

Purton *Magazine*



April 2015

Waiting for my peanuts
by Marlene Slee, member of Purton Artists

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
	<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>	
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
	<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>	
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
	<i>(Wednesdays: 2 - 5pm; Saturdays: 10am - 1 pm)</i>	
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	770775
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Minibus	Keith Hart	771533
Purton Parish Council	Steve Wylie	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

As Easter approaches let's hope we soon find that Spring has left Winter behind. In this issue of your magazine there are plenty of changes to put a spring in your step while several local clubs are gearing up for the summer. Currently it is far too cold to consider cricket, bowls or tennis but some early information can be found on [pages 38](#) and [39](#).

Before those sporting seasons get started, we welcome Deborah Lawrence as our new Parish Clerk on [page 5](#). She replaces Steve Wylie who, for unforeseen family matters, has resigned and moved on to pastures new. Two others moving on to a new adventure are Jason and Jackie who tell us on [page 28](#) that they have been running The Bell at Purton Stoke for "seven years, three months and three days" – while the new landlords, Greg and Vicky are warmly welcomed.

The Cedars is in the news again. Although Rene Harris' 100th birthday celebrations there were briefly mentioned last month, we are pleased to include a longer article and photograph on [page 12](#). We learn that the Cedars is to be refurbished this summer and in addition, a gardening club has been started. Apparently there is a fiercely fought annual gardening competition within the Orders of St John Care Trust and on [page 12](#), the team at the Cedars are looking for any volunteers to help them with this year's challenge.

Over recent months, the Parochial Church Council of Purton has been researching how St Mary's church has been re-ordered and extracts from two interesting articles dating from 1872 are reproduced on [page 30](#). It seems that the then old Georgian layout of the church was found to be unsatisfactory nearly 150 years ago. Now, while retaining traditional styles of services, an architect has drawn up plans to renew the interior of the Grade 1 listed building and provide greater flexibility for the variety of current and future uses and users. There will be an exhibition in St Mary's for 8 days from April 12 with the opportunity for everyone to leave their comments.

Before then, we hope that some readers can capitalise on the one time in the year when it really might be a good idea to put all your eggs in one basket. However, if you get melted chocolate on your fingers, you must be eating your Easter eggs too slowly!

12th

of April is the start of a week-long exhibition of future plans in St Mary's church – see [page 30](#)

£1,140

sent to Christian Aid from the Ebola fund raising activity – see [page 31](#)

1431

Health Surgery appointments were wasted in the last 12 months – see [page 14](#)

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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' 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

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Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions

by 10th of each month, please

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tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: 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

Parish Council News



Purton & Cricklade Dog Awareness campaign

This was carried out with reasonable success. Many dogs were microchipped and the information packs were well received by local residents enforcing the responsibility that comes with dog ownership.

Restrop Road, Community Speed Watch

We are still looking for volunteers to carry out this important duty. If you would like to be involved with traffic safety in the village please contact us on 01793 772646, or e-mail admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Willis Way Pedestrian Crossing

Many of you will be aware that this installation has been on-going for many months and we had hoped to be able to announce its commissioning well before now. There have been problems with electrical connections but hopefully this will have been resolved before the end of the month and we have been assured by Wiltshire Council this will be the case.

Parish Clerk

It is with regret that we have to announce that our relatively new Parish Clerk, Steve Wylie, has resigned and moved on to pastures new. This was entirely his own decision and was due to unforeseen family issues and we wish him well for the future. When we interviewed Steve last year it was a very close call between Steve and a lady called Deborah Lawrence. We are pleased to announce that Deborah was still available having decided to wait for the right position to come along and we are fortunate that she has agreed to join us from 23 March. She has worked for another Parish Council previously for 10 years and will bring a wealth of knowledge and new ideas to reinforce the excellent team we already have. We are sure you will see her around the village and will get to know her as she becomes involved in the Village Community.

Parish Councillors

It is well known that we are always looking for new Parish Councillors and welcome discussions with anyone wishing to be a Councillor to talk over what the position entails, the time commitment, and obviously the pride and satisfaction in trying to help shape the future of the Parish. If you feel you may be interested please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 01793 771066, or drop in for a chat. You will be made very welcome.

Planning

Permission Granted:

- N14/10893/FUL *The Barn, New Road:* erection of garage and store. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/11337/FUL *Old Orchard 15b The Fox:* rear single storey extension. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/11406/FUL *19 Restrop Road:* erection of white PVCU conservatory. Approved with Conditions.

-
- N14/06026/FUL *Manor Farm, Church Street*: conversion and adaptation of existing buildings to provide self contained dwelling and detached garage. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/10184/VAR *Ashgrove House Nursing Home*: vary Condition 2 of Planning Permission N13/00244/FUL. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/10837/FUL *Village Centre Play Area, Church Street*: install new play area equipment, safety fencing, gates and safety surfacing. Resubmission of 13/06195/FUL. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/07664/FUL *Western Villa, 38 Station Road*: erection of 2 dwellings and associated works. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/11742/FUL *Studio Cottage, Hyde Lane*: Change of Use of self-contained annexe to separate dwelling, loft conversion including dormer windows and front single storey extension. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/11934/FUL *76 Witts Lane*: single storey rear extension. Approved with Conditions.
- N14/12001/FUL *59 Mustang Way*: Single storey side and rear extension. Approved with Conditions.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066,

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

On our website you can join up to receive regular updates and newsletters which will keep you informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site. Go to www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Green Waste Collection & Recycling

In the Wiltshire Council Budget, which was agreed in February, one of the proposals was to charge for Green Waste Collection at the kerbside. The charge will potentially be £40 per year for either the green waste bin or you can have four re-usable bags (both have the same volume but it may be easier for some households to have a bag). The current free collection is due to continue until the charge is brought in which is likely to be mid-year. Householders, who do not want to have green waste collection may keep the bins for the time being, but they do belong to the council, or can have them collected at some point. It may be sensible to keep the bin in the first place until you are sure you don't want to opt into the chargeable collection at a later point.

There are other ways for homeowners to deal with garden green waste should you not wish to have it collected. Composting in the garden can be done using a black compost bin or there are other varieties of bins and bags available from

garden centres which help green waste to rot down quicker. Spreading grass cuttings on the back of flower beds helps to keep down weeds, keeps in moisture to the ground and as it rots down can be dug in to feed the plants. It is however not advisable to do this if you have fertilised your lawn etc. Cutting the grass with a mulching mower will mean you don't have to pick up the cuttings in the first place, or keep the lawn cut more often so you don't have to pick up. Cutting up your hedge trimmings and other garden cuttings into smaller sections will also help this to rot down quicker. Good garden practice will enable you not only to compost at home but also to have your own free supply of compost.

Purton's Parkgate Farm, which is located to the south of the railway is where Hills Waste carry out composting, bringing in Green Waste from around the county. They currently have permission to handle 25,000 tonnes per year but have a planning application in to increase this to 50,000 tonnes per year. Therefore we in Purton will be affected by the Green Waste collection in that the more being collected kerbside the more lorries we are likely to see on the road from Cricklade.

The waste contract for the council is being considered and this should bring some changes in 2017 which hopefully will include a wider selection of plastics to go into the cardboard and plastic bin. However until then it is important to ensure that the recyclable items put out in the bin and the boxes are not contaminated by items which should not be in the container. The cost of collecting our waste, the potential revenue generated from the recyclables and the loss of revenue because of contamination are all part of the overall costs which the Council Tax Payer ends up paying. Hence if we want to keep our costs down and more money available for other services then we all need to do our part in keeping our general waste minimised, and recycle as much as we can.

Currently most of the general waste collected from households, goes either to the Microbiological Treatment Plant (MBT plant) at Westbury or is sent for incineration in Slough. Only around 20% of waste in Wiltshire goes into landfill and some of this would be commercial waste. Household Recycling Centres (HRC), like the one we have in Purton, offer a wider range of options to recycle unwanted goods, plus the opportunity to buy compost. Items which can be taken to the HRC in Purton include a wider range of the plastics (which cannot go into the blue lid bin), electrical goods, metals, wood, hardcore, electric light bulbs, paint, white goods, batteries, books etc. Full details of all the items can be found on the council web site – www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling.htm

JAQUI LAY, WC Councillor for Purton

Footpath News

The proposal to add a footpath from the top of Hoggs Lane to Francomes Hill has taken another step forward. Recently the Northern Planning Committee of Wiltshire Council unanimously accepted the extremely detailed advice of its Rights of Way Officer at a public meeting at which verbal representations were also heard from Purton Parish Council and two villagers. All the relevant papers concerning the order to make a new footpath will be sent to the Secretary of State, recommending that he confirm the order. The outcome will be reported in a future issue of Purton Magazine.

Purton & District Age Concern



At our recent committee meeting we discussed the possibility of going on a boat trip on "The Rose of Hungerford" along the Kennet & Avon canal. This would be an extra trip and would not affect our usual Wednesday trips as it would be on a different day during the summer. The boat trip, including coach travel and a fish and chip lunch would cost £15 per person. If you are interested in going on this boat trip please contact me on 772558 as we need to be sure we have a certain number of people interested before we book it up.

We have recently purchased an additional large gazebo as a tribute to Ted and Barbara Wicks for all the work they did for Age Concern. Barbara was our first street warden in Greenhill and both were great supporters of Age Concern.

Please could I remind everyone about the Village Diary. The diary is kept on the Post Office counter in the Best One shop for recording all events and activities taking place in Purton. It is very disappointing to organise an event only to discover it clashes with other activities happening on the same day in the village.

FUTURE EVENT

Easter Market – This is on Easter Saturday 4 April from 9 am - 12 noon outside the Pavenhill shops. We will have our usual sausage tasting, homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, books and a raffle. Pop along and get yourself a bargain! Donations of cakes, books bric-a-brac and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you.

3B's Evening – This is on Friday 10 April at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £6 and includes a two-course supper. Bingo tickets will be available to buy separately. Admission tickets are selling fast – remember there is no entry on the night without a ticket so if you would like to attend please contact Ron & Heather Harris on 770850.

Mystery Tour – Wednesday 6 May with a 2 pm start and tea included. The cost is £13 for pensioners and £14.50 for non-pensioners and those from outside our area. If you would like to go please book your place with your street warden before Saturday 25 April.

PAST EVENTS

Our **Jumble Sale** was held in February. We had a very successful afternoon and raised £362.88. Our thanks go to all who donated jumble and those who helped out on the day. Next jumble sale will be in September; full details nearer the time.

Annual Auction – This was on Saturday 7 March. We were busy from the moment the doors opened at 9 am with almost 200 lots booked in. Viewing was from 12 - 1 pm during which time Maria and her team of helpers in the kitchen sold bacon rolls, teas, coffees and cakes. The sale started at 1 pm and concluded about 3.45 pm. I haven't got the final figures to report but so far we have made a profit of £500 which, includes a donation of £100. Thanks go to everyone who helped on the day, your hard work is much appreciated and thanks to Roderick Wightman for presiding over the auction again this year even though he had to cut short his holiday to be with us. Roderick, we all appreciate your dedication to Age Concern.

INFORMATION

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

T'ai chi – We hold T'ai chi sessions for pensioners each Thursday at 2 pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a go please contact Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan & Rita Webb on 770453.

Minibuses – Please contact Keith Hart our minibus co-ordinator on 771533 if you would like to book the minibus.

If you are thinking of volunteering as a driver or “shotgun” (driver’s assistant) on the minibuses please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at andywhitepadmb@gmail.com. We can always do with more volunteers.

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

Products and Services – As a “Friend of Age UK” we can introduce people to the products and services offered by Age UK – home insurance, car insurance, motor breakdown cover, travel insurance, gas and electricity, funeral plans, will and legal services, annuity services, stairlifts, bathing aids and riser-recliner chairs. You can contact Age UK on a telephone number unique to Purton Age Concern; to obtain this telephone number or for more details please contact me on 772558.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Joyce Berry

The Magazine Committee were very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Joyce Berry, one of Purton Magazine’s long time distributors. She has delivered magazines for us since we took over Purton Magazine in November 2004, ably helped by her daughter Shirley. Even when she broke her leg she still wanted to keep the round for when she recovered.

Joyce was involved with The Purton Magazine, originally begun by Canon Roy Blake in 1975, from the very beginning. In the early years some magazines were ordered and people collected them from Mrs Berry’s shop in Hyde Lane. When the shop closed, about twenty-five years ago, Joyce and her husband Peter then helped Joy New with sorting the magazines which were then collected, by the distributors, from Joy New’s bungalow and delivered to houses in Purton.

Since we took over in 2004, Purton Magazine has been delivered to distributors who then deliver them to our customers.

We record our grateful thanks to Joyce and to her daughter Shirley Lawrence for completing her last round.

Bernice Seviour has kindly offered to take over her round and so will begin with this, the April edition. Our thanks to Bernice.

The Magazine Committee

Ed. Joyce was known to many organisations in the village and we expect to receive a fuller obituary next month

Mrs Grace Canter

I felt that I would like to write a little piece about my mum Grace Canter, née Sly, who passed away recently.

Like most mums, to their children they are the best in the world and I felt like that about mine. Grace was born in Swindon at 148 Kingshill in 1920 and had a happy childhood, going to Lethbridge Road School where she did exceptionally well at everything. My mum loved to keep things like old paper cuttings, reports etc. and she had her old school reports. Who could blame her for that as all of them, with the exception of one, were excellent. The one that was only 'good' said that Grace had been in hospital but she would soon catch up and be at the top again which she did.

Another of mum's loves was swimming and she still had her certificate for doing 50 yards in 1931. I expect it was at the old Great Western baths in Milton Road – this distance would have been two lengths of the big baths. Something else she was fond of was cycling – mum was a senior member of Swindon Wheelers and, when Lyn and I got together and the families met, Lyn's father, Ron Slade, and my mum knew each other through Swindon Wheelers as, when mum was a senior member, Ron was a junior member. This was lovely as there was a bit of reminiscing about old times.

It would appear mum had several jobs which would have been before the 1939/45 war. She was a skivvy at a house in Swindon, kitchen maid at Oxford one month, the bus office in Swindon (it used to be on the corner where the old Purton bus 66 went from and Commercial Road), Comptons in Swindon one week, Morses, and Marks and Spencers. I do not know whether they are in the right order or not but what we do know is that she met dad at a war time dance. My dad was Reg Canter whose home was at the Fox and they married and went to lodge with Joe and Lil Frost. From what we have been told by our parents, they certainly had some laughs. My sister Ann was born in 1943 and they then moved to 40 High Street, where I was born in 1945. Dad was away with the RAF then and mum still had the telegram he sent congratulating her. In 1947 we went to Reid's Piece where new houses had been built. We were so lucky because we moved next door to Sid and Vera Locke who had two daughters, Jill and Janice. We had some lovely times together as families, with outings and holidays and, of course, they were always there for us. Dad and Sid were both members of the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion and later on dad became Chairman. They had some lovely times with the British Legion, like outings, holidays out of season and they even used to put on floats in Purton Carnival. Yes, mum had paper cuttings of these as well.

Mum was certainly a worker – here are more jobs she did – in the NAAFI at Hullavington, post lady (I believe her round was Purton Stoke), Len Mitchard's butcher's shop, potato picking at Dixons at Bagbury Green farm, the betting shop that used to be on the end of the Malters and when that closed, she worked in Peter Webber's newsagents. Our dad was a builder and he built their bungalow in



what is now Ringsbury Close. Then, in fact, it was Dogridge Lane and the bungalow still has the same name 'Canlea'. Having moved back up to the top end of the village, they used to play cards on Saturday nights with their friends Lil and Joe Frost and Frank and Sylvia Glass. I expect the cards were an excuse to get together for a good laugh. My mum was a good talker and loved a natter. I bet it took quite a while for her to do her post round!

One of the things that always brings a smile to my face is remembering when a friend of mine rang up and asked mum if he could speak to Ted, she said to him "I'm sorry, there is no Ted living here". My name is John and mum didn't know that everyone calls me Ted.

Through circumstances mum and dad moved to Yatton Keynell. It suited mum and dad because his son-in-law Rod Woolford and daughter Ann lived there and Rod shared dad's interest in steam engines and, living there, they all went to steam rallies together and used to take their own Lister engine. Mum loved gardening and could never wait for spring to get started, although through the winter she enjoyed doing tapestry which she was skilled at.

Like I said early on, she was a great mum and idolised her family of three grandchildren, Julie, Shaun and Nick and great grandchildren Stacey, Jack, Andrew, Alice and Isabelle and great, great grandchildren Wesley and Lillie. I am sure they will all miss her as Ann and Rod, Lyn and me do, but we all have happy memories to help us through this sad time. I wanted to write a little bit about mum in the magazine as she loved her life in Purton with all her many friends and kept in touch with all the news through the magazine which she enjoyed reading. I thought it would be a fitting tribute to her to write a little piece about her, then she can look down and think 'Is that really me in the Purton magazine!'

TED (JOHN) CANTER

Obituaries

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

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

OFFERED: Kitchen table with 4 chairs, melamine with drop leaf. 70's style, good condition. Tel: Lynne 778165

OFFERED: Inflatable double bed with electric pump. Used only twice. Tel: Lynne 778165

WANTED: Terracotta pots old and new for a newly established herb garden. Happy to make a donation to charity, or let you have some herbs when ready. Telephone Lynda on 01793 771453

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

Rene Harris's 100th Birthday Celebrations

Family and friends came together to celebrate Rene Harris's 100th birthday on Saturday, February 23.

Mrs Harris marked the special occasion by having a party at The Cedars Residential Home, in Purton, where she lives.

Rene's special day started with her loved ones letting off 100 balloons in her honour and ended with a dazzling fireworks display.

She received dozens of birthday cards and was particularly proud of the commemorative one which she received from the Queen.

Granddaughter Michelle Denbow said: "It is great to get everyone together.

"Nan is on fine form at the minute and cannot understand what all the fuss is about. It is wonderful to get so many family and friends together to celebrate this milestone.

"Nan is a lovely caring person, who has always said what she means, and cares deeply for her family. We are all so extremely proud of her.

"She has worked hard all her life and deserves to feel special celebrating her 100th birthday."

Rene (Irene) was born in Bridge Street, Swindon, on February 21, 1915 and her parents were Frederick and Irene May Selby. She spent a lot of her younger life living in Chippenham.

In 1939, she married Albert Harris. They had three children, Janet, Pauline and Judith. She also raised her half-sister Joan. Albert died in 1981.

Mrs Harris has spent much of her life living in Malmesbury and has dedicated many years volunteering to help disadvantaged people.

She has seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild. She has worked as a school dinner lady, with the Red Cross and for the Civil Defence.

Purton Magazine would like to thank Swindon Advertiser and Thomas Kelsey for kindly allowing us to reproduce this article and photograph.

News from The Cedars

News flash We're proud to announce that The Cedars is getting refurbished, with work starting in the summer. Current and future residents will benefit from the works that we would love to tell you about when you next visit – more details in our next updates.

We've had another busy month at The Cedars – the eagerly anticipated 100th Birthday bash went with a bang. Family and friends joined us on 21 February to celebrate Rene Harris' birthday and the whole day was jam packed from the start ending with a dazzling fireworks display!

In the lead up to the General Election we had visits from the Liberal Democrat



and Green Party candidates who were quizzed by our residents over their manifestos as we believe older people deserve a voice in the general election.

Marie, the Home Manager, has started a gardening club at the home to prepare the gardens for the summer in the hope of winning the fiercely competitive Orders of St John Care Trust annual gardening competition. Any volunteers will be greatly appreciated and receive lots of tea and cakes – please call Marie if you can spare a couple of hours.

On Saturday 28 March we are holding a “Table Top Craft Fair” – if you would like a stall, please call Teresa on 01793 722036 for more information.

Just a little reminder if you’ve not already joined us, our coffee mornings are held every Friday morning from 10.30 onwards and everyone is welcome to come and join us.

To find out more about living, working or volunteering at The Cedars, please call 0800 988 8133 or visit www.osjct.co.uk.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

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



Swindon Foggy's

Dedicated to providing support, raising awareness and promoting positivity, for “invisible conditions”, primarily for:

- Arthritis and Rheumatic Conditions
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and M.E.
- Endometriosis
- Fibromyalgia
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Polymyalgia Rheumatica and Giant Cell Arteritis
- Seasonal Affective Disorder
- Trigeminal Neuralgia



Foggy's Helpline: 0844 887 2377 or 0844 887 2485

Monday to Friday: 12 pm - 4 pm

Deb Cooke, Group Founder

deb.cooke@butyoudontlooksick.co.uk www.butyoudontlooksick.co.uk

Foggy meetings are changing from April.

We will be holding friendly meets twice a month; the first Wednesday of the month at Liden Community Centre, Barrington Close, Liden, Swindon SN3 6HF 12 - 2 pm and every third Wednesday of the month at the Boundary House, 1 The Street, Moredon, Swindon SN25 3ER also 12 - 2 pm (please note change of day).

Due to an Awards 4 All grant, we offer free Hydrotherapy sessions (and jacuzzi) every Monday, for an hour at Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool for our paid members.

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

Purton & Green Gable Surgery Group for Patients - G4P

Group for Patients



Information Evening – Heart Matters, 11 March

Due to circumstances beyond our control we had to cancel this event.

We hope to rearrange for a future date.

Missed Appointments

You may be interested to know that in the last 12 months 1,431 appointments have been wasted because the patient simply failed to attend.

This is equivalent to TEN whole weeks of a doctor's time. Numbers missed are:

Doctors	593	Midwife	14
Nurses	415	During extended opening	33
Phlebotomist	283	Counsellors	36
Flu Clinic	57		

If you cannot attend please cancel your appointment in good time so that another patient can take your place.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Silver Threads

The AGM will be held in April. We hope to have a new committee with new ideas and hopefully new members.

If you would like to join, come along and enjoy an afternoon's entertainment, meet new friends and have a cup of tea and cake.

Meetings are every 2 weeks at 2 pm the Silver Threads Hall. We have speakers, choirs to suit everyone. The cost is £5 annual subscription and £1 for tea and cake at the meeting.

For dates, see the Diary Page of this magazine. We look forward to seeing you.

BERNICE, tel. 771210

I'm looking for a lift to Bristol - Can you help?

I live in the Pavenhill area of Purton and work in the centre of Bristol (St Thomas Street.)

Unfortunately, I am unable to drive for the next 12 months due to a medical condition so am looking for a lift to/from Bristol – Monday to Friday – in order to be at my desk by 8.30 am.

Can you help or do you know of anyone who drives from Purton to Bristol every day and might have a space in their car for a paying passenger? I'm willing to pay up to £4 each way.

If so, please email me at aj@dogzero.com or call me (Andrew) on 07865 883521.

Cricklade Country Market

The Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 24 April from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



There have been Promise ceremonies galore over the last couple of months: Sicelly, Poppy, Mary and Amelia have made the Rainbow Promise, Sarah, Immy and Maddie have made the Brownie Promise and Alishba, Freya, Georgia, Georgie, Holly, Katy, Katy-Erin, Maria and Rhea have all made the Guide Promise.

One of the Five Essentials of guiding is the provision of a wide and varied programme and Purton has certainly delivered on that score:

The Rainbows have embraced winter by making Olaf (a character from the film *Frozen*) as well as making igloos from marshmallows and dressing a teddy bear ready for skiing. They also earned their Seasons Badge.

The two Brownie units have been working on a South West Region challenge, *Cookafun*. As the name suggests, there's food involved so it's been a sure-fire winner – the girls have tasted breads from around the world, played memory games with fruit and vegetables which they then ate, made pancakes, peppermint creams, coconut ice and pizzas.

2nd Purton are also working from another resource called *Go Global*, which has activities from other countries. They built towers using spaghetti, marshmallows, paper and sellotape. The Moles six managed the highest tower albeit a little unstable! Other activities have included making Moroccan lanterns by glass painting jam jars and putting a tea light inside, learning to write their names in Arabic and celebrating Chinese New Year.

The international theme was developed further at our Division World Thinking Day celebrations in Royal Wootton Bassett when we joined Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Cricklade, Lyneham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Minety and Lydiard Millicent for activities around the world. Crafts, games, quizzes, singing and food (of course!) filled a very busy afternoon.

Did you celebrate Harry Potter Book Night in February? The Guides did. They were sorted into houses, with their own Harry Potter names too. They played a game of Quidditch and made potions and wands.

Whilst the Rainbow and Brownie activities have been indoors so far this year, Guides have been keen to get out and about. They took part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, having made pine cone feeders, cereal shapes and wooden seed pictures. They've also been on a penny hike. This is when you flip a penny at a junction to decide whether to go left or right, depending on whether it lands on heads or tails. Luckily they didn't end up going in circles but all four Patrols explored different parts of Purton in the dark.

As guiding is girl-led, due to popular demand, the Guides held a board games evening. This included silly card games which ended up in fits of giggles.

A large contingent of Brownies and Guides went to see the PADS pantomime King Arthur. It would be fair to say that they threw themselves into audience participation and had a great time. It was lovely to see so many former guiding members as cast members – oh how they've grown!

We're very grateful for the community support and links we have with village people and organisations. Thanks must go to Pam Winter who assisted in Eleanor,

Grace and Katie of 2nd Purton Brownies gaining their Booklover Badge.

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

www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



Purton & District Probus

11 February: "Death of the Prince Imperial". Following his account, at this time last year, of the first battle of the Zulu Wars of 1879, in which Lord Chelmsford suffered a humiliating defeat at the battle of Isandlwana, Gerry Churchard, a military historian, related the story of this further regrettable event. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (1808-1873) was the first President of the Second French Republic and as Napoleon III Emperor of the Second French Empire. He was the nephew of Napoleon 1st. He married Eugenie de Montijo who gave birth to an only son, Napoleon Eugene Louis Bonaparte, styled "The Prince Imperial". As a consequence of losing the Franco-Prussian war in 1870, the family went into exile in England. The Prince was 14 years old. On his father's death in 1873 he was proclaimed Napoleon IV, Emperor, by the Bonaparte faction but he was not welcome by the new Government of National Defence in the Third Republic of France. The Prince Imperial became a favourite of Queen Victoria and trained as a soldier at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. His French Nationality denied him a commission in the British Army, but by his mother's pleading to the Queen, he was allowed to accompany Baron Chelmsford on his march into Zululand. The Prince was attached to the RE's under Colonel Richard Harrison, responsible for reconnaissance and mapping the forward route. The Prince demonstrated some skill at map-making but underestimated the guile of the Zulus. On 1 June 1879 the troop set out, without waiting for a full escort, under Lieutenant Carey. As they scouted deeper into Zululand, Carey seconded command to Prince Louis. At noon they halted at a deserted kraal and while Louis made sketch maps the others lit a camp fire. As they prepared to leave some forty Zulus fired on them and charged the camp. Louis' horse dashed off while he clung to the saddle but something broke away and he stumbled. He could not outrun the natives but he turned and fired at them. He was struck by spears in his leg and shoulder and fell. When his body was recovered it had eighteen assegai wounds. Two companions died with him and a third went missing. Louis Napoleon's death caused an international sensation and gave rise to many rumours. The body was returned by ship and initially buried at Chislehurst. Later his mother had it moved to a dedicated imperial family crypt at Saint Michael's Abbey Farnborough. Queen Victoria commissioned a memorial which is installed in Saint George's Chapel at Windsor.

On 24 February David Head gave a comprehensive and impressive visual account of the History & Present-day workings of the Panama Canal. A short introductory video gave an overview of the Isthmus of Panama, the watershed, the

artificial lake and the rain-forest mountains through which the canal is cut. In 1850 the USA and Great Britain proposed a canal through the Central American Republic of Nicaragua but it did not proceed beyond the planning stage. French attempts to build a canal through Panama, a province of Colombia, were further advanced. France won a contract and Ferdinand de Lesseps, of Suez fame, planned a sea-level canal. Work began in 1881 but stopped due to engineering problems and disease. When the original plan was abandoned, Gustav Eiffel was recruited to design locks. In 1888 the scheme collapsed, ruining the fortunes of 800,000 private investors. In 1903 Panama, encouraged by the USA, declared independence from Colombia. The resulting treaty gave the USA the right to build the canal for an annual payment of \$250,000. The USA began work in 1904 and soon realised that mosquitoes were the carriers of the yellow fever and malaria that had devastated the workforce of the French. Screens and fumigation greatly reduced the fatalities. By 1905, 22500 West Indians were working on the canal and 350 miles of track had been added to the existing railway to give two-way working and remove the excavated material. The canal was finally opened on 15 August 1914. The project was colossal. A dam 2km long across the Chagres River, where the surrounding hills come together, created the Gatun Lake with an area of 164 square miles, retaining 183 billion cubic feet of water and with its surface 84ft above sea level. Ships are raised via 3 locks at the Caribbean end to the lake and then travel 20 miles plus a further 8 miles through an extension, the Gaillard Cut. They then enter the Pedro Miguel Lock to be lowered 31ft to the Miraflores Lake and from there via 2 more locks down 54ft to the Pacific Ocean. Water is transferred by gravity, flowing through 18ft diameter culverts, from the lake to the lock or from upper to lower locks, when raising or lowering a ship. The gates, 7ft thick, are hollow and buoyant. They are powered by hydraulic rams which have replaced an electro-mechanical system after 84 years' service. The largest lock gates (82ft high) are at the Pacific end to counter an 18ft rise and fall of the tide. The lecture concluded with many pictures of the large freight ships and liners passing through with only inches to spare. Purpose built "Mules" (railway engines) hold the ships central as they rise and fall and life-boats have to be slung inboard of the hull. A final treat was the wildlife of the lake, images of crocodiles and caimans, also the tropical and humming birds of the forest canopy, a great tourist attraction.

Probus meets at 10 am in the Red House lounge:

- April 14: "T E Lawrence & the Arab Revolt".
- April 28: Annual General Meeting (Election of Committee).

BOB STEVENS

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, john@creasey.org.

PURTON PLACARD

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

St Mary's Church, Purton Round the Village Quiz

Saturday 25 April : 6pm
Meet at Silver Threads Hall
Hot Supper after the Quiz
Please bring your own drinks
and glasses

Tickets Adults £6,
Children (16 and under) £4
Tel: Sandra 770157,
Sheila 770970, Val 771201

WB ARTS FESTIVAL

Hosts

Wessex Male Choir

Saturday 18 April
7.30 pm

RWB Academy, Lime Kiln
Tickets £12 (£10 Concessions)
852749 & 529678
or Brian Taylor Music

Purton Churches

Easter Activity Fun Day

St Mary's Church
Tuesday 31 March
10.30 am - 2.30 pm
Open to pupils of St Mary's School
or children living or staying in Purton
Age 7- 11 years
£4.50

Bring a packed lunch
Application forms will be sent out through
St Mary's school
or you can sign up on the day.
Offers of help would be greatly
appreciated
For further information see posters
or tel Kim O'Brien 770703

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT CHORAL SOCIETY EASTER CONCERT

30 March

at Sacred Heart
Roman Catholic Church,
Royal Wootton Bassett.

Start at 7.30pm

Music by: Pergolesi - Stabat Mater
(with Wentworth Voices),
Victoria - Tenebrae Responses,
Stainer and Dupres.

Free ADMISSION

Retiring Collection

also: Summer Concert 13 July
at St Bartholomew's Church, RWB

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PURTON BRANCH

Present their

ANNUAL CONCERT

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL
SATURDAY 9 May at 7.30 pm
with THE CRICKLADE BAND
and SING 4/4 COMMUNITY CHOIR
Price £5

Tickets available from Legion
committee members or at the door.
Raffle and Light Refreshments

**PURTON
CARNIVAL**

Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL



REDHOUSE PLAY PARK

£2 per child



**Sponsored
By**

Royal George

**PURTON
CARNIVAL**

Pig Roast Night Saturday 27 June
Carnival Procession & Fete 4 July
Please see the Purton Planners and
www.PurtonCarnival.co.uk
for a full list of events

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Mystery Tour**

Wednesday 6 May
Coach leaves at 2pm
Cost; £13.00 (tea included)
Book your place with your
street warden

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Easter Market

Saturday 4 April
9 am - 12 noon at the
Pavenhill shops
Homemade cakes, bric-a-brac,
raffle and other
bargains to buy!

PURTON AGE CONCERN

3B's Evening

Friday 10 April
at 7.30pm
at Silver Threads Hall
Cost £6 and includes supper
For tickets please contact
Ron & Heather Harris
on 770850

**PURTON
CARNIVAL**

Wild West Hoedown Barn Dance

Saturday 25th April
2015 - 7:30pm

Grab your tickets quick! They are
selling fast!

Adult - £6.50
Child - £4.50
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) - £20



First ever Carnival
Hoedown/Barn dance!

**Live entertainment from the
"Blazing Saddles" to guide
you through the
evening, a great night for
all ages and abilities**
Food & Drink **Raffle**
Competitions



We Used to Come Here to Admire the View

There are a number of interesting memorials in Purton. Many are listed monuments. The churchyard has among its graves the prominent tomb vault to the eighteenth century astronomer royal, Nevil Maskelyne, and the less obvious positioned pillar to the long serving father and son Priests Prower: between them they were in office for 98 years. Then there is the most conspicuous and highly regarded monument – the cenotaph in the centre of the village.

In the area Purtonians know affectionately as 'The High Hills' there is a comparatively recent memorial, beguiling and of a simple beauty. Four years ago a local family suffered a tragic loss when a young member died in a road accident. By the kind interposition of Mrs Hill and the extraordinary mechanical and physical efforts of Mr John Holland and his team of helpers a massive stone was taken to the hilltop and the family had a brass plate attached reading:-

FOR DOM

We used to come here to admire the view,
But now we come here to think of you.
We can sit on this rock either happy or sad,
With memories of those 21 years we had.
We will meet again Dom whether that time be
far or near,

But for now sleep tight ...
all our love Mum Dad and Leah.

Dominic Tovey

28-6-89 to 29-03-11



Few folk, standing by the rock reading this will fail to be moved by these sincere, unpretentious lines.

Purton Stoke cross roads where Dom met his end had claimed a victim more than 70 years earlier. My neighbour, Bill Neville has told me of the time a car collided with a young cyclist named Cyril Simpkins as he was hurrying towards Purton station to catch the workmen's train to the G.W.R. factory. Bill had



just started work in Barnes' carpentry shop: one of his first jobs was to help construct a coffin for young Cyril who Bill had known well when they were village lads together attending Purton Stoke School a very few years earlier.

ERIC BALL

Royal Wootton Bassett Arts Festival



The Festival hosts Wessex Male Choir supported by SYM Youth Choir at 7 pm on Saturday 18 April at RWB Academy. Tickets £12 and £10 (concessions) from Choir Officials, RWB Chairman John Davies 01793 852749, Hon.Sec. Mrs Sheila Dunn 01793 529678 and at Brian Taylor Music, 151, High St, Wootton Bassett SN4 7AB.

Festival 2015 - 10th Anniversary Year. Entries close for the June Music event on 30 April. The 2015 Syllabus and Entry Form can be downloaded from www.rwbaf.co.uk or printed copies from Brian Taylor Music.

18 June: Choirs & Singing at St Bartholomew's
19 to 21 June: More Singing & Instrumental at the Memorial Hall
27 to 28 June: Total Piano at RWB Academy.

Hon.Sec. Mrs SHEILA DUNN, 01793 529678

After 8

In early March a select number of After 8 members went out for our very, very late Christmas Meal in the Restaurant at North Star. We met in The Bar and then moved into The Restaurant for a lovely meal.



Locally sourced ingredients are used whenever possible and all preparation and service is carried out by supervised students training for a career in the industry.

We were able to watch our meal being prepared in the kitchen, by viewing a large screen fixed to the wall of the dining room.

It was a time to catch up as we had no meeting in February.

Our thanks to Mary Smith for organising this for us.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH

Our 21 April meeting is "Beverages and Buns" led by Helen at Gwyneth's.

DISCLAIMER

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Purton Diary - April 2015

1	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		10.00am	Age Concern first Mystery Tour of 2015
		7.30pm	Carival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
2	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at Live & Let Live
3	F		Good Friday
		7.30pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	Walk of Witness starting at Pavenhill Shops
		2.00pm	Hour at the Cross at St Mary's Church
4	Sa	9.00am	<i>to noon:</i> Age Concern Easter Market at Pavenhill shops.
5	Su		Easter Sunday
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service
		3.00pm	Carnival Easter Egg Hunt at Red House Play Park
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
6	M		Easter Monday Bank Holiday
8	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Age Concern 3B's evening at Silver Threads Hall
11	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Car Boot & Open Day, Purton Farm Shop, Church End
12	Su		<i>to 19 April:</i> Exhibition of Plans at St Mary's Church - manned from 5-7pm
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
13	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
14	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>T E Lawrence & the Arab Revolt</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Emma & Jan - <i>WW1 Memories</i>
15	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Resolutions
17	F	12 noon	<i>onwards:</i> Bowls Club "Roll Up" day, Red House - all welcome
18	Sa	7.00pm	Wessex Male Choir concert at WB Arts Festival, RWB Academy, Lime Kiln
		7.30pm	Historical Society: Outing to Imperial War Museum
19	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church

		5.00pm	Youth Service at St Mary's Church
20	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: <i>Amanda Hazell - Foraging in Purton</i>
21	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: <i>Beverages & Buns</i> led by Helen at Gwyneth's
23	Th		St George's Day
		7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: David Badcott – <i>The Uses & Abuses of Chemistry in WW1</i>
25	Sa	6.00pm	Round the Village Quiz starting in Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Carnival Hoedown Barn Dance at Village Hall
26	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
27	M		<i>to 11 May: Creative Arts Exhib, New Brewery Arts, Cirencester</i>
28	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probos at the Red House: <i>AGM</i>
		2.00pm	Silver Threads: <i>AGM</i>
		2.30pm	Holy Communion at White Lodge
		7.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Council meeting in St Mary's School Hall, followed by Partnership Enabling Group <i>AGM</i> at 8.30pm
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: John Graham - <i>Herbaceous Peonies</i>

May

6	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour
9	Sa	7.30pm	Royal British Legion annual concert at Bradon Forest School

Every week

Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11.00am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall</i>
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall</i>
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.00am	<i>to 11.00am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall</i>
	11.15am	<i>to 1pm: New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre</i>
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall</i>
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church
F	10.00am	<i>to 11.30am: Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars</i>

Moon Phases

 4 April
  12 April
  18 April
  26 April

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

Purton Historical Society



Thursday 26 February 2015 – Man with a Stick – Andy Binks

Our talk in February was entitled A Man with a Stick. This kept the members puzzling over the nature of the subject until it became clear when the speaker, Andy Binks, started his PowerPoint presentation.

In 1953 the Swindon Borough Council wanted to update the Borough's Ordinance Survey maps and so a man was employed to visit various parts of Swindon's trig points. The arrows he used gave the name to a Man with a Stick. This was a fascinating glimpse via old photographs into the views of a Swindon of yesteryear.

Apart from these 1953 photographs Andy had many much older pictures of Swindon landmarks, including the Railway Works, The Locarno, The Baptist Tabernacle and the Mechanics Institute. It is difficult to picture some of the streets as so much has changed in the ensuing years.

The talk was an historical trip down memory lane for members who were born in Swindon and a glimpse into the past of a once famous Railway Town.

ANNE SWEET

Thursday 26 March 2015 - Annual General Meeting

By the time this article is published our Annual General Meeting will have taken place and the committee will be planning and starting the work of the society for another year. You will see the separate article 'Purton Museum Report', on the following page, giving details of our need for a new curator.

Future Meetings & Events

Thursday 23 April 2015 at 7.30 pm

The Uses and Abuses of Chemistry in WW1 – Dr David Badcott

At the outset of the First World War, Great Britain was importing many chemically-based raw materials and products from Germany. There was an immediate demand for alternative supplies of medicines, explosives, dyestuffs for military uniforms and chemical intermediates. The talk will explore some of the ways in which chemistry was successfully employed to achieve these ends but also used to develop chemical "weapons of mass destruction", and methods of detecting hidden messages written by spies. Absolutely no prior knowledge of chemistry is required!

TONY & JAN NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com

Telephone 01793 770117

Saturday 20 June 2015 – PHS Coach Outing

To Croft Castle and Parkland, Yarpole, Near Leominster

Departing Purton 9 am, return Purton approx. 7 pm

National Trust Members @ £13 each; Non-NT Members @ £21 each

Booking forms from Society Meetings, In Touch Services and

www.purtonmagazine.com

You do not have to be a Historical Society member to join us.

Croft Castle sits deep in the heart of Herefordshire countryside surrounded by 1500 acres of historic woodland, farm and parkland. It has been home to the Croft family

for nearly 1000 years and the castle has many powerful stories to uncover. In the castle you can live life as Sir James Croft and find out how the family bought back their home in 1923. Explore the family photographs, sit and read through the auction catalogues or even have a play on the piano. In the ambassadors room you can discover the story of the Croft's and life on the home front during the First World War. Step outside and explore the working walled garden complete with historic orchards, vineyard and take a peak inside the 1908 glasshouse restoration project. Look out for the Georgian stable block. Take a stroll through the parkland up to the Iron Age hill fort for far reaching views including the Brecon beacons or follow one of the woodland trails and find over 300 veteran trees along the way.

Contact: [HELEN DIXON](#)

Museum News

The museum re-opened on Saturday 7 March after the winter closure. We are still in need of Stewards to cover the open hours which are Wednesday 2 - 5 pm and Saturday 10 am to 12.30 pm. You need only cover one session a month and it is preferable for two people to be present at the same time. Duties are simply to greet any visitors and to keep an eye on the displays.

The museum had a very welcome visit from two groups of children from Lainesmead School in Swindon. Their current project was 'The Development of the Village' and they proved to be a very interested audience when Jenny Barnes gave one of her short talks about Purton. The groups proceeded to the Church for a very enjoyable guided tour.

The museum has loaned several items to the Travelling Exhibition of 100 Objects which will be touring the major museums in Wiltshire. We will be able to have the Photographic Display of these items but will have to wait our turn!

The Museum will be looking for a new Curator at the beginning of April as I have stepped down. I have really enjoyed my time at the helm (as it were) and I have met some extremely interesting people. Our knowledge of the village is expanding all the time and if you can spare the time this is a very worthwhile role. Some preparation of reports and email skills are required along with the general care of the museum and its artefacts. I hope to remain a member of the committee. Anyone interested should get in touch with our Chairman, Mrs M. Hobbs on 01793 770185.

My thanks to everyone who has helped me during the past years and in particular to the previous Curator Mr B. Freegard whose input has been invaluable.

JAN WALKER

Creative Arts Exhibition

Seven students including Tracey Rapson from Lydiard Millicent, on the first year of the Foundation Degree in Creative Arts and Design Practice at Swindon College will be presenting new work in an exhibition titled 'Freedom and Control'. The exhibition will showcase an eclectic mix of painting, ceramics, print, drawing and video.

This promises to be an exciting show of varied responses to a set theme.

The Exhibition is at the Pop Up Gallery in the New Brewery Arts, Cirencester, from 27 April to 11 May.

For further information contact willrounce@swindon.ac.uk

Great War Project

Part 21: April 1915

This month one hundred years ago is most famous for the start of 2 campaigns:

On the Western Front the **2nd Battle of Ypres** commenced on 22 April. During this battle the Germans used poison gas for the first time in large scale on that front.

An example of many that illustrates the horrors of poison gas is that which occurred at the Battle of 's Gravenstafel, a hamlet about 4 miles north-east of Ypres, German troops had carried 5,730 gas cylinders, weighing 41 kg each, to the front by hand. A total of 171 tonnes of chlorine gas was released over a 4-mile front. The cylinders were opened by hand, relying on the prevailing winds to carry the gas towards the allied lines, but because of vagaries of the wind, many German soldiers were injured or killed in the process.

The French Territorial and colonial Moroccan and Algerian troops in the path of the gas cloud suffered 6,000 casualties, many of whom died within ten minutes, primarily from asphyxiation and tissue damage in the lungs, and many more were blinded. Chlorine is denser than air, so it quickly filled the trenches, forcing the troops to climb out into heavy enemy fire.

The 4-mile gap it created in the front line was a surprise to the German army who had underestimated its effect and had too few reserves to take advantage of it. Canadian Expeditionary Force troops were able to defend the flank of the break-in by urinating into cloths and putting them to their faces, to counter the effects of the gas. Casualties were especially heavy for the 13th Battalion CEF, which was enveloped on three sides and over-extended by the demands of securing its left once the Algerian Division had broken.

In April 1915, the following Purton men were mobilised to France:

Thomas Henry Embury, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

Leonard Cecil Ovens, Middlesex Regiment.

Albert Edwin Tuck, West Riding Regiment.

A few days later, after unsuccessful naval bombardments, 25 April saw the start of the **Gallipoli Campaign** (lasting until January 1916). The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, newly arrived via Cairo, landed at Anzac Cove while British and French troops landed at Cape Helles. The intention was take the Gallipoli peninsula in the Ottoman Empire, speed on to Istanbul and take Turkey out of the war.

Purtonian, Geoffrey Charlton Paine Rumming, Royal Naval Air Service, was sent to Gallipoli with No 3 Armoured Car Squadron, on board the SS River Clyde during the landings on V beach. The landing did not go as planned and there were many wounded soldiers in the water requiring assistance. Petty Officer (PO) Peering seeing this called for help and was assisted by numerous 13 platoon, D Company, Anson Battalion members as well as Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Rumming. They joined Sub Lt Arthur Tisdall in carrying out numerous journeys to rescue soldiers in the water and stranded on rocks. He later recalled; "There were

four men in the boat, Sub Lt Tisdall, a black bearded PO, a seaman and myself. We got 3 wounded in the boat on the first trip and 4 in the second trip. Beyond getting a few bullet holes in the boat above the waterline, the first trip was quite successful. On the second trip Sub Lt Tisdall and myself clambered over a spit of rock to get to the men lying higher up.

“We got shot at and lay down for a time. As we were lifting the last wounded man into the boat I got hit again in the back. We had taken the boat a little further ashore, and when we went to push off again found her grounded. When we did eventually succeed in getting off Lt Tisdall and myself were unable to climb into the boat and so we hung onto the side as the other 2 men, keeping as low as possible, rowed back to the River Clyde”.

On this trip back Tisdall and another man were wounded. The small party had tried for over an hour to recover as many men as possible from under the Turkish machine guns. One of the witnesses to this action was Lt Cmdr Wedgwood, Rumming’s CO who was a close friend of Winston Churchill, recommending CPO Rumming and another CPO (Russell) for the Victoria Cross.

This was not awarded but they were awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal instead. Sub Lt Tisdall was awarded the VC; he was later killed in action on 6 May.

Although the allied forces eventually completed their landing the Ottoman defenders stopped the Allied advance halfway between the Helles headland and Krithia village, having inflicted 3,000 casualties. With more Ottoman reinforcements arriving, the fighting at Helles and Anzac, became a battle of attrition.

On 26 April, Italy signed the Treaty of London agreeing to leave the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary and join with the Triple Entente of Britain, France and Russia.

RICK DIXON

We have already received a number of contributions for OUR FAMILY’S WAR, for which we are most grateful. If you want to share a memory of your family’s life in the Great War, in the forces or the home front, please send it to us at one of the addresses on [page 4](#). The memory doesn’t need to be Purton related.

We Record ...

Baptisms – all at St Mary’s Church:

8 February	Edward James Harvey Poppy Zelda Clatworthy
22 February	Charlotte Alice Waldron Lucy Louise Dean
8 March	Freddie Ward Emmeline Binstead



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 ...

A word of thanks

So ... As many of you may or may not be aware that we, Jackie and Jason, are leaving The Bell at Purton Stoke after seven years 3 months and 3 days! (Not that we are counting!) This has been one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make (the first being whether to take on a little pub, in a little hamlet that we had never heard of before, miles from anywhere). We agonised for months about leaving, but like all things, once the decision had been made there was no turning back.



We moved into The Bell on 3 December 2007, the year of the great flood. And on 4 December we held a party for a local farmer to celebrate his birthday with all his family and friends. A baptism of fire to say the least. The farmer in question was a certain Mr Dick Scott. We umm-ed and ahh-ed over whether to do this on our first day but after much deliberation decided it was either going to be the best thing we could ever do – after all it was free publicity – or it would crucify us! As it turned out we had a fabulous evening and Dick and Jackie were thrilled. The next day they returned to the pub with a humungous poinsettia, bottle of wine and a thank-you card. We knew there and then this was the beginning of a new and happy career for us.

We had no idea the impact 'Purton Stokonians' would have on our lives. We have made so many life-long friends. We were accepted and welcomed with open arms from day one and the experience has been truly humbling. We have enjoyed so many occasions and invites, too many to mention and we have taken every one of you to our hearts and been truly overwhelmed by the way we have been accepted into the village, everyone's hearts and homes.

We have tried very hard over the years to make our home your home. We have tried very hard to do the best we could. We have tried very hard to 'get it right!' But we all know that's not always possible as life doesn't work that way. We know many will be sad to see us go, just as we are very sad to be leaving. But a new adventure awaits us all. We will have our weekends back and our evenings free! Yay! And you will have new landlords who will hopefully love our little pub with as much emotion as we have.

We cannot name names of everyone that has touched us and accepted us into their lives as there are just too many. Everyone is special to us for one reason or another. Yes some are 'very' special and you all know who you are, names are not needed. Tears will be shed there is no doubt. (I for one will blub like a baby for sure!) But we will look at this as a new chapter for us and a new chapter for you. Greg and Vicky will be your new landlords and if you take them to your hearts the same as you have with us they will be very happy in their new home. We would like to wish them both much happiness and success at The Bell for the future.

We just have one word that says it all. For all the support, for all the friendships, for all the invites, for all the laughs, for all the help, for all the encouragement, for all the continued custom, support, kind words and for all the LOVE we THANK YOU, xxxxx

JASON & JACKIE, 2007-2015



2015 THEME IS WILD WEST

New Year New Carnival

We have a bigger committee with more events and more plans to bring as always community spirit, fun and any needed help to our village!

2015 sees a shake up for the Carnival procession! We will be starting the procession from Ringsbury and ending near Purton House farm shop where the carnival fete will be held. We hope you will all follow behind the procession to our new location (via The Hyde and Short Hedge Lane). The new location gives us the opportunity to hold a bigger event. Entry will still be free as it always has been!

New location means more space to fill with a bunch of fantastic attractions, competitions and games! More to be revealed at a later date but so far we have a few spoilers to get you all in the Carnival spirit!

Main arena will of course remain! But this year will see –

- Games for children and adults!
- Dance Groups!
- Martial art show!
- And more to be confirmed!

Around the outside so far we have –

- Rodeo Bull!
- Funfair!
- Dog Show!
- Purton Bake Off!
- Bar and entertainment!
- And so much more!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Purton Carnival Wild West Hoedown/Barn Dance!

First ever Carnival Hoedown/Barn dance!

- Live entertainment from the “Blazing Saddles” to guide you through the evening, a great night for all ages and abilities
- Food & Drink • Raffle • Competitions
- Saturday 25 April 7.30 - 11.30 pm

Tickets selling fast!
Take advantage of discounted “in-advance” tickets on sale now

Purton Carnival Quiz & Bingo!

The next **Carnival Bingo** is on Wednesday 1 April, 7.30 pm, Silver Threads Hall.

FREE Purton Planners Still Available!

We hope you have your Free Purton Planner; if not you can pick up a copy from Best One, The Angel Pub, The George Pub or Andrew Hiscock Butcher’s shop.

Purton Carnival Needs YOU!

Do you have any raffle prizes from gifts to services to donate to our raffle? Get in touch via paigepurtoncarnivalmarketing@gmail.com

*Keep checking our website, Facebook page, posters for updates on all our events!
Or find one of YOUR Purton Carnival Committee members!*

PAIGE BASKERVILLE, Purton Carnival Marketing

Renewal at St Mary's Church

I have been researching the re-ordering of St Mary's in 1872, I will explain why later, and discovered a couple of articles which I thought would interest the village. The first was published in *The Builder* in December 1872.

Purton – The church here has been restored and reopened for divine services. Mr Butterfield was the architect employed and Mr J Phillips builder, Swindon, gave in a tender which was accepted. The interior of the church was in a manner completely blocked up with woodwork – galleries, organ-loft, &c., and the pews were in the old horse-box style. The pulpit, in an awkward position, was an old three decker, the seat for the clerk, the reading desk and the pulpit, being one above the other. The roof, flooring, vestry, &c., were also in a very unsatisfactory state.

The article goes on to describe pretty much what you see in the church interior today. But there is also the following:

From the chancel on the northern side, a small low door formerly led into a kind of chapel; ...

The northern window was blocked and barred up in an extraordinary way. Seventy pounds weight of lead were removed from it, and it has been conjectured that the place was at one time or another used as a dungeon. In the corner of the wall nearest the communion-table, the workmen found a skeleton, which was examined by Mr Sadler, and pronounced as the bones of a female.

And the article finishes with:

The church is remarkable for having a steeple and tower – the steeple at the east end, and the tower at the west. The village tradition is that the church was erected through the gifts of two old women, one of whom wanted a steeple, and the other a tower: so as they could not agree, they each built what they fancied.

The second article comes from a book about William Butterfield the architect by Paul Thompson. He notes that patrons funding the building put on feasts for the workers at key stages of the construction. He found a reference to what happened in Purton in accounts dating to October 1872. These include the following:

After the ringers had celebrated on a traditional lunch of bread, cheese and beer, thirty-five men sat down to a dinner costing 2s 6d a head, with not only a quart of ale each, but whiskey, tobacco and cigars.

Paul Thompson also reference from the accounts that the re-ordering cost £2,500.

Now back to why I am carrying out this research. If this beautiful historic building is to continue to be a place of worship for Purton, then it needs to continue to attract a congregation of all ages, both now and in the years to come. Just as in 1872 when the old Georgian layout of the church was seen as unsatisfactory, the current Victorian layout does not provide the flexibility modern forms of worship require. Some villagers, like myself, brought up as Anglicans may find the idea of such change very challenging but, without it, we need to ask ourselves where will the next generations of worshippers come from? If the building stays just as

it is and the congregation numbers fall as it ages, then there is a real risk that eventually the Bristol Diocese will have to close the church. What a tragedy that would be for the village!

The Parochial Church Council of Purton are very aware of this challenge and have appointed an architect, Jeremy Bell, to advise how to renew the building to provide the flexibility we need – enhancing rather than damaging the historic architecture of the Grade 1 listed building. It is our vision to retain traditional styles of service and to explore those which other churches have found attract new families to church. We are now ready to share Jeremy's proposal with the village, to canvass your views before we finalise plans and seek the necessary approvals. We will do this through an **exhibition in the church from Sunday 12 April to Sunday 19 April**. There will be a **box in which to leave your comments** and we will endeavour to have **someone available in church to answer your questions from Monday to Friday between 5 and 7 pm**. I hope many of you will find time to come and have a look.

*DAVID NETTLETON
Churchwarden, Purton*

Parochial Church Council

The Annual Parochial Church Council meeting is on Tuesday 28 April at 7 pm in St Mary's School hall. It will be followed by the Partnership Enabling Group Annual General Meeting at 8.30 pm.

Christian Aid says Thank You to all Purtonians

When the cheque ... for over £1,140 was sent to Christian Aid, as a result of the Ebola event, in January, a long detailed reply was received, explaining how the money will be spent.



Here are short sections of the letter. If you would like to see it in full we shall be glad to share it with you:

“The Ebola virus spreads easily through human contact and corpses are especially contagious. When a family member is found to have Ebola the best way to contain the virus is to quarantine the rest of the family. Our partners are working flat out to protect people from the virus. We have given out 200,000 pairs of disposable gloves and 360kg of powdered chlorine for health centres and medical teams. We are delivering food and other essentials to those in quarantine and running programmes to tackle stigma and provide psychological support. To stop Ebola in its tracks the system of quarantine has to be effective. Without food, people quarantined in their homes have been left to starve, some have been driven, in desperation, to break their quarantine, to leave their homes and go in search of food. The more the quarantine holds, the less the virus will spread. Thank you for your donations which will help to enable this essential work to eradicate Ebola.”

Thank you from Libbie, Mary and the Purton Christian Aid Team: 771018.

Please support us in our activities in the village during Christian Aid Week, starting 10 May.



The Easter story is an incredible event to get our minds around. As for Good Friday, like the parrot sketch from Monty Python, to us, dead means dead, deceased, etc., etc. So what do we make of the declaration that “death could not hold him”? At this point in the story, Easter Sunday really has become a faith situation! We are asked to put our trust in a God who gives life and now chooses to give it back. A couple of thoughts.

The things we treasure most we tend to want to hold too tightly. Jesus, confident in a God who could and would raise Him, asks us to let the most precious go lest we lose it. “Whoever wants to save his life will lose it and however loses his life for my sake will save it” Easter faith helps us to treasure who and what is important but not in a destructive, restricting way so as to deny them life! By not holding the precious things too tightly, we can be prepared to give them over to God. Often we will find that He gives them back for us to look after in acts of stewardship and a new life begins.

Secondly, the resurrection of Jesus means that he is not time or place restricted, so no generation can ‘hold Him’. Alive once more, He comes and goes as He wills and that’s disturbing as well as wonderful. It’s much easier for our religious life if Christ is fixed and predictable, so that if, as an act of faith we do a particular thing, the results are certain. Not a chance! We may engage in our religious life with its familiar patterns and structures, but do they **always** leave us with a genuine encounter with God? Why are we sometimes left with a feeling of absence? The risen Christ will not be held by the parameters of our faith, nor our experience. The task of living by obedient faith, by believing not seeing is not easy but **is** necessary if we are to encounter Him in the surprising places of life, especially the dark places of sadness and grieving – the women went to the tomb to grieve not rejoice! There may be much that gets in the way of coming to see and know what at first seems ‘an unlikely tale’ and then have the courage to keep on believing. This was the disciples’ experience in those first Easter days and it has been so in every age and place. No, Christ cannot be held, but he is alive, and therefore He can be experienced.

Happy Easter,

*Rev DAVID
Purton Methodist Church*

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 Keith Hart, tel 771533.

BOB TINSON

Church Floodlighting

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



- 29 March The church was floodlit for **Dearest Dom**, (Dominic Tovey).
Miss you as much today as four years ago when you were taken away.
Gone too soon, but never forgotten.
Always in our hearts and thoughts.
All our love: Mum, Dad and Leah; Family and friends.
- 3 April St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory
of **Norman Mills** on his birthday.
Always loved and always remembered.
Love Karen, Garry, Amy, Martin, Jay, Harry and Lydia
- 5 April St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate **Easter Day**.
ALLELUIA. Happy Easter to all in Purton.
- 9 April St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Leslie Holland**,
on his birthday. From all the family.

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.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Dogridge, Orchard Gardens, Waterfield, Ringsbury Close and Restrop View*.

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 Rev. 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.

Christian Aid Week

This year Christian Aid Week starts Sunday 10 May.

Plans include:

Sunday 10 May: a Church Service, to learn more about the work of Christian Aid

Tuesday 12 May: Curry Night at the Maharajah

Saturday 16 May (a.m.) Plants, Cakes and Bric-a-Brac at the Top Shops

Wed 20 May (from noon) Soup Lunch at the Methodist Church

And the usual challenging Quiz!

More details in the next magazine Any questions, contact [Libbie](#).



Spring is usually such a reassuring and reinvigorating period – reassuring because gardens and hedgerows start growing again, showing us bright and

fresh colours from previously sleeping trees and plants, all of which reinvigorates many of us to get back out of doors and enjoy our rural surroundings.

Perhaps spring has been like that for millennia but signs of stirring were clearly evident in your magazine 10 years ago especially with the Gardeners' Guild and their guest speaker who gave a very interesting talk on 'Garden Vegetables'. Villagers who enjoy our many and varied local footpaths would also have been heartened with the news that enough donations had been received by the Parish Council to install 7 new kissing gates.

Spring is also a time of painting but maybe not necessarily of the fine art variety. 10 years ago, the Bishop of Swindon came to St Mary's church to re-dedicate our fine art painting of "The Last Supper". New readers might not know that the painting is by the Flemish artist Jacob Jordaens or a pupil of his, from around 1655 and was given to St Mary's church in 1782 by the Countess of Salisbury. It was stolen in 1994 and was found in the possession of an art thief in Florida before being recovered in 1998 but in a very poor condition. It then took 6 years of painstaking restoration to achieve the glorious painting that is now displayed in the reredos in St Mary's church.

Also in the magazine 10 years ago there was an article from PC Steve Harvey who had just returned as our Community Police Officer. At the end of his 18-month secondment in Chippenham he specifically asked to come back to Purton because he had "always thought it is a fabulous village with, in [his] opinion, plenty of Character." The capital 'c' is his although he didn't add an 's' on the end – and we have plenty of them!

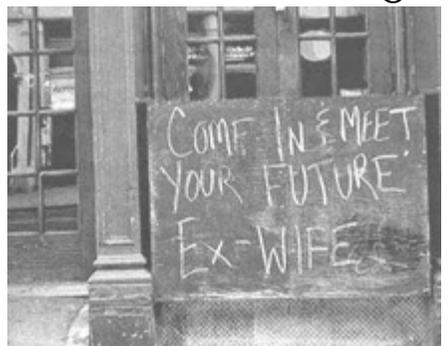
All past issues from January 2004 (but without advertisements) can be accessed through our on-line archive. Please visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk.

On The Lighter Side

Easter Bunnies



Great British Pub Signs





Dance Show

The Dance Showcase, held on 23 January 2015, was a night of spectacular dance works by our aspiring dancers, from the passionate dancers of Year 7 right up to the GCSE Dance students in Year 11. We were shown a variety of skills and it was a great opportunity for everyone to see the talent Bradon has to offer in the dance sector.



The students went on to perform the group routine from the show called 'Superheroes' at the Swindon Dance Festival on 10 February at the Wyvern Theatre. Dance Teacher, Miss Crumpton commented, "Congratulations to all who performed at the Wyvern. You did yourselves proud, and demonstrated the wonderful talent of dance that we have here at Bradon Forest School."

Students win Clothes Show Competition

Textiles Teacher Miss Daniel reports: I received a lovely letter advising that some of the students, that attended the 3D printing workshop during the Clothes Show Trip, had won a competition to have their ring designs printed. During the workshop they had an opportunity to see a 3D printer in action and to have a go at designing a ring. The best designs were printed and sent out to the participating schools. The successful students were Cloe Stone, Ellie James, Ayren Walker, Holly Tingey, Anoop Rana, Elizabeth Withers and Melissa de Beer.



Great Start to Pixar Programme

Bradon Forest's new and exciting Primary programme got off to a great start in January. The programme involves Year 5 pupils from our Partner Primary Schools who attend a series of after school workshops all centred around the theme of the Film World. Feedback so far has been fantastic and primary pupils are counting down the days to their next session.



Bradon Forest School Year 5 Open Event Dates are:

Open Evening on Thursday 2 July 2015, 6.30 to 8.30 pm
Open Morning Monday 6 July 2015, 9.15 am to 10.30 am

Year 6 parents are welcome to call
Mrs Hayden, our Admissions Officer, on 01793 770570
if you are still considering your child's
secondary school place.

Left: Le Navet Bete presents **Dick Tracy**
21 May at 7.30 pm at the Bradon Forest Theatre
Tickets £7 (£6 students) from 01793 773981

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Our new chairperson, Moira, welcomed Gill Hazell to our February meeting for a talk on 'Growing and Showing Sweet Peas'.

To explain how she had first become interested in the subject, Gill took us back 47 years to Clutton, the village to which she and her husband John had moved following their marriage. It was there that they both developed a keen interest in gardening, acquiring an allotment on which John grew vegetables and Gill flowers. The years passed and their children left home, and with more time on her hands, it was the offer of 2 dozen sweet pea plants from a local village resident, that was to spark Gill's interest in growing and eventually showing sweet peas.

Whilst she advised us to work out the best methods for growing them in our own gardens, Gill went on to explain the fundamentals on which she bases her own successes. They include:

Preparing the Plot

It's important to prepare a trench one spade deep, loosening the soil at the bottom and filling it with well-rotted manure to preserve moisture, imperative for good growth.

As the plants produce a multitude of tendrils, supporting canes should be fixed into the ground at 9" intervals along each row, with rows 18" apart. Having manufactured a stick 9" in length for the purpose she was later to discover that the length of her wellie boot fits the bill perfectly! To complete the framework she fixes T pieces across the top to support wires running between. For small gardens a wigwam framework is adequate.

Germination of the Seeds

As sweet pea seeds are a particular favourite of mice, it is always advisable to grow the seeds indoors. A piece of damp kitchen roll laid on a saucer is perfect for this. Place the seeds on top and cover with another piece of kitchen roll. Germination takes about 2-3 days only. To ensure that flowers are ready for showing in June the following year, Gill usually starts hers off in October-November.

Hardening Off

Transfer the seedlings into plastic pots filled with a grit based compost that should be neither too rich nor too wet. As the seedlings are very hardy they can be left outside to harden off but only after the threat of snow has passed.

Planting Out

Prepare a hole for each plant adding fertiliser and nutrimate, a growth enhancer that enables the plant to take up the fertiliser. Gill leaves all shoots on at this point.

As the plants grow, they need to be tied in and any side shoots at a leaf joint should be removed, unless the side shoot is stronger than the leader. She uses a pair of 'Draper' snips with cushioned handles for the purpose. The laborious task of removing the tendrils should be carried out about twice a week.

Due to the large numbers that Gill grows, she uses a system of layering, whereby plants are released from the canes and are allowed to drop to lay along

the row. Fortunately this system of layering is not necessary for growing on a small scale.

To prevent the plants from going to seed, Gill emphasised the need for regular dead heading of spent flowers.

End of Season

At the end of the growing season, the plants can be lifted and the seed stored for using the following year.

However, to ensure the best quality plants for showing, Gill usually buys new seed each year.

By adopting this framework for growing, Gill explained how repeated successful growing seasons increased her confidence enough for her to enter the '9 vase category' in her first national show where she gained 3rd prize, albeit there were only three entries in this category. She realised that her exhibits were not so perfectly arranged and this became the focus of her efforts until, in 2009, she gained first prize in the same competition, and the rest is history as they say.

However competition successes aside, one of her proudest moments was to be when her daughter carried a bouquet of Gill's sweet peas at her June wedding.

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

Gill kindly judged the entries for the competition 'Photo of a Spring Scene'. Congratulations to our winners: 1st Janice Simpkins, 2nd Maureen Griffin and 3rd Val Faulkner.

A reminder to members that our summer outing this year will be to Waterperry Gardens, set in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, on Thursday 18 June. The coach will pick up from the village at 9 am leaving at 4 pm for the return home. Among the many highlights of the eight acres of landscaped ornamental gardens are a classical herbaceous border, formal rose and alpine gardens and a lily canal.

If you are interested in gardening our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28 April at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall when our speaker will be John Graham. The subject of his talk will be 'Herbaceous Peonies' and the competition will be 'A decorated egg'.

*MOIRA WHITE, Chair &
MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary*

Knit-A-Square

Our fundraising coffee morning on Saturday 14 March was a great success. A huge thank-you to everyone who came along to support us; it was lovely to see so many people there.

My thanks go to all who helped on the morning and to everyone who donated money, raffle prizes, cakes, bric-a-brac and clothes and to everyone who knits for the children. We made a profit of £815.17, which is fantastic! I will be sending the next shipment to KAS in South Africa very soon. Full details of the shipment will be in next month's magazine. Thank you again for all your support.

LOUISE TIDMAN, 772558

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The ground is in good condition, the square being the best it has ever been, the outfield is even and the surrounding hedges have had a severe winter haircut. The warmer weather which arrived half way through March should guarantee a prompt start to the season.

Fixtures for April

11 th	1 st XI v Potterne	1.00pm	26 th	U11 v South Wilts	10.30am
18 th	1 st XI v Bournemouth 2 nd XI	1.00pm	26 th	U15 v Shrivenham	2.00pm
25 th	1 st XI v Lechlade	1.00pm			

From the Archives

1895- 90 Years Ago

Ladies – Miss A King, Miss A Hudson, Miss K Hudson, Miss Heath, Miss A Garrett, Miss J Pagington, Miss C Smith, Miss N Barton, K Boulton, Miss Sainsbury, Miss Godwin. Gentlemen – A Barnes, J Barnes, J Haskins, T Woolford, J Williams, G King, A Smith, G Smith, A Woodward, E Tytherleigh, A R Heath
Result – Gentlemen (batting/bowling left handed) won by 23 runs.
Ladies 13, Gentlemen 35-9. The Hudson ladies took all 9 wickets

1965 – 50 Years Ago

Purton 178-8 (Alex Grant 42, Norman Mills 32)
Roundway Hospital 112 (Basil Marchant 5 for 49)
Purton won by 66 runs.

JOE GARDNER



Another successful winter league season has come to an end with the A and D teams becoming champions of division 1 and 5 respectively and the B and C teams finishing in 3rd place in division 1 and 4 respectively.

Practice sessions have started on Monday (men) and Tuesday (ladies) evenings for the coming summer season and have been well attended.

The Saturday morning sessions for Junior Club Members recommence on 11 April and will run right through until 29 August. These sessions are for children aged 7 to 18 who are members of the club. Membership cost just £24 for primary school aged children and £36 for secondary school children – fantastic value!

Only one team has been entered this year in the Aegon Wiltshire Junior Tennis League. The club will be represented by a 16U boys' team who will play 5 matches the first being at home on Saturday 18 April.

The club is looking forward to again holding an Open Mixed Tournament for the 'Khalique Cup'. This will take place on Sunday 3 May.

NICOLA GARDNER

Something to Think About

Farming looks mighty easy when your plough is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field.

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 - 1969)

Purton Bowls Club



Here we go again, another season about to start. I hope all of our members are slipping back into their training regimes. I must admit I haven't seen anybody doing 'circuits' around the village unless they have had their cars with them!

There will be a pre-season meeting on 27 March when everybody gets together for the first time this year. The green will open for play on 17 April with a 'roll-up' arranged from midday onwards, so come along and see what we get up to

With reference to my notes in the December issue when I mentioned cups and saucers that we had no further use for, Bim Herbert rang me and asked if the Jubilee Gardens Project could have them as they are always having to borrow stuff. So they now have plenty. Well done Bim.

I hope the new members will enjoy their first year with us. We will still be having coaching evenings on a Friday, so please come along if you would be interested.

I would like to send congratulations via this column to Carole Holland who will be 70 years old on 27 March. Carole was married to Mick Bartlett until his death several years ago. I will leave the next bit to Alison, Carole's daughter:

"Mum joined the bowls club because of dad. He was out quite a bit bowling and it got to the stage where she felt if you can't beat them you may as well join them! That was back in the late 70s and she has enjoyed the sport ever since.

"She quickly settled into the role of skip for the ladies S&D evening league team. She has played S&D representative games against other districts and was the S&D President in 1991, and was a qualified coach for a number of years.

"She represented Wiltshire for several years, reaching the national championships a number of times in a variety of disciplines. She was part of the Wiltshire Johns Trophy team that won the title in 1995. She won the National Benevolent Triples along with Josie Lloyd and Jean Bird in 1998 that was probably her highest achievement.

"Although she no longer plays outdoors, she still enjoys her Friday afternoon Triples at the Manor through the winter and she has become a Wiltshire selector for the Johns Trophy team.

"She has held a number of positions at the club, Ladies Captain, Club Secretary, Vice President and Chairperson and continues to support the club in any way she can."

Thanks Alison. I would like to add that she makes the best Cottage Pie, which everybody gets to taste when we stage the Bartlett Triples in memory of her late husband.

PETER BERRY

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The meeting of 18 February showed the variety of subjects tackled by the WI; this time the need for foster parents. Our hearts go out to those who need this help, as well as those who so kindly offer it – in fact some of our members have either been carers themselves or had in their youth been the subject of such help, and all seem to have benefited. Mutual understanding is needed, of course, and the practical talk entitled “Blue-Sky Fostering” given by Katrina McDuff, was so helpful in telling us of all aspects of this work – and practical work it is, as well as being able to offer sympathetic understanding! If you need to know more, and would like to help young persons achieve their full potential and face their future with confidence telephone 0845 607 6697 and you may find that you well qualify for full training and support. In fact, you could turn this into a fulfilling career which is challenging and worthwhile. Possibly frustrating and demanding! But worthwhile ...

But back to the Women’s Institute. Our Committee is really working hard – a newsletter is available for each of us when we arrive at the monthly meeting and it is amazing how many activities are available. And now it is AGM time again – how the year hurries on! Judging by our membership, there should be a healthy number of volunteers ready to take over the various tasks that keep our group well-known and popular. There will be outings to anticipate, such as to a Calne farm, and a trip to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Chance to dance, too – who could forget those earlier (figure-enhancing) sessions, and this year there will be an opportunity to learn *Latino Style*. By 26 March we should have enjoyed the Group Meeting, too.

Don’t worry about dinner or the dishes – just once a month declare “I’m off to the WI tonight – must go – they might be planning another Calendar!”

The speaker for May and the names of the new Committee will be given in next month’s magazine. Do come and join our jolly group – especially on the Committee. I insist you enjoy yourselves!

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