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall when our speaker will be George Allway. The subject of his talk will be 'We made a garden' and our competition will be 'A garden in a seed tray'.

*LINDA ROBERTS (Chair) & MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)*

## Purton Carnival

We are pleased to announce the committee has grown.

We welcome: Victor Patterson, Angela Patterson, Emma Berry, Sara Morris, Alison Cox, Mel Gravestock, Paige Baskerville and Mechelle Lloyd to the team.



And we have a host of new ideas we hope you will enjoy, one of them is:

### **Purton Carnival's Photo Competition**

We invite you to send us your pictures of Purton through the months (starting NOW). The winning pictures will be included in the new 2016 Purton Calendar and shown on our website. We want your pictures of: Purton in the snow, Purton at Christmas, Purton with beautiful sunsets, Purton landscape. Purton Carnival, Purton architecture, Purton People (with their permission) any picture of Purton.

Terms and conditions are listed on the carnival website. Main points: it's free to enter, the month the photo was taken should be included, and we accept entries by e-mail to [committee@purtoncarnival.co.uk](mailto:committee@purtoncarnival.co.uk). Full rights are handed over to Purton Carnival when entering photos.

There are still events to look forward to this year so please visit the carnival website for more information.

And don't forget Santa comes to Purton on 18 and 19 December. More information in the December issue of Purton Magazine.

Thank you.

*KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman*

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