

# Purton *Magazine*



*Our thanks to Purton Artists for the series of front covers they have provided. Ed.*

# November 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

Many years ago the word 'synergy' was all the rage with expensive management consultants as they tried to improve their clients' businesses, using the definition as 'creating something bigger/better than the sum of its parts.'

Looking through this month's magazine that word came to mind again because the same word could easily be used about Purton itself. All the different local events and activities help to make our community even better than the sum of all its parts and it is the wonderful variety of contributions that helps to make this magazine what it is. Thank you again to everyone who takes the time and effort to send in articles and information – all contributions are always welcome.

For example, do you know what closed in Purton 50 years ago on Monday 2 November? The answer can be found in a personal reflection on [page 20](#). Something that opens in the village in November is featured on the front cover and is always worth visiting.

Looking forward, details of the Age Concern Christmas market and parties are on [page 7](#). Then, on [page 8](#), there is an important appeal for a new Age Concern Minibus Co-ordinator to be the main contact for anyone wanting to book either of the volunteer-run mini-buses that are such a lifeline for many older villagers.

The best comments come from visitors to Purton who feel sufficiently pleased to say so afterwards. An excellent example of such objective compliments this month comes with a big thank-you to everyone in the village on [page 35](#). The Pear Tree hotel has recently been named as one of the UK's best hotels with the award only coming as a result of guest reviews.

Many guests report back to the hotel that they have had the most wonderful time wandering around our village with most of them saying just how friendly all the local people are – especially when the visitors looked as though they needed a bit of help or information. There is even a couple who now come on holiday to Purton every October – all the way from Blackpool – because, they say, they enjoy the village and our surroundings so much.

Finally there are several letters thanking named and anonymous villagers for their kindnesses when others are in need; as one correspondent says "I always knew we lived in a very caring village." Long may that continue.

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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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Magazine Committee

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey, Helen Dixon,  
Rick Dixon, Sheila Fowler, Francis Sheppard

Typeset & Printed by: **In Touch Services**

**Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions**

*by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, please*

to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB  
tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**Distribution enquiries only:**

[John Creasey](#)

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

**Also on line at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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## Parish Council News



**Remembrance Day Service and Road Closure** – Sunday 9 November 2014. Everyone is welcome to come to Purton Cenotaph to join in with the annual Remembrance Day Service, pay their respects and remember those who have lost their lives in conflict. The service will start at 2.30 pm and the Cricklade Band will be in attendance. As usual the section of The High Street between Purton Vets at number 77 and The Peak will be closed to traffic for approximately an hour from 2.15 to 3.15 pm. Road access will be closed to that part of the High Street, and to College Road and Hooks Hill.

**Having difficulty hearing or seeing?** – Do you know somebody who has difficulty reading newspaper print, or who has to have the TV on very loud to be able to hear it? An ageing population means more of us are experiencing loss of sight or hearing, or sometimes both – known as Deafblindness or dual sensory impairment. But we do not have to suffer in silence – help is at hand.

Specialist rehabilitation officers in Wiltshire Council's Hearing and Vision Team would be delighted to carry out a FREE home visit to help identify the difficulties being experienced as a result of the sensory impairment. They can advise on how to overcome these difficulties and help maximise peoples' independence in their own homes. Solutions include doing daily tasks a different way, emotional support with coming to terms with a sensory loss, early intervention, providing aids or gadgets, finding local voluntary help or putting people in touch with local clubs to develop interests or meet new people.

Examples of some of the aids that may be useful are: white canes to alert others of vision impairment, a liquid level indicator to enable a sight impaired person to pour a hot drink without the risk of scalding themselves, or flashing lights to alert hearing impaired people to the doorbell or smoke alarm. Some equipment can be provided free of charge, or they can signpost you to suppliers so that you can purchase things yourself, should you so wish.

If you think a FREE home visit by a member of the Hearing and Vision Team could be helpful please contact them on 01380 725201 or e-mail [hearingandvisionteam@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:hearingandvisionteam@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**'Wheelchair Friendly' walks in Purton** – a resident recently enquired about wheelchair friendly walks in our area. The Parish Council's Rights of Way Committee considered this at its September meeting and concluded that there are none at present. An initial discussion ensued to consider which routes might have scope to be modified in order to enable a wheelchair to follow their full length. The Committee will continue to explore options. Watch this space for further updates.

**Upper Pavenhill Allotments** – there are currently vacant plots in the Upper Pavenhill Allotments. These plots will have to be offered in due course to the Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon Councils which have waiting lists, which would be a pity if there are people in Purton who could use them. If you would like to grow your own potatoes, pumpkins, chrysanthemums and more in your own local allotment please contact Robert Glare 07510 208217, [robertglare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertglare@yahoo.co.uk) or Geoff Simpkins 01793 772008, or Geoff Scoble 07894 303719.

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**Livestock electrical tape** – owners of livestock sometimes place white electrical tape along the boundary of their property to ensure animals don't get out. Please note that this electrical tape can be dangerous to people with heart pacemakers if they get too close to the tape when out walking. If such tape is found on public footpaths, or anywhere else where it could cause a danger please report the exact location to the Parish Council.

**Lorry Watch Scheme** – Wiltshire Council operates the Lorry Watch Scheme to identify and prevent heavy goods vehicles from using small weight restricted roads in rural areas. The aim is to prevent damage to local roads, noise and air pollution, and danger to other road users and pedestrians. If you see a heavy goods vehicle using inappropriate roads in the Parish please make a note of the vehicle's registration number, the date, exact time and place of the sighting and pass these to the Parish Council. Wiltshire Council will take action when contraventions have occurred.

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

- |                 |                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N14/04588/FUL 1 | The Fox – change of use to residential and garden works to boundary access.                                                               |
| N14/06086/FUL 2 | Purton Stoke – two storey rear extension and front porch (resubmission of 14/04175/FUL).                                                  |
| N14/06463/PNCOU | Land off Pond Lane, Purton Stoke – prior notification under class MB – change of use of agricultural building to single bedroom dwelling. |
| N14/06679/FUL   | Plot 2 Pear Tree Close – conservatory to rear.                                                                                            |
| N14/07059/FUL   | 20 Locks Lane – single storey side extension (resubmission of 14/05645/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 and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site. Go to [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and sign up today.

## Macmillan Cancer Support

We had a full house in Lydiard Parish Hall on Friday 26 September, with friends from Purton and district joining us at the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

I am delighted to report £760.94 was raised plus £49.25 Christmas Card sales, making a grand total of £810.19. Our best fund raiser to date at Millicent Parish Hall.

Thank you to all those who came to the coffee morning and helped us raise these funds. It was good to see you all.

VILMA MUNRO

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## Purton & District Age Concern



We are heading towards our busiest time within Age Concern. Coming up we have our two Christmas parties and our Christmas market, (please see below for details). From the end of November we will be selling tickets for our Christmas raffle and street wardens will be delivering your Christmas vouchers and newsletters. I would like to thank the street wardens in advance for the time and effort they put into the deliveries on their "patches"; it's much appreciated by all in Age Concern. We will shortly be booking the coaches for our outings next year. If anyone has suggestions for places to visit please give me a call on 772558.

In Age Concern we consider ourselves fortunate to have so many local people who are very supportive of what we do both with their time and donations, this includes Joan and Brian Frost who raise money for us through the sale of their plants at our Purton Stoke coffee morning and have recently given us another generous donation. Thank you both for all your support – it is much appreciated.

### **Future Events:**

**Christmas Party** – On Saturday 29 November from 3 - 5 pm at the Silver Threads Hall we will be holding a Christmas party for our less able clients and their carers. Wheelchair users are very welcome. The cost is £2.00. Entertainment this year will be provided by Roger Mepstead. Please contact your street warden to book your place. We look forward to welcoming you to this lovely festive afternoon.

**Christmas Party** – Our main Christmas party this year is on Saturday 6 December from 5 - 8.30 pm at the Village Hall. The cost is £5.00 and the entertainment will be provided by Commonweal School, which is a performing arts academy so there will be a variety of entertainment. Please contact your street warden to book your place.

**Christmas Market** – Our Christmas market will be held on Saturday 13 December outside the Pavenhill shops. There will be sausage tasting, cakes, bric-a-brac, books and festive items; also it's your last chance to buy our Christmas raffle tickets. Come along a grab yourself a bargain!

### **Past Events:**

**October mystery tour** – Our final mystery tour of the year went via Cirencester, Seven Springs, Cheltenham, Bishop Cleeve, Pershore, Evesham to Toddington where we had lunch served by the WI at Toddington Village Hall. Our return journey was via Upper Swell, Stow-on-the-Weld, Burford, Bibury, Barnsley and Cirencester. The weather was very kind to us, the scenery was lovely and Martin our driver from Ellison's pointed out items of interest along the way – he was very informative.

### **Information:**

If you are aged 50+, available during the day on Tuesday/Wednesday and would like to have a go at playing badminton please contact me on 772558 for more information.

*LOUISE TIDMAN*

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## Purton & District Age Concern: Mini Bus Co-ordinator

The Mini Bus is looking for a new Co-ordinator to take over from Maurice Card, who has decided to retire shortly after more than two years of carrying out this vital part of our Age Concern network. The Co-ordinator is the main contact for anyone wishing to book the Volunteer run mini buses, of which we have two 8-seater buses, and also to ensure that there is driver and shotgun coverage to meet the requests.

There are currently regular runs on a daily basis to cover Day Care to and from The Cedars in Purton and Lorna Doone House in Royal Wootton Bassett, Purton Lunch Club twice weekly, Lydiard Millicent Lunch Club and Coffee & Chat which are both once per week. There are also a couple of monthly pickups for meetings. These are all virtually covered by a roster of volunteer drivers, but of course arrangements need to be made to cover sickness and holidays which the Co-ordinator will need to arrange. Additionally there will be individual requests for transport for surgery visits and the hairdressers as well as for events in the village such as evening Concerts, Pantomime and Age Concern Christmas Parties etc. Once in the swing of things you will know which drivers are best to approach first for any particular request – not all the drivers and their shotguns are retired.

Contact with Drivers and shotguns is probably done best by telephone although some less urgent information can be done by e-mail – you are reimbursed for the calls you make. You do need an answer phone for messages whilst you are out. During your own holidays, cover would be given by one of the existing Volunteers who have undertaken this in the past. It would be only fair to say that there will quite often need to be a daily input especially for Surgery appointments although this will vary, but not usually very much at the weekend. Currently the co-ordinator keeps a check on the validity of the CRB/DBS checks and ensures these are renewed when appropriate. If you are well organised and a good communicator then this might be just the right job for you. A detailed job description is available for you to read.

To indicate your interest and/or for more details please contact Louise Tidman, Secretary to Purton & District Age Concern on 01793 772558.

## Purton & Green Gable Surgery Group for Patients - G4P



### **Talk on Arthritis – Wednesday 22 October**

This has proved to be a very popular talk and we are aware that there have been a number of patients who have been unable to book a place. For the benefit of these patients we are planning to hold a second evening on this subject in the future.

### **Repeat prescriptions**

We have been asked to remind patients that repeat prescriptions are normally available at the pharmacy two working days after the request. Please allow for this when you make your request.

*SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P*



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## Michael Woolford

I would like to write a few words about Michael Woolford of 108 Reids Piece, Purton, who was found dead in his house on Friday 3 October.

I have known Michael for well over 50 years. His mother, Kit, got me my job at A.D.P. where I stayed for about 51 years.

We played a lot of football and tennis, and both had girlfriends in Penhill. We used to ride our bikes or catch the bus to see them. By the way, that was in the days of a Sunday bus service in Purton! Michael's Mum died when he was 15 – I think that left a mark on him for the rest of his life.

In 1964, he came on a week's holiday to Weymouth with my family and I think that's the one and only holiday Michael ever had.

Michael never married and live with his father, Frank, all his life. Frank died a number of years ago and Michael's life went downhill from then.

It was a sad end to the following decades after the 1960s to a very sad life.

*BASIL MILLS*

## Mr. Bert Hibbard

I would like to pay tribute to a man for whom I had the greatest respect – although he sometimes seemed to be a dour person, one thing is certain – he was a matter-of-fact, down-to-earth man who loved his family. The person I am talking about is the late Bert Hibbard of Norbury Court. Bert was born in Highworth in 1922, so he has had a long life especially considering the hard job he had when he worked in the Foundry some years ago. He had three brothers and one sister, having lost a brother in early days. Bert went to school in Highworth – I think they may have played in what was called 'the building.' At the age of fourteen Bert started work in the Iron Foundry in the GWR, riding a bicycle from Highworth. (That is the latest GWR building that they are bringing into the Outlet Centre). Remember, the bicycles were a bit different then than they are now!

When he became sixteen, he started his apprenticeship as a moulder. This was certainly a very skilled job and I expect there are a few door numbers or names that he has done for people around the village. When it was decided to make a memorial garden as a tribute to Harold Waldron (what an inspiration he was to us all) in the triangle left when the new road cut through opposite the Red House, I went to Bert to make us a plaque to go on the wall. This plaque it still there on the gateway that went through to the Red House when it was a private house many years ago.

When Bert was seventeen, the family moved to Harcourt Road in Swindon – this was right by the old canal where it went under the railway and came out between Webb's entrance to the Railway Works and Comptons. I remember when we came off the workmen's train, we used to call in Mrs Eames' shop, which was just there, to get a paper. Sorry, I'm wandering a bit! I wonder if Bert met his wife walking along the canal path as Peggy, his wife to be, worked in Comptons and lived in Caulfield Road. Bert and Peggy got married in 1946 at St Barnabas Church in Gorse Hill, and lived with Peggy's parents to begin with. Marlene was born there and in 1950 they moved to Station Road, three doors up from where I used to live.

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They always used to go away on trip fortnight and Bert's favourite place was Bournemouth at the Laguna, but he also liked Scarborough and Paignton. After taking early retirement, the holidays went up to two or three times a year. Bert and Peggy enjoyed life together but sadly Peggy died in 1987. What made it worse was that Peggy had always wanted a bungalow and they moved up the road to Willowbrook but they had only been there three months when Peggy died. Bert was always one not to show his emotions, but this really hit him hard.

Later on, he went on coach holidays – although he had a free pass to be used on the railways, he said the trains went too fast to see anything, so he changed to coaches and Scotland was his favourite place. Another place he loved was Barbury Castle and he would go up there with his brother Pim Hibberd who lived at the Fox. (I wonder how his brother got a name like that). Bert did like a couple of pints in the Club each night. I think through the nature of his work in the Foundry he was entitled to that. It was never any more, except on a Saturday night when he would have a drop of whisky. What was beer then – 1/1d. a pint – I can't remember whether it was Mitchell & Burlers' or Ushers, but he would always leave dead on closing time – that was the type of person he was, precise with everything. In later years until he became poorly, he liked to go out to lunch with members of the family and the beer changed to a drop of whisky. The grandchildren, then later the great grandchildren loved it because he would do a jig with them. They are still trying to figure out what the dance was! Bert hasn't gone through life without several setbacks, like fifteen years ago he had cancer of the colon but he didn't complain. Perhaps a drop more whisky to help with the pain, but he would suffer in silence – this, I think, is a Victorian type of attitude.

I am sure it has helped the family having young children around, like the youngest great grandson who had just come back from a holiday where he had flown on a plane and they told him that his great grampy had gone to live in the sky. When grandfather Mick went to see him, he came running out all excited saying his great grampy had gone in a red aeroplane on his holidays in the sky. Then the family were all arranging a meal in The Angel as a tribute to Bert, when one of his great granddaughters said 'Great grampy can't be dead, he hasn't had his last meal yet'. The family has been excellent towards Bert through very difficult times, especially his daughter Marlene and son-in-law Mick. As you can gather, he wasn't one of the easiest to care for so I congratulate you all for the care you gave to Bert.

I am going to finish on a positive note. Bert loved to be involved and he would do anything for anybody. He wasn't forthcoming but he loved to be asked to help. I will have a pint to drink his health as we used to in the Workman's Club, and Purton Age Concern would like to thank the family for money in lieu of flowers being shared between them and the Prospect.

TONY PRICE

## Obituaries

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

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## Purton & District Probus Club



On 9 September we enjoyed another visit by Brian Barber, a dedicated Aid Worker and Radio Engineer with 15 years' experience of setting up communication systems in war zones and trouble spots in various parts of Africa and on this occasion in Afghanistan.

His talk was entitled "World's First Mobile Phone Election Information System". In Kabul for the 2009/2010 elections, Brian designed and built an information system using mobile phones to provide unbiased election news in 6 languages.

The aims were to inform, encourage and empower the voters to become involved, to detect and prevent election rigging and to report election results as they happened. (This in an atmosphere of threat by the Taliban to amputate fingers bearing indelible ink used to ensure 'once-only' voting). Open communication was not favoured by some of the Government representatives and Polling Stations required constant security.

To avoid fragmentation of suppliers, the equipment was all commissioned with one Italian company. The Computer, the Router and 7 mobile transmitter/receivers were set up in Kabul but the control centre was established in Milan. A digital selection process enabled callers to select their own language, Pashto, Dari, Uzbek etc. and be answered with information similarly. The operation needed to be accomplished in 2 weeks and the Afghans were well pleased with the result, particularly the local I.T. engineers. With some further refinements Brian set up similar system for the elections in Lagos of the Nigerian Government.

Our speaker gave a fairly casual account of what has obviously been a dangerous undertaking. He was once surrounded by rebels and rescued by French forces whilst working in Monrovia.

On 23 September Brigadier Ian Shapter delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final episode of the Hundred Years War.

Part 1 had covered Edward III's victory at Crecy, and the influence of the English longbow in Henry V's victory at Agincourt.

Part 2 was about the rout of the Scots and French at Verneuil (1424) by the Duke of Bedford, Regent to the infant Henry VI and Governor of Normandy.

Ian began the 3<sup>rd</sup> part with the English siege of Orleans. Joan of Arc arrived by river boat with relief supplies while the English were already withdrawing. She chivvied the besieged French Lords to chase and defeat the English. A subsequent victory by the French at Patay helped Joan convince the Dauphin to march to Rheims for his coronation to become Charles VII. Joan was captured by the Burgundians, who handed her to their ally the English. She was tried, condemned and burned at the stake in Rouen.

When Bedford died in 1435 he was greatly mourned, particularly by his ally but before the year was out Philip, Duke of Burgundy switched sides at the treaty of Arras to join the French king. In 1445 Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou, giving Maine and Anjou to Charles VII. This marked the decline of the English in France and by 1453 only Calais remained in English hands. After the capture of Bordeaux by Charles VII in 1451 the citizens sent messages to Henry VI demanding that he

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re-capture the province. In 1452 John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury landed with 3000 men, easily recovered the city and by the end of the year had occupied most of Western Gascony. In 1453 the French invaded with 3 separate armies all headed for Bordeaux. When they besieged Castillon, Talbot was persuaded by the town commanders to relieve the town. He marched against the French, arriving at St Laurent Priory and defeating a force of French archers. He was advised to wait overnight for reinforcements. When, in the morning he observed the French withdrawing from around Castillon, he decided to attack. He was led into a trap. Jean Bureau, the French Siege Engineer had set up an artillery park of 300 cannons east of the town on rising ground. Talbot's force was led right into its line of fire. The cannons took out six men with every shot. The reinforcements suffered the same devastation and were finished off by the charge of Breton cavalry. Talbot, pinned under his horse, was killed by the blow of an axe. His son also died. With 4000 English casualties this disaster marked the end of the 100 years' war.

Next meeting: 11 November at 10 am at the Red House Lounge.

BOB STEVENS

## Sainsbury's Stratton

### **Sainsbury's Stratton colleagues hit the road for Jubilee Gardens!**

There may be a few blisters and sore feet in Sainsbury's Stratton store after efforts in Lydiard Park but it was all in a very good cause! Some 25 plucky souls, made up of store colleagues along with board members and students from the Jubilee Gardens Project gathered for a sponsored walk in aid of the Purton Stoke based charity.

Starting off at 11.30 with a brisk start from all participants the pace soon settled down as each walker found his or her level around the 4-mile course, most finishing within an hour and 15 minutes.

According to Sainsbury's Charity Coordinator, Tricia Carter, the day was a raging success. 'First and foremost,' she said after the event, 'It was very enjoyable and a great chance for our colleagues to chat to pupils and management from Jubilee Gardens and find out exactly why our fund raising is so important to them.' She added 'On the sponsorship front we are very hopeful of breaking the £1,000 barrier just for today, which is a great credit to our colleagues, Project members and also our very generous customers.'

Jubilee Gardens Project is this year's nominated charity for Sainsbury's at Stratton and a full programme of fund raising activity is being planned. The Project is an organisation which provides education and training for adults who, because of varying degrees of mental and physical disability, experience learning difficulties. Fund raising is a vital part of the organisation and Sainsbury's are delighted to be able to help with this.

## 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 [rwbricklade@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:rwbricklade@communityfirst.org.uk)



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



At our September meeting we were delighted to welcome our speaker, former WI member Eunice Salmon, who works as an environmental health officer (EHO). She told us that in the 19th century the work of Edwin Chadwick relating to sanitation eventually led to the Public Health Act 1848. The findings of physician John Snow inspired fundamental changes in the water and waste systems in London and other cities and significant improvement in general public health around the world.

The work of the 21<sup>st</sup> century EHO is very varied. We are probably familiar with the 'scores on the doors' rating the hygiene standards of premises serving food, issues relating to nuisance such as noise and smells, add to these health and safety, private water supplies, the condition of privately rented property, product recall and ensuring that the end of a human life is treated with dignity at a welfare funeral and we get an idea how important their work is. In areas with high population an EHO will specialise in one aspect of their work but in rural locations they could be dealing with everything related to environmental health. Jane thanked Eunice for giving us an insight into the essential role in our communities played by the EHO.

Eunice has close links with the Swindon & North Wiltshire Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity so we were pleased to be able to put some cash in /..her collecting tin in exchange for lovely homemade cakes (which I hope were calorie free!) washed down with a welcome cup of tea.

Our business time really proved how busy members could be – group meetings about the history of the scarf or the mystery of Agatha Christie, a pantomime trip, Christmas meal, New Year meal, a day at Denman learning about Moroccan cookery, helping the Jubilee Garden Project to raise money at Sainsbury's, our Food Festival (details of how this went, next month) and the list could go on.

Our next meeting is an open meeting (visitors £3) on 19 November at 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall. Our speakers will be Willie McIvor and colleagues who will be telling us how to 'Make Life Safe & Easy'. Our competition will be an interesting walking stick and yet again I have heard a rumour that as well as the usual tea and coffee there will be homemade cakes during our social time! We are going to need a speaker soon to talk about dieting!

[HELEN DIXON](#)

## Purton & District Guide Dogs

Our Jumble Sale in the Silver Threads Hall on 4 October went off quite well despite the weather and we made £89.60 on the Jumble side. Barbara and Kim Herron came along again and had the table just inside the door. Barbara supplies all the items, then they bring them to the hall, sell what they can and donate every penny to us, and this time it was £100.30 giving us a total for the day of £189.90. Thanks to Barbara and Kim, our helpers, the committee, those of you who donated goods, and those who turned out to support us.



Next month I will report on the concert by The Cricklade Band and their Academy. Thank you for your continued support.

*BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group*

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## The Royal British Legion, Purton Branch

The Purton Branch members would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Purton and the surrounding area for their generosity over the years towards the Poppy Appeal, and the support of everyone is very much appreciated.

The financial year to the end of September 2014 was very successful, resulting in a total for the Branch of £7525.05p, which is a little down on last year, but still a very good amount, so thank you all very much.

We would also like to thank, in particular, Joyce Berry, her daughter and son-in-law Shirley and Mike Lawrence, and all the many other wonderful people who give their time to help to collect for the Poppy Appeal.

In addition we would also like to thank all the customers of ASDA who gave so generously.

**The Remembrance Service** will be held on Sunday 9 November at 2.30 pm at the Cenotaph.

Regardless of the weather it will be held outside, so come dressed accordingly but, in the event of inclement weather, for those who don't wish to stand outside, the Silver Threads Hall will be available and a speaker will relay the service indoors.

We hope that, as now has become the custom, the road will be closed for approximately one hour, and diversions put in place, but the police will not be on traffic duty and this will be carried out by volunteers, so please have a little patience and understanding as the task is quite difficult enough without adding to the problem.

The Branch would again like to extend a warm welcome to any serving or ex-service members of the civil or military uniform branches who would like to join us in the parade, regardless of whether or not you are British Legion members.

*COLIN PEARSON, Honorary Secretary*

## Knit-A-Square

Knit-A-Square (KAS) is a charity founded in South Africa by Ronda Lowie and her family in 2008. It asks people around the world to knit or crochet 8 inch/20cm squares and send them to KAS to be made into blankets. The blankets are then distributed to some of the 2.4 million orphaned, abused or abandoned children in southern Africa. (More information is available on their website.)

When I found out about KAS I started knitting squares and sending them to KAS. Recently my neighbour Sarah and her sister Sue in Nottingham began knitting squares and now several people in Purton have joined us. I collect all the squares and have just organised for them to be boxed and shipped over to South Africa. (This will work out cheaper than posting small parcels but is still very costly). To save money if anyone has any wool they would like to donate to be knitted into squares please contact me on 772558. Thank you.

*LOUISE TIDMAN*

## Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 28 November 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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## 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*

In case you get your Magazine early, please can we receive names by 30 October.

### Church Floodlighting

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



- 16 November      St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of Trev (**Trevor Bird**), who left us 16 November 2003. Lovingly remembered by Jean, Amanda and Paul. XXX
- 28 November      St Mary's Church will be floodlit in memory and in celebration of **Mary Wightman** on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dearly loved and sadly missed by Roderick, Mark and Ben: Daughters-in-law, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
- 29-30 November:   St Mary's Church will be floodlit over the weekend in memory of **Elizabeth Ward**, on the first anniversary of her passing. From everyone on Red Lodge Estate.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie Sheppard](#)

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

### Floodlighting at St Mary's Church

If you would like to have the church floodlit for the evening, the cost is £16.

Suitable occasions include anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, Christenings, special memorial days and other celebrations such as the safe arrival of a new baby.

An announcement can also be put in Purton Magazine.

Please do contact [Libbie](#) for more details.

### Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Church Path, Church Street, Hyde Lane, The Hyde, Parkside, Church End and Manor 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.

# 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.*



## ■ SCARECROW TRAIL

I just wanted to contribute a vote of thanks to the organisers of the Scarecrow trail this weekend. We had a great time making our own scarecrow and an even more enjoyable time seeing everyone else's efforts whilst strolling round the village in the sunshine, particularly exploring areas where we'd never been before! It was also lovely to see so many people of all ages taking part. Thank you for organising the trail and I hope it becomes an annual tradition!

*Alice Hart*

## ■ THANK YOU, THANK YOU

What a lovely time me and my family had doing the scarecrow trail. We all had a fun time.

With Thanks,

*Karon Gough & Family*

## ■ CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all who were involved in the scarecrow weekend. What imagination people had – it was top class and the standard of the scarecrows was brilliant. A great deal of work must have gone into that weekend to make sure it was a success, so many thanks to all concerned for giving us such an enjoyable time. Another nice thing about the weekend was the young, the elderly and all the ages in between working together to make it all happen. This just shows that Purton's community spirit is alive and well and will go on into the future.

More congratulations are certainly in

order for the Pear Tree hotel after it was named as the UK's best country hotel in the latest edition of the Good Hotel Guide.

What we have always felt is that they are also part of our village community and if they can help the community they will. So well done to you all – it is an excellent achievement and extra special because the nomination came from the Pear Tree's guests themselves.

*Tony and Sheila Price*

## ■ HATS FOR THE HOMELESS

I would like to acknowledge that Millie Burgoyne has been knitting warm woollen hats for the homeless for the last two years. She has now completed over one hundred. She sends them to the Salvation Army H.Q in London where they are distributed to Homeless Centres throughout the Capital. Well done Mum, what an achievement.

*Your daughter Pat  
(Pat Suddaby)*

## ■ KIND PURTONIANS

I would like to thank the following Purtonians for their kind support, before and since losing my dear mum. Wendy and Julie for your friendship and advice. Sylvia for your help and kind words. To my wonderful hairdresser Jacky for being so thoughtful and caring.

Thank you all for your genuine friendship, honesty and kindness.

*Val Turner, Lydiard Green*



### ■ CHARITY BIKE RIDE

Darryl and family would like to thank everyone that sponsored or donated money for the John Radcliffe Head Unit.

On Sunday 28 September Darryl and six other riders (family and friends) rode from Swindon speedway track to Oxford hospital and back, 76 miles. A cheque was presented to the NICU for £2100; just a little thank you for what they did for Darryl after his accident in April.

Darryl has made a remarkable recovery from his accident at speedway and he is hoping to return next season. He would like to thank everyone who sent get well wishes to him.

### ■ CARE AND CONSIDERATION NEEDED!

I'm sure all residents living on and in the roads leading off Witts Lane have seen the appalling state of the road and pavement on the corner of Jubilee Estate.

As well as our very own 'Water Feature', we have problems with the

water mains as well, causing this area to be constantly wet. There is only one pavement along this section of road and pedestrians have no option other than walk on this side.

I would ask all drivers using this part of Witts Lane to show consideration to them until the road dries up. That means **SLOWING DOWN!**

It is an offence under Section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to drive 'without due care and attention' and if you splash anyone you could be prosecuted.

**SO BE WARNED!**

*Name and address supplied*

### ■ A VERY CARING VILLAGE

I would like to say a big thank-you to everybody who so kindly gave me gifts, get well cards, telephoned, visited and even offered to help after my recent hip replacement operation. I always knew we lived in a very caring village.

*Margaret Carter*

## We Record ...

### *Births:*

3 September **Poppy Zelda Clatworthy.** We look forward to many amazing moments with her.  
From her proud parents Gemma and Bevan x

### *Baptisms:*

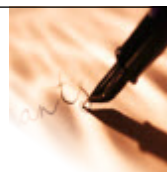
31 August Sam Jackman  
Connor Jackman  
Jack-Thomas Jackman *all at St Mary's Church*

7 September Riley Thomas Green *at St Mary's Church*

### *Funeral:*

16 September Sidney Wheeler *at St Mary's Church*

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



# PURTON PLACARD

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

## **Remembrance Day**

Tuesday 11 November

### **at The Cedars**

Purton High Street

Daisy Chain Show Time Singers

Performing "We'll meet again"

2.30 - 4 pm

Come along and join us for a  
sing-a-long

a chat plus tea & cake

everyone welcome

admission free



## **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

## **Sing 4/4 Community Choir**

*Your Local Community Choir*

and Guests

Present

### **"The Joy of Christmas"**

*A Feast of Music to Welcome  
Christmas*

At the Village Hall, Purton

Thursday 11 December at 8 pm

Tickets £6.50

(Light refreshments included)

Available 1 November from:

Jenny Barnes 770339

Mary New 770630

from any choir member

or from Best One

*In Aid of Local Charities*

## **Purton Age Concern Christmas Parties**

For the less able and their carers  
Saturday 29 November : 3 - 5 pm

at the Silver Threads Hall

Cost £2.00

Main Christmas Party

Saturday 6 December : 5 - 8.30 pm

at the Village Hall

Cost £5.00

## **Purton Twinning Association**



### **Quiz**

**Friday 19 December, 8pm**

at the Silver Threads Hall

Teams of up to six.

Licensed bar.

£5 per person

including a Ploughman's supper.

To book a place please call

Len Page on 770160 or

Sara Brown on 778362

## **Whist Drive**

Wednesday 26 November

7.30 pm.

At Silver Threads Hall, Purton

Tickets £2 on the door.

All Proceeds to

Wiltshire Air Ambulance



**Purton Age Concern  
Christmas Market**  
Saturday 13 December  
9 am - 12 noon  
Outside Pavenhill Shops  
*Lots of Christmas bargains!*

**St Mary's Church  
CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
on **Saturday 29 November**  
in the **Village Hall**  
12 noon - 2.30 pm  
Come and have your lunch!! ...  
Lunches served – hot meat baps  
Many attractions and stalls,  
including:  
Home-made produce  
Activities for children  
St Mary's School Choir  
will be singing  
Mince pies, teas and coffees

**Purton Baby & Toddler  
Group  
LADIES NIGHT**  
**Cheese & Wine Evening**  
FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER  
7.30 pm  
Silver Threads Hall  
Licensed bar  
with wine by the bottle or glass  
& soft drinks, live music,  
plenty of cheese and crackers  
and a raffle  
TICKETS £5.00  
Tel: Mel 07813 352299

**Bonfire Night**  
at Purton House Organics  
Saturday 8 November  
From 4 pm

**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.

**Christmas  
Coffee Morning**  
Friday 5 December  
10 am to noon  
at 18 Church Path  
**Proceeds to  
Purton Lunch Club**

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](http://plscouts.org.uk)  
phone: 534500

  
**scouts**  
be prepared . . .

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



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## Last Train to Purton

*Purton Station 1960 (up platform)*

Look up the records and you will find that Purton station closed on 2 November 1964. That was a Monday. There being no Sunday services from Purton by this time, the last day of passenger trains was on Saturday 31 October. Thus a service that had operated since 31 May 1841, vanished on that Saturday evening when a diesel hauled four-coach train headed towards Kemble amidst the flashes and bangs of innumerable detonators. There was a small gathering of locals, standing not only on the platform but also viewing from the road bridge or the embankment to witness the event. There were also a dozen or so of us who had joined the train at Swindon.



Until this time, the main railway event of the day from Monday to Friday was certainly the railway workers' train to Swindon at about 7.15 am. For a short while each morning a throng of workers descended Station Road to the Station where Peter Webber had a news-stand and no doubt did good business until about an hour later when the train for the office staff departed. Curiously, at a time when most services were operated by diesel locomotives, both these trains were hauled by steam right up to the last. The earlier train did not appear in the public timetables but anyone could use it, but beware of taking someone's usual seat! Dave Manners, who was often a fireman on these trains, recalls many individuals, especially those who always managed to arrive at the very last minute. It was not unknown for the train to purposely pull forward just a little early to give these latecomers a shock.

The return fare to Swindon in those final months went up from 1s 6d (7½p) to 2s (10p), but it was still just a little cheaper than the Bristol Omnibus bus and took only eight minutes. At the time the Swindon bus turned round at the Lower Square with just a few going on to Purton Stoke. When stations closed, extra bus services were supposed to be introduced. But in truth, the Purton train service to Kemble, Cirencester and Tetbury (with a change), Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham was never replaced. Our best bus services in that direction have really only appeared in various guises in the last few years. Following the closure, the number of extra buses into Swindon was minimal; coaches were laid on for the railway workers but many turned to their cars, often sharing with railway colleagues.

At the time of closure the service from Purton was somewhat sparse. Besides the two trains for the workers already mentioned, there were two semi-fast trains to Gloucester which called on their return and three local trains to and from Swindon to Kemble. As far as revenue was concerned, Purton, like the other periphery towns and villages served by rail, suffered from the fact that so few of the passengers actually paid anything for their travel. Railway workers travelled free and railway families using the service for a day out in Gloucester or Weston would travel at privilege rates. No doubt there were many objections to the closure but there were so many in the sixties. From Swindon the lines to Highworth, Cricklade and Marlborough had already gone by the time of the Beeching report in 1963 as

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had the nearby branch lines to Malmesbury and Faringdon; any remaining local stations were quick to follow. Sixty years ago the Swindon booking office could have offered you some ninety or so Wiltshire destinations, now there are thirteen.

31 October 1964 was a beautiful autumn day. I had purposely set off for the footpath crossing of the line, which was an extension from Hyde Lane. Being a Saturday the early workers' train did not run but the following one used by the 'office' workers an hour later had always been shown on the timetable. A brilliant photo of Purton's last steam train was envisaged. The conditions were not good. Early morning mist was everywhere and the resulting snap could have been anywhere. But I saw the train and received a friendly hoot for my trouble. A little later my wife and I took the morning train to Gloucester for the last time returning late afternoon. Later that evening she drove me into Swindon to catch the last train back to Purton. The booking hall was deserted and I brought my ticket at the last moment so just maybe I have the last rail ticket to Purton!

DAVID BISSET

*Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...*

As has become traditional with the November issues, the annual exhibition of Purton Artists Society is previewed and details of this year's exhibitions can be found on [page 25](#).

In the November 2004 edition, 11 of the 12 original water colour paintings so kindly created and donated by Andy le Poidevin for each front cover that year, were displayed in the article announcing the exhibition. The main reason was that Andy had generously decided to auction each of the original artworks with the proceeds going to St Mary's church funds. Each original was to be displayed and could be bid for individually during the exhibition weekend but finalised at 3 pm on the Sunday. The highest bid was displayed next to each original but the bidder's identity was hidden. There were frantic scenes in the village hall as 3 pm approached with the latest bids rising fast.

We are delighted that Purton Artists continue to provide illustrations for the front covers of Purton Magazine. This year we have enjoyed 7 different covers from 7 different members and you will have seen their annual exhibition featured on the front cover of this November's issue. It promises to be another wonderful display of really accomplished local creativity.

Also in the November 2004 issue we carried an article about a new movement called "We Are What We Do". Put simply back then, it believed that each one of us has the power to make a difference and, if enough people do the same thing, the cumulative effect will ultimately change the world. This not-for-profit organisation is still going strong, describing itself as a "behaviour change company" on its current web site. 10 years ago we suggested that voluntary actions that helped our community could be listed anonymously in Purton Magazine with the intention of encouraging others also to do something that would benefit our community and we are always happy to receive such contributions – our contact details are on [page 4](#).

*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).*

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## Purton Diary - November 2014

1	Sa	5.30pm	<i>Bonfire 6pm: Scouts Fireworks Spectacular at Lydiard Park</i>
2	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
		5.00pm	All Souls Service at St Mary's Church
5	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
6	Th	10.30am	Communion at Live & Let Live
7	F	6.00pm	<i>to 9pm: Purton Artists Exhibition at Village Hall</i>
8	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 4pm: Purton Artists Exhibition at Village Hall</i>
		4.00pm	<i>onwards: Bonfire Night at Purton House Organics</i>
9	Su		<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	<i>to 4pm: Purton Artists Exhibition at Village Hall</i>
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		2.30pm	<b>Remembrance Service</b> at the Cenotaph - <b>High Street closed 2.15 to 3.15 pm</b>
10	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
11	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: Dave Seviour - <i>Another Batch of Curiosities</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.30pm	<i>to 4pm: Remembrance Day at The Cedars with Daisy Chain Show Time Singers</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		8.00pm	After 8: "Women at War" led by Marion at her house
12	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill: Lynda Warren - <i>He's behind you</i>
13	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
14	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Carnival
16	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
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
17	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Dave Seviour - <i>Who knows!!</i>
18	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
19	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Willie McIvor et al - <i>Make Life Safe &amp; Easy</i> (Open Meeting)
21	F	7.30pm	Ladies Night Cheese & Wine Evening, Silver Threads Hall by Baby & Toddlers Group

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23	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
25	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: Mike Stone - <i>Brick &amp; Brick Making in North Wiltshire</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: American Supper with Entertainment
26	W	7.30pm	Whist Drive at Silver Threads Hall ( <i>for Air Ambulance</i> )
27	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Bill King - <i>WW1 The first 18 months</i>
29	Sa	12noon	to 2.30pm: St Mary's Church Christmas Market at Village Hall
		3.00pm	Age Concern Christmas Party for the less able at Silver Threads Hall

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30	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
		5.00pm	Youth Service at St Mary's Church

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### December

5	Su	10.00am	12 noon: Christmas Coffee Morning at 18 Church Path Proceeds to Purton Lunch Club
6	Sa	5.00pm	8.30pm: Age Concern Christmas Party at the Village Hall

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### 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

○ 6 November      ● 14 November      ● 22 November      ○ 29 November

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.

### 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*

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## Purton Historical Society



### **Thursday 25 September – Gallipoli 1915 – John Winterburn**

John gave a very well researched presentation about Gallipoli which was supported by some excellent historic and modern photographic slides.

Gallipoli is a port in modern day Turkey which at the time of World War 1 was core of the Ottoman Empire. At the instigation of Winston Churchill, an unsuccessful attempt was made between late 1914 and January 1916 by Allied forces to take control of the Dardanelles to link up with Russia. The Dardanelles is a narrow, strategically important, international waterway that connects the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara giving access to the ports of the Black Sea. We learnt about the early defeat of the Allied navy by the Turks and later of difficulties that were experienced by the Allied forces during beach landings.

The Allied forces were made up of British Empire and French troops with a very large contingent of men from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), who suffered heavy losses. The campaign was the first major military action of Australia and New Zealand as independent dominions. The date of the landing, 25 April, is known as 'Anzac Day'. There are numerous war cemeteries and memorials on Gallipoli where large commemoration services are held annually on Anzac day.

### **Future Meetings/Information**

#### **Thursday 27 November - WW1 The First 18 Months**

Speaker Bill King who has spoken to the Society several times before visits us again to talk about WW1.

The talk covers the beginning and the first eighteen months of WW1. The talk is illustrated with slides and readings from letters sent home by a junior officer.

#### **Friday 5 December - Annual Christmas Social, Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm**

The Annual Christmas Social is always a relaxed, festive occasion. The social is very good value with tickets at £12.00 each which includes a buffet supper, glass of wine and entertainment by 'The Musical Companions'. There is also a quiz planned and a very good raffle with lots of prizes.

Tickets are available from Group Meetings, In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill (tel. 01793 772954) or The Purton Museum (open Wednesday 2 to 5 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm).

#### **The Society Bulletin - Autumn 2014 issue**

The Society Bulletin includes the history of the War Memorial and the soldiers including photographs who died in WW1, a detailed history on St Mary's Church over 1,000 years, memories of an evacuee during WW2 in the village and other interesting articles.

This Bulletin is now on sale in the Museum and at our meetings for £3.50 a copy. New members and visitors always welcome.

*TONY & JAN NEATE, [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com)  
Telephone 01793 770117*



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## Purton Remembers

I am delighted to announce an extension to my PURTON REMEMBERS project.

The Art Department at Bradon Forest School will be producing ceramic poppies for each Purton casualty. These will form a display at the School and be taken to the War Memorial each November; eventually 94 individually crafted poppies will be made. After the Armistice commemorations, the poppies will be returned to the school for the display to grow, enabling pupils to see how the Great War affected the community through the years. Thanks to Bradon Forest for getting involved.

If anyone wants to join the PURTON REMEMBERS list please e-mail me via my website [www.purton1418.co.uk](http://www.purton1418.co.uk)

BOB LLOYD

## Pubs & Ale Houses of Purton

Following a suggestion by Dr John Belt that there should be a record of the village institutions that have either ceased to function or are in danger of doing so, I have started work on compiling a history of the pubs and alehouses in Purton and the neighbouring parishes.

Can I appeal for any information in the form of photographs, anecdotes, personalities and so on relating to these establishments that were so much a part of village life? I have a copy of Dave Backhouse's invaluable book but there must be more local knowledge in the area. I can be contacted on 770178, but am only concentrating on the inns and pubs.

DOREEN FREEGARD

The aim of the overall project is to create or update a record of other village establishments like the Post Office, Northview, the original St Mary's school, the Institute, garages, shops and so on. If you have an interest in, or stories to tell, about these or similar topics please contact John Belt (770331) who can outline the project in more detail.

## Purton Artists' Art Exhibition

This is to be held in the Village Hall Purton on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you there.

It starts with a Friday preview evening from 6 pm - 9 pm with wine, tea, coffee, soft drinks and nibbles available.

Saturday and Sunday opens at 10 am until 4 pm with refreshments available.

There will be all manner of art on display and to buy – paintings, photographs, woodwork, ceramics, handbags, handmade cards etc.

An unmissable weekend of great art and a chance to catch up with friends for a drink and a chat.

On display will be a copy of Leslie Holland's poster for Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World's* original book cover of 1932 and some other examples of his work.

For more information please visit our web site at [www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk](http://www.purtonartistsociety.co.uk) or call Brian Coe on 770102.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH, *member of Purton Artists*

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# Great War Project

## Part 16: November 1914

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres continued. It was fought around an arc to the east of the city, still held by the Allies and part of the front line from the North Sea to the Swiss border. A series of German attacks known as Fabeck's offensive ran from 29 October to 14 November but, fortunately, German radio traffic was intercepted and with aerial reconnaissance gave the Allies some advance warning of the German intentions.

I find it difficult to imagine things like this without any sense of context. Accepting that Ypres was and is much smaller than, say Swindon, superimposing maps of the two towns, the entire bulge round Ypres would stretch from Blunsdon in the north, out east towards South Marston and Wanborough with Chiseldon being our local equivalent of Messines in the south. Not great distances are they? ... a circuit of some 10 miles. I've put equivalent place names at the end of this piece to help the idea of distances, but these are very approximate.

The German offensive was centred on the Gheluvelt crossroads on the Menin road which formed the boundary between the British 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Divisions. Each division's flank was held by a Guards Division: to the left of 7<sup>th</sup> Division by the 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadier Guards and the 1<sup>st</sup> Coldstream Guards held the right of 1<sup>st</sup> Division. These had been reinforced with companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Black Watch and a platoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters.

The German artillery attack began early on 29 October against the Black Watch and Coldstream units. The British machine gunners weapons jammed ... and the cartridges for rifles were too large! The Germans broke through and captured most of the Black Watch and Coldstreams. British artillery continued to fire on enemy guns rather than German infantry which didn't help. In gaining the Gheluvelt crossroads, the Germans had a staging point for attacking Ypres.

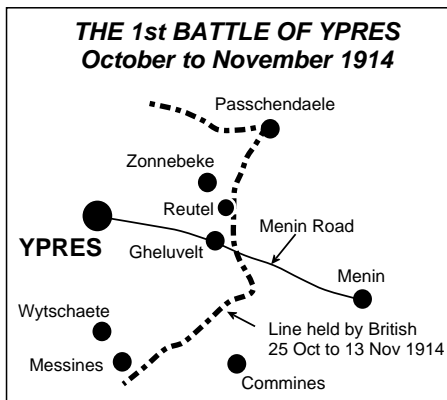
The continued German push fell on the exhausted British 7<sup>th</sup> Division on the Menin road and Messines sector. German infantry advanced under cover of morning mist, but failed to break through. Hastily constructed wire fences stalled the German advance. When the mist cleared, the German infantry was exposed and suffered heavy losses.

On 30 October the Germans broke into Messines after nearly five hours of fighting, and the British forces there retreated. A British counterattack advanced to the Messines road but suffered heavy losses in trying to reach Messines town. But the most serious German attack was aimed at Gheluvelt. It was the last significant ridge for British observation positions east of Ypres. After huge losses on both sides, the British pulled out of Gheluvelt to form a new line a third of a mile west. Eventually the German advance was broken due to officer casualties to British rifle fire.

Frustrated at Gheluvelt, General von Fabeck tried to break the Wytschaete-Messines line at the southern base of the bulge around Ypres. Wytschaete fell and German infantry secured the ridge. Wytschaete was recaptured by the British 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers, but the 1<sup>st</sup> Lincolns and Northumberland Fusiliers lost about

30 percent of their strength in an unsuccessful attempt to recapture the ridge.

To safeguard their retreat, the British shelled Messines to hold the Germans back. RFC aircraft attacked German ground forces and harassed advancing columns. Wytshaete was held but only with the help of reinforcements from the French 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. The Germans suffered heavy casualties attacking the 32<sup>nd</sup>. It was here that a young Lance Corporal (Gefreiter) named Adolf Hitler won the Iron Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> Class for rescuing a man under fire.



By the morning of 1 November, the Germans had secured the line and both towns. But the ridges to the west of the Wytshaete-Messines line were reoccupied and held by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. The British were exhausted and most divisions had been reduced to a shadow of their former selves. The 7<sup>th</sup> had only 2,380 men left, and was withdrawn from the line and replaced by 8<sup>th</sup> Division newly arrived from Britain. The Germans had also suffered high losses, and needed to pause, regroup, reinforce. The front fell quiet. Action was limited to raids by both sides and heavy shelling of Ypres by German artillery.

On 11 November, the Germans began their final attempt to break through the British lines around Ypres in what became known as the battle of Nonne Bosschen (Nun's Copse) mounted by twelve and a half divisions along a nine-mile front, stretching from Messines to Reutel.

The British and German armies were exhausted but the main German threat came from two fresh divisions with 10,000 men attacking eleven tired British battalions, reduced in strength to around 4,000 men after three months of fighting, along the line of the Menin road. The German attack was preceded by one of the heaviest artillery bombardments of the war to date, lasting some 2½ hours. The advancing German troops were protected by morning mist, but were turned back by accurate British fire. The most successful German attack was made by their 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Brigade, advancing towards the British 1<sup>st</sup> (Guards) Brigade, under Brigadier General Charles FitzClarence who had around 800 men, and were outnumbered three to one by the Germans, who overran the British front line, in one of the few bayonet attacks of the war. Strong resistance and accurate British artillery fire isolated the German Guards, preventing reinforcements from reaching them.

The Germans retreated into Nonne Bosschen woods, to be driven out again by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oxfordshire Light Infantry. FitzClarence was organising a counterattack to recover the line lost earlier, but was shot and killed before the attack could begin. The counterattack was abandoned.

This was the last major German offensive of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres. Allied defences, heavy snowfall and hard frost ended large-scale fighting. Field Marshal Roberts came over to visit from Britain on 11 November, caught a chill, and died of pneumonia on 14 November. In a reorganisation the following day, the BEF's

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I Corps was relieved by two French corps and France took over defence of the line from Zonnebeke to the Ypres-Comines canal. The new British line ran 21 miles from Wytschaete to the La Bassée Canal at Givenchy. The Belgians held 15 miles and the French defended some 430 miles. The German withdrawal was detected on 20 November.

The German attempt for a final war victory failed, through uncoordinated assaults, without retaining reserves. Continually attacking supposed weak spots merely exhausted their infantry. German intelligence always believed the small numbers of enemy infantry were outposts and overestimated the strength of Allied forces. After Ypres, Chief of the German General Staff Erich von Falkenhayn was convinced that Germany would never have another opportunity to win the war. In a meeting on 18 November that could have saved millions of lives, he recommended a diplomatic solution to end the war but Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg and General Erich Ludendorff disagreed.

The battle was the greatest crisis yet for commanders and their staffs still struggling to come to terms with the power of modern weaponry and adapting as quickly as possible to the new conditions of trench warfare. It showed the superiority of defence over offence – the Allied success had been defensive, not offensive. This was an impasse that would last until the late summer and autumn of 1918.

Recent estimates of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres are of between 50,000 and 85,000 French, 21,600 Belgian, 55,400 British and 134,300 German casualties.

### **The War at Sea**

On 1 November, at the Battle of Coronel off the Pacific coast of central Chile, a Royal Navy squadron commanded by Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock was defeated by superior German forces led by Vice-Admiral Graf von Spee. This was the first British naval defeat of the war, resulting in the loss of HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth, with no survivors from either: 1,600 British officers and men were killed.

In the Siege of Tsingtao, the Japanese and British together seized Jiaozhou Bay in China on 9 November. This had been the base of the German East Asia Naval Squadron. Then on 9 November, while the main force of the East Asia Squadron retreated, the German cruiser Emden, which had remained to harass merchant shipping, was sunk by the Australian cruiser HMAS Sydney at the Battle of the Cocos Islands (800 miles south west of Java).

### **Elsewhere**

On 5 November, Britain and France declared war on Turkey and Britain annexed Cyprus, which it had been administering under Ottoman leave since 1878. (See *Part 3, September 2013*.)

U.S. troops withdrew from Veracruz in Mexico on 23 November. They had been occupying the city since April 1914. (See *Part 10, May 2014*.)

And on 24 November, Benito Mussolini was expelled from the Italian Socialist Party due to his opposition to the party's stance on neutrality.

### **Purtonians**

- Fred Selwood of Purton arrived in France on 11 November 1914 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

- George F Gretton (born Adelaide, Australia, later of Diana Lodge, Purton) arrived in France as a Captain of the Indian Army in the 20<sup>th</sup> Deccan Horse.

RICK DIXON

Approximate equivalent place name positions: WW1 name; (modern reformed spelling); Wiltshire equivalent based on distance from Swindon:

Commines Canal	Ogbourne St George	Messines	Chiseldon
Ghulevelt (Geluvelde)	Bishopstone	Wytschaete (Wijtschate)	Coate Water
Givency-la-Bassée	Market Lavington	Ypres	Swindon
Menin road	Wanborough	Zonnebeke	South Marston
Menin town	Lambourn, Berks		

# Our Family's War

## Reginald Stevens

*Bob Stevens writes:*

The soldier in the picture is my father at the age of 17½, Reginald John Stevens – a sapper in the Royal Engineers. Unfortunately the exact date of the photograph is unknown. Reg was born on 29 January 1897. He told me that, when he enrolled for service, he was obliged to lie about his age in order to be accepted. Therefore it must have been in 1914 or just before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in January 1915.



He suffered 2 wounds at different times; shrapnel in his side and a bullet in the shoulder. He survived but lost a brother and a brother-in-law in the war. Whilst convalescing at a hospital in Lymington he was nursed by a young lady who he eventually married, becoming my mother. They married in Northleach church, dad's home-town in 1922 and raised 6 children. They moved to Wroughton in 1932 where the family grew up.

Dad had the 3 WW1 medals, Pip, Squeak & Wilfred, which are now with my son in Exeter. The information on my Dad's 1914 'Mons' Star is as follows:- R.J. STEVENS, SPR: 65097, R. E.

The Military Service number above suggests a fairly early entry. (Service Numbers in 1958 were upwards of 4000000.)



Of interest to his family and grandchildren is that his name is displayed on the Roll of Honour (as wounded) in Northleach Church together with two other Stevens's, one his brother Arthur, who gave their lives in WW1.

Eccentricity or Experience: I remember that early in the Second World War my father dug an Underground Shelter in the garden at Wroughton. It had a corrugated steel roof, duck boards and seating and was covered in turf. It has taken me 70 years plus to recognise that he was not eccentric but merely reacting to his WW1 experience. It was only filled in when replaced by two Anderson shelters later in WW2. The whistle (*pictured*) is a souvenir of his service, as also was a bayonet, (in Exeter). Ugh!

BOB STEVENS (Son)

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## The Purton Scarecrow Trail

The Trail was a great success! Having only put together the project in late May we were worried that we might not get many scarecrow entries and that there might not be much interest in the quiz trail. We had 48 scarecrow entries plus a couple of interlopers who advertised the event: Lindsey Hall's mobile scarecrow moved to different sites in the village for about 10 days beforehand and sparked off the interest. We sold around 250 quiz entry sheets, making a profit of over £475. We are currently considering which charities will benefit from these funds.

The weather was lovely so that encouraged lots of people to follow the quiz trail. Over the two days it was fantastic to see the village full of couples and families wandering around filling in their answer sheets. We have had such positive feedback from the scarecrow makers, the folks who followed the trail and from the local businesses that noticed increased custom through their doors. The Swindon Evening Advertiser covered the event with an article and photographs.

We would like to say a big thank-you to all those who supported us: Alex Crump (local artist), Best One, Hair by Val, Hiscocks the Butchers, Purton House Organic Farm Shop, The Maharajah Restaurant, The Pear Tree, The Royal George and Tracy Felton (Skin & Tonic).

We are pleased to announce that the quiz winners are as follows (tied results drawn from a hat):

Joint 1<sup>st</sup>: Nadin Family - afternoon tea for 4 at the Pear Tree

Teresa Chivers - a voucher from Hiscocks the Butchers

Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>: Miles Family - a voucher from the Purton House Organic farm shop

The Pages - a Shellac manicure from Tracy Felton at Skin + Tonic

People taking the trail were asked to vote for their favourite scarecrow. It was a very close run contest and amazingly we had 3 joint winners:-

No 32 "*Jack & the beanstalk*" - who wins a meal for 2 at the Maharajah restaurant

No 9 "*Mary Mary quite contrary*" - who wins a voucher from Hair by Val

No 36 "*Sleeping Beauty*" - who wins a print from local artist Alex Crump

The scarecrow photographs along with the answers can be seen on the Purton Scarecrow Trail Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail](http://www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail).

The answers for the quiz are as follows:

### No. Nursery Rhyme / Fairy Story

- |    |                                              |    |                           |
|----|----------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1  | "My little bicycle"                          | 12 | "3 blind mice"            |
| 2  | "Thumbelina"                                 | 13 | "A-tisket a-tasket"       |
| 3  | "3 Little Pigs"                              | 14 | "I'm a little teapot"     |
| 4  | "Little Boy Blue"                            | 15 | "The Little Match Girl"   |
| 5  | "King Thrushbeard"                           | 16 | "Little Bo Peep"          |
| 6  | "There was an old woman who lived in a shoe" | 17 | "Pussycat pussycat"       |
| 7  | "Goldilocks"                                 | 18 | "Yankee Doodle"           |
| 8  | "Little Red Riding Hood"                     | 19 | "Lucy Locket"             |
| 9  | "Mary Mary quite Contrary"                   | 20 | "2 little dicky birds"    |
| 10 | "Old Macdonald had a farm"                   | 21 | "Humpty Dumpty"           |
| 11 | "The Little Mermaid"                         | 22 | "Sing a song of sixpence" |
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23 "Wee Willie Winkie"  
24 "Rain rain go away"  
25 "Incy Wincy Spider"  
26 "There was an old lady who swallowed a fly"  
27 The Pied Piper of Hamlyn'  
28 "Ba ba black sheep"  
29 "Bobby Shaftoe"  
30 "Hector Protector"  
31 "Dr Foster"  
32 "Jack & the Beanstalk"  
33 "Oranges and Lemons"  
34 "Peter Piper"  
35 "Jack & Jill"

36 "Sleeping Beauty"  
37 "Grand Old Duke of York"  
38 "Little Miss Muffett"  
39 "Rock a bye baby"  
40 "Jack be Nimble"  
41 "London's Burning"  
42 "Hey Diddle Diddle"  
43 "Little Jack Horner"  
44 "10 little Indians"  
45 "Old King Cole"  
46 "Puss in Boots"  
47 "Rapunzel"  
48 "Lady-bird Lady-bird"

ALISON DAVIES

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Our annual 'Mini-Show' was the focus of our September meeting and from 7 o'clock it was obvious that 2014 had been a particularly productive year in our gardens and allotments as members arrived in numbers, carrying an abundant assortment of vegetables, fruits, jams and chutneys, cakes, and some gorgeous flower arrangements for inclusion in the voting process.

As with other years the task fell to those present to vote for their favourite in each of the 23 categories and, as ever, members showed particular enthusiasm for sampling the considerable number of delicious cakes entered in the domestic category including Victoria sponge cakes, ginger cakes and cheese scones.

The warm September weather had allowed fruit to mature and as a result there was a marked increase in the number of entries to both the 'fruit' and the 'jams and chutneys' categories, and consequently, voting in those categories proved to be harder than in previous years.

Voting finished, the committee began the 'count' whilst members took part in a 'wild flower' quiz provided by our treasurer, Jill.

First, second and third prizes were awarded in all categories. Congratulations to Maureen Griffin who received the cup for 'Overall Winner' having received the most points from all 23 categories and to Mary Read whose gorgeous flower arrangement was voted 'Best in Show' by members.

Two very worthy winners we all agreed.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all those who exhibited for without them there would not be a show.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25 November at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall, when we will be holding our 'American Supper'. This year's entertainment will be 'Bingo' with the usual line and house prizes, so 'eyes down, look in' and don't forget to bring a plate of goodies to share.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary), LINDA ROBERTS (Chair)



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## The Cricklade Band

Again this year the band has had nothing but fine weather and very warm welcomes on our bandstand tour. We also did our bit for Macmillan Cancer Support in September when we held a 'Big Tea Break' and raised about £110. Then was the 'Harvest Home Concert' at Cricklade's United Church in October. We also managed to fit in a concert at Purton Village Hall in support of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We are leading the Remembrance parade as usual on 9 November in Cricklade, but this year we conclude with leading the parade to the church. The Churches' Liaison Group have indicated that their forward plans for Remembrance Sunday services do not involve the band. Once again we'll be at Purton in the afternoon.

The Club at Cricklade is 'home' to the band; we're there on Monday and Thursday evenings. Why not come along, have a chat and see where you could fit in and become involved? You could be someone who wants to learn to play; someone who's already playing but looking for a more modern outlook; someone who would like to join the lifters, shifters, tea-makers and fund-raisers of our Crew. You'll be most welcome!

Talking of learning, how many people managed to catch the Channel 4 documentaries – Don't Stop The Music? This was a heartening strategy arising from the reduction in music education, mainly in our primary schools. Did you see just how energised the young people became when they were introduced to a performance by a live orchestra?

Learning to play a musical instrument and play as part of a group has been overwhelmingly shown to improve the following skills in our youngsters: self-esteem, confidence, literacy, numeracy, focus, concentration, team-work and social skills.

Most primary schools now have a next-to-zero budget for the provision of music education and instruments and, unsurprisingly, Ofsted aren't interested in music at all. So there's now a new campaign to get youngsters what many see as their birthright – to make music.

While the band has been doing that all along – through BandAcademy in Cricklade we make music-making accessible, achievable and affordable. At less than £1 per week you can have an instrument, tuition and coaching from the word go and all the support you need to play your part in music-making.

The band is working very collaboratively with St Sampson's Primary School in Cricklade – BandAcademy is a vital and lively part of all this – otherwise, where are all our brass musicians of the future going to come from?

### **And the what's on ...**

The band funds itself in a not-for-profit sort of way – so, to help pay our way, please support the Autumn Table-Top Sale on Saturday 15 November, It's going to be at The Club at Cricklade from 11 am to 1 pm.

If you're a Table-Top seller, please give Val a call on 01793 750516 to book your table at just £5. Setting up is from 10 am.

If you're a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? Although the band itself will have our now famous cake array, tea, coffee, games of chance and a raffle.

*PAUL HEWER*

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

Following the success of the senior teams, the junior members had a season to celebrate as well. The very enthusiastic U9 squad had success in tournaments, while the U11s and U13s came top of their leagues. The U15s, very short of players, performed beyond expectation to finish 5<sup>th</sup>. With good results this season the junior section looks well set to achieve again in 2015.



The club dinner was successfully celebrated at the Marriott Hotel where achievement awards were presented to 20 members.

A small but hard-working party of members renovated the square at the end of the season and we look forward to even better pitches in 2015.

### **From The Archives**

North Wilts Herald 4<sup>th</sup> September 1914

'A meeting of parishioners was held at the Institute on Saturday evening to consider Lord Kitchener's scheme for volunteering for the army. Mr Walsh made a strong appeal to the young men of Purton to come forward and serve their country. Josh Haskins and F.W.Drew (both Purton CC members) were appointed joint secretaries of 'the Prince of Wales relief fund!'

*JOE GARDNER*

## Purton F.C.

After an excellent start to the season new club manager Justin and his staff won 3, drew 1 and lost 1 in their first five league games in the Hellenic League Div 1 West but have lost their last 3 league games and been eliminated from the Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup losing out to Thatham Town, a team a division higher, 2-0 but missed chances were their downfall.



With a good mixture of experience and youth, manager Miller will be hoping to get the team back on track and also hoping that players won't be unavailable, something that has not helped in recent weeks although he does realize some of his players are not playing as well as he knows they can.

I would like to thank all those who have been coming out to the Red House to support the team. We can boast as having the best home supported team in our league and of some in our Premier Division, a step above us.

Dave Slattery with 3 goals, Justin Miller 2 goals and Ben Carter 2 goals, with Tom Swindall, Lee Toomey, Kenny Hawkins, Ritchie Saunders and Pad Carson with one each are the club's goal-getters to date.

*ALAN EASTWOOD*

## Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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

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

For further information contact [John Creasey](mailto:John.Creasey@purtonfc.com)

The club would like to thank the Red House Club for hosting a very enjoyable and profitable Race Night on 27 September. Over £1000 was raised for club funds, which will be put towards the repainting of the courts 'over the road'. Our Social Secretary, Rachel Williams, did a fantastic job in chivvying people into buying the horses and in getting great prizes for the race winners. Thank you Rachel! We would like to thank all our local race and raffle sponsors which included Sass Hair & Beauty, The Pear Tree, The Maharajah, Purton House, The Bell at Purton Stoke, Blunsdon House Hotel and Mad4toys.

Preceding the Race Night the Presentation Evening for the juniors on the Mini Tennis Programme took place. Please see Phil's report below. You may not recognise the name but Finlay Robinson is Harry and Edna Bunce's grandson (Steph being his mum) so I am sure Edna is very proud and Harry would have been that Finlay is following in his granddad's footsteps.

NICOLA GARDNER

### Report from Head Coach, Phil Kerley

On 27 September we had a presentation evening at Purton Tennis Club to present the juniors on the Mini Tennis Programme with certificates of their achievement during the year. This followed on from the successful presentation last year. This year we decided to add 2 more 'records of achievement' and introduced a Trophy for the Most Improved Player of 2014 and Junior Player of 2014. The Most Improved Player was won by Finlay Robinson and the Junior Player of the year was won by Viktor Bargariev. Both players have had outstanding success and improvement.

### Tennis Camps

Both the Summer Camps and the October Half Term Camps have been really successful with many children who would not necessarily have had the opportunity to do so before joining in the fun. The pinnacle day will have been 31 October where all the children are dressing up for Halloween.

Since last year we have introduced many new courses, these being Tots tennis (2-4 year olds) on a Wednesday 3 - 3.30 pm and a Friday 9.30 - 10 am. We have also introduced 2 new Mini Red (age 8 and under) Monday 4 - 5 pm and Friday 4.30 - 5.30 pm. In addition to the Adult Improver group on a Wednesday 1 - 2 pm we have an Adult Beginner group on a Friday 1.15 - 2.15 pm just in time to finish for school pick up.

For more information on tennis coaching at the club please email [info@pktennis.co.uk](mailto:info@pktennis.co.uk) or call Phillip Kerley on 07711 852222. Further information is available on the Purton Tennis Club website [www.purtontennis.net](http://www.purtontennis.net)

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

OFFERED: White Hotpoint Iced Diamond slimline freezer. 33" h x 20" w x 24" d. Tel 01793 778363.

WANTED: Supply of trouser/skirt hangers. Can collect and will make a donation to Purton Age Concern. Val 01793 771043



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

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## Purton Bowls Club



Many of our players have turned their attention to indoor bowling for the winter season. We have two venues we use, one which is based in Old Town and the other in Cheney Manor. They attract a lot of players and the teams often have members from different clubs playing together. There are also 'friendly' roll-up sessions for people who just want to turn up and play. The Old Town site gets used for National competitions each year and has had a new surface laid for the winter season.

We will be having our Presentation Evening on 22 November at The Club in Cricklade where the prizes for Club competitions will be handed out. The winners are: Men's Singles, Graham Price; Ladies' Singles, Alison Fail; Mixed Handicap, Dave Hall; Mixed 2 Wood, Alison Fail; Men's 2 Wood, Dave Hall; Ladies' 2 Wood, Alison Fail; Novice, Dave Martin; Ladies' Pairs, Alison Fail and Sue Crouch; Men's Pairs, Ken Gardiner, Anthony Turner; Mixed Pairs, Andrew Davie and Rachel Jones; Triples, John Williams, Martin Lloyd and Judith Fish; Smithy Trophy, Dave Mitchell; Andy Rudden Trophy, Ben Baxter and Eric Matthews.

Congratulations to all the winners. It was a great weekend when the finals were played and we thank all the people who turned up to support and watch. Dave Mitchell manned the barbecue and sold lots of bacon, burgers and bangers, and lots of cakes were sold and continuous cups of tea and coffee were supplied by all working in the kitchen. Well done to all who helped and provided the food.

The Club AGM will be on Friday 7 November, so if you want to come along and chat to any of the members, please do so. This will be the last report of the season. I will be trying to tempt some of you to try Bowls in the New Year when our green opens again in April 2015.

*PETER BERRY*

## PURTON CARNIVAL



Well howdy partners! The votes have been counted and checked as you might have guessed the theme of the 2015 Purton Carnival is: "Wild West". We hope you will embrace the theme as we hope to give most of our events a Wild West theme.

We have some exciting changes to the 2015 Carnival so please keep checking our website and the Purton Magazine for updates.

There are 2 Events this Halloween in aid of Purton Carnival: Friday 31 October at The Angel and Saturday 1 November at the Royal George. And a Music Quiz on Friday 14 November at the Royal George at 7.30 pm.

Our photo competition is in full swing, so please keep your photos of Purton coming to: [Committee@PurtonCarnival.co.uk](mailto:Committee@PurtonCarnival.co.uk). Don't forget your name, telephone number and where and when the picture was taken.

Santa comes to Purton on 18 and 19 December – please see posters and December's Purton Magazine for more information on the Santa stops. Have your letters to Santa ready ... and pick up a copy of your 2015 Purton Planner.

*KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman*

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## Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Scarecrow Trail was the focus for us at the beginning of term with all four units having fun putting their entries together for the trail. Many of our members took part in the trail with their families too. Purton Guides were delighted to learn that their entry, 'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary' was voted joint winner by trail participants.

We made the most of the autumn sunshine by getting out and about. The Rainbows walked to Purton House Organics Farm Shop where they were made very welcome by Kate, who organised a quiz around the shop finding produce from Wiltshire. The girls had already admired the pigs on the way in, met a few chickens and were able to pick an apple each from the orchard to take home. It was great fun. 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies went out to collect interesting leaves which they then used to make autumn twirly sticks. Although not needed for the craft, conker collecting also proved irresistible and pockets were bulging!

Did you know that 6 October is Mad Hatter Day? The Guides did and so a tea party was held (with tea and biscuits of course!) as well as lots of silly games.

2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies held a Fairtrade Evening organised by Niamh and Layla: tea, coffee, cakes and a raffle and each six group provided a sideshow. £100 was raised for Cancer Research which was increased by £50 by Zurich, so a fantastic result.

Giving the girls responsibility is important in allowing them to develop. As part of her Baden-Powell Challenge Award, Jenny taught the Guides to make different bracelets. The Guides made loom bands, button cuffs and braiding wheel friendship bracelets.

Guides also decorated t-shirts to wear to The Big Gig, a sold-out pop concert exclusively for Guides at Wembley. With acts such as Diversity, Union J and Little Mix, there was lots of singing and a great day out was had by all – although some were a little hoarse!

Many girls moved on from Rainbows to Brownies or from Brownies to Guides in September and numbers in the units are very healthy. 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies welcomed Kirsty who has moved to the village and previously attended Brownies in Abbey Meads. Guiding is great for providing a circle of ready-made new friends wherever you go. Nella and Katie made their promise at 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies but also said farewell to Lauren, their Young Leader. She's now at University but will be back in her holidays. She has helped out at 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies for over 4 years and the unit was sorry to see her go. However, Janie, a 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Guide, was more than willing to take her place!

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](http://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision)



## A Maxim for Life

The safest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it in your pocket.

*Kin Hubbard*

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## Pips launched into the community!



On Sunday 14 September the Pips Community Cafe project team and volunteers hosted a party at our proposed venue, the Purton Club function room. The purpose of the party was to tell everyone about the progress we've made so far and what the next steps are. It's always difficult to predict how well events like this will be supported, but after a poster campaign around Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Purton Stoke, a banner outside the library and sign outside the Club, and spreading the word amongst our 165 Facebook 'likers', we were feeling fairly optimistic.

So when 155 people came along to see what was happening and to enjoy tea and home made cakes we were absolutely delighted and gob-smacked in equal measure! Everyone seemed really interested and enthusiastic about the project and many offered valuable comments.

Lots of people have asked when the cafe will be opening, so are obviously keen to start using it and the opening schedule will depend very much on two major factors; the finance to renovate the venue and make it fit for purpose, and enough volunteers to cover the provision of food and opening hours that so many people suggested. (On average most people would like to the cafe to open 9 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings, plus bank holidays and special evening events).

The message we'd like to get across is that the more people who commit to volunteering, the less work each person will have to do, in other words 'Many hands make light work'. So we're looking for local people of all ages, including secondary school children aged 15+ who would like to gain experience in catering/hospitality/customer service or would like to use this type of community voluntary work as part of a DofE award or similar scheme.

We'd like help from anyone who has either professional or amateur skills and experience in: cooking (especially baking), building, kitchen and bathroom fitting, interior design, barista work, carpentry, plumbing, catering, painting and decorating, electrics, curtain/soft furnishing making, extraction/air conditioning, waiting tables/serving, accounting and finance, and fruit and veg growing (any excess crops would be gratefully received to be turned into cakes, flans, pies etc).

The aim of the cafe is that it will be run by the community, for the community, so we'd like to get as many people involved as possible. Please get in touch if you're able to help in any way, no matter how small you think your contribution is. Your community cafe needs you! Visit [facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe](https://facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe), email [david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk) or call 772298.

We'd finally like to thank everyone who came to the launch party and helped make it a success. With special thanks to the refreshments team, lead by Liz Stephenson and family with Sandra Horsnall, and Celia Tweedie-Smith on washing-up duty, Christine Gill who brought along some beautiful artwork and manned our arts and crafts table, Marie Dempsey, sewing machine queen, who handmade all the bunting (no party would be complete without it), Libbie Sheppard and Judith Wells for keeping the little ones entertained, Carole and Steve at

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Artworking for the signs, banner and fridge magnets (available while stocks last at the library!), John from Hospitality Services Limited for the free loan of all the crockery and tea and coffee making equipment, Mary and Dave Nettleton for making it all happen. And last, but not least, Matt and the committee at the Purton Club for allowing us to use the venue and for their continuing support of the venture.

Things are already starting to happen as a result of the launch so we'll keep you updated on progress.

*Pips is a secular venture and although the list of people involved above may lead you to think otherwise, it is not linked in any way to St Mary's or any other Church. It's just pure community spirit.*

## Award for Pear Tree and a Big Thank-You

Some of you may have heard or read that we were lucky enough to be named as one of the UK's best hotels in the recent Good Hotel Guide Cesar awards. We are absolutely over the moon at the recognition, particularly because it's an award that comes purely from guest reviews rather than something we can apply to be part of.

We both really wanted to say a massive thank-you to everyone in the village. Since the day we all moved down here, the community has been a huge support to us. As well as providing regular restaurant, function, wedding and even hotel customers, many of you will know someone who perhaps had their first job with us or spent time working in the restaurant.

We'd also like to say a public thank-you to our local suppliers; without Margaret's homemade Jams, John's Purton Pigs and Purton House's organic eggs our menu wouldn't be getting the acclaim that it does. That doesn't even take into account the odd surplus crop of rhubarb, crab apples or even artichokes that often find their way to our kitchen door from elsewhere in the village!

The care and attention that everyone puts in to maintaining the village helps us to keep attracting guests time and time again. We regularly hear back from our overnight visitors that they've had the most wonderful time wandering around the village, exploring the church, the High Street, the museum and of course Ringsbury Camp. Many of them say how friendly the people they've bumped into have been, perhaps if they've got a little lost or wanted a piece of information.

Without the fantastic surroundings of Purton we wouldn't be anywhere near as successful as we are today and we're both just so grateful to everyone who has helped to get us to this point. Now that Alix has joined the business, we're hoping to continue on for many, many years and hope to continue to be a big part of the community, even if it does mean dragging the carnival pear costume out of the wardrobe from time to time!

*ANNE & ALIX YOUNG, The Pear Tree*

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or email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

*2014 - 2015 Annual rates:*    ¼ page £85    ¼ page £170    ½ page £340

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## Shoebox News



Thank you to so many of you who attended our Fund Raising Day and/or made donations. £1617.23 has been raised. Also of course financial donations and items for the filling of the 360 boxes have been given throughout the year. What a village! This project seems to have touched the hearts of so many people here in Purton and beyond.

The filled boxes will be collected from us in November and taken to the new location in Westbury. We still have our status of being able to check and seal our own boxes, so when they arrive at the warehouse, they will be packed straight into the large cardboard cartons and sent on their way. It will not be until then that their destination is known. The children that will receive these boxes have very little in their lives and we pray that the box filled to the brim with goodies and our love, will give them the chance to know that we care about them.

Meanwhile, thank you to those who work hard throughout the year producing hats, mittens, bags, purses, pencil cases, finger puppets, hand puppets, bracelets and necklaces, and to the people who are on the look out for bargains. As for the helpers, well what can I say, except that it makes my job as Coordinator so easy and enjoyable.

Please keep the empty shoeboxes coming. Our 'chief' shoebox coverer likes a project in the winter! If you would like to know more about Operation Christmas Child, their website is [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

It is worth a look to read some stories of the children who have received a shoebox.

*SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator*

## After 8



Our September meeting which was 'Bring board games to play' was hosted by Helen, at her house, and thankfully she has a very large table that we all managed to very comfortably sit around. We had so many games to choose from the only problem we had was time constraints. Eventually, it was whittled down to two games.

The first being Qwirkle. A tiled-based game for 2-4 players, aged 6 and over. We had no problem with the age limit, unless they had left the 0 off the 6 and it should have read 60 and over. And we managed to successfully adapt it for 8 to play. A most enjoyable game, especially as I won it. Not trying to rub it in, honestly!

The second being Taboo. A word-guessing game where the objective is for the player to describe a word on their card without using that particular word and five additional words listed on the card. So for example, the word might be 'Cricket'. The player has to describe that word without using it and in addition is not allowed to use the following words. Sport, Ball, Wicket, Bowler, Batsman. Sounds easy, but harder than it sounds.

Before we knew it, the evening was over and my favourite game Qwirkle (for the above reasons) was heading home.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11 November – 'Women at War' led by Marion at Marion's, which I am looking forward to as an ex-member of the WRNS.

*YVONNE REDFERN*



**International Schools Award:** We recently learned that we had received the International Schools Award. This prestigious award is given by the British Council as a badge of honour for schools which do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. At Bradon Forest this is the third time we have received the award; a tremendous achievement.

### **Rhythmic Gymnast Laura Halford returns for Sports Awards**

On 2 October British Championship Rhythmic gymnast Laura Halford returned to her old school to present the Annual Sports Awards to Bradon Forest's top sporting students. Ex Head Girl Laura Halford was the guest of honour and presented awards to over 100 students in recognition of their outstanding achievements and development in over a dozen sports ranging from Dance to Rugby.

### **Year 7 Parents' and Grandparents' Morning**

On Wednesday 7 October we had a fantastic turnout for the Year 7 Parents' and Grandparents' Morning. Talking to parents and grandparents afterwards it was clear that you were delighted at how quickly Year 7 had adapted to 'big' school.

**Bradon Forest School Presents: Arabian Nights** adapted by Dominic Cooke  
3, 4 and 5 December at 7.30 pm at the Bradon Forest Theatre.

Tickets £5 adults / £4 students are available through the Drama Department, the Arts Office or through [www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk](http://www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk) and 01783 773981.

**Every Day is an Open Day:** For a tour of our school, please contact Admissions, Mrs Emma Hayden, 01793 770570.

## **Wessex Male Choir Annual Christmas Concert 2014**

The Choir's annual Christmas Concert will take place at St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH on Friday 19 December.

The choir will be accompanied by guest artists the Swindon Pegasus Brass Band.

This will be the choir's first Christmas concert under its new Musical Director, Katrine Reimers. The choristers look forward to welcoming you to a musical evening to start the celebration of Christmas.

The concert starts at 7.30 pm, with doors open at 7 pm.

Tickets are £12 per adult (free for under 16yrs, free though a ticket is still required to ensure a seat). Tickets are available from 01285 869955, [tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk) and from In Touch Services.

Please bring a cushion with you for comfort.

Visit [www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk](http://www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk) for further information on the choir. New members are always welcome.





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## A Poem for Remembrance

**Adlestrop** by *Edward Thomas*

Yes. I remember Adlestrop –  
The name, because one afternoon  
Of heat the express-train drew up there  
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.  
No one left and no one came  
On the bare platform. What I saw  
Was Adlestrop – only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,  
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,  
No whit less still and lonely fair  
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang  
Close by, and round him, mistier,  
Farther and farther, all the birds  
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

*Source: Poems (1917)*

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