

Purton *Magazine*



*The Darling Buds of ...
by Barbara Gosden, member of Purton Artists*

May 2015

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

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

It may soon all be over! Many readers might agree with sentiments expressed during an After 8 game of “Twenty Questions” on [page 33](#) when ‘a lot of hot air’ got members thinking about the imminent General Election. Even during the election in 2005, we reported that the arguments between the parties were often enough to put people off voting. If our election campaigns feel lengthy, just think of America where the Presidential vote is not for another 18 months! We really are still very fortunate to live in a country where voting does count and those who do not vote will not be able to complain about the next government.

To matters more local and you will find yet another exciting and eclectic collection of contributions from our readers in this edition. Indeed, some of the descriptions in the articles do conjure up the most wonderful images. For example, imagine one of the Queen’s recent garden parties – perhaps plates of precisely cut sandwiches and copious cups of tea. Then imagine a stalker at that same party who was then felled by a halberd wielded by a bodyguard who could easily have been mistaken for a Mason or Morris Dancer – all is revealed on [page 16](#).

Another article, this time on [page 30](#), may well take lots of readers back to the 1950s. Again, many images about all the different things Purton kids used to get up to come from the descriptions. Examples of the outdoor activities include finding out about multitudes of creatures without the internet, pretending to be a jet fighter with smouldering oily rags in empty tins on sticks held at arms length and remembering that a flashlight was probably the height of technology. Those vivid descriptions conclude with the simple summary of feeling as “free as a bird until hunger drove us home.”

The great outdoors is also the subject of an interesting article about enjoying the countryside safely. As the contributor points out on [page 7](#), we are indeed very fortunate to have the opportunity of using our extensive network of Purton footpaths to access the beautiful countryside that surrounds us – but with that come certain responsibilities. The key messages are to respect other people and protect the countryside while enjoying the outdoors – and then we will have our own memories to share, even if lighting bonfires was sometimes a youthful activity from the past.

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Parish Councillor positions available; your Council needs you – see [page 5](#)

£1360

raised from serving 348 Lent Lunches this year – see [page 32](#)

2297

knitted squares sent to a charity in South Africa along with many other items – see [page 20](#)

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

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[John Creasey](#)

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News

Purton Parish Council needs you!

Are you passionate about what happens within your village?

Can you spare time to attend meetings and help create change?

Then come along to a Council meeting and see how we work. We currently have 6 Councillor positions available. Attend a meeting, watch and observe, sign up and start to make a difference to the village you live in. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk.



Purton Cemetery Path

Purton Parish Council has arranged for the paths in the cemetery to be resurfaced pending weather, work commencing 20 April. The section of pathway leading up to the Memorial Garden is currently narrower than elsewhere causing some difficulty for wheelchair and other access to the garden and cremation plots behind. This path will be widened slightly during the renovations. During this work the row of cremation memorials nearest to the path may be required to be temporarily moved back from the path to ensure they are not damaged.

The Diocesan authorities have been consulted on this and are happy with this precautionary measure, as there will be no disturbance to any burial plots and the memorials will be repositioned exactly where they now are after the path is re-laid. The owners of these burial plots have been written to independently advising of these works.

Purton Youth Club

The Purton Youth Club has been disbanded and the premises handed back to Purton Parish Council as responsible owners of this site. The Council will consider options and future use of this property at the next Full Council meeting.

Purton Youth Council

Do you have children under 18 years of age?

Do you think they would like to have input into decisions that affect them and other children with the Parish?

Then contact the Clerk to find out more or sign up to the Purton Youth Council Facebook page and register your interest.

Village Centre Play Area Refurbishment

Work to refurbish the play area starts week commencing 20 April for approximately 3 weeks. During this period the play equipment will be fenced off with no access. However, the skate park will be available for those wishing to use it. Please bear with us during this period and watch the transformation of this site in time for the spring/summer period.

Tick Awareness Campaign

Stay active and healthy this summer and avoid ticks by ...

- Knowing how to remove them safely and doing so as soon as possible;
- Wearing suitable clothing, such as long trousers;
- Using insect repellent;
- Checking yourself for ticks if you have spent time outdoors in the countryside.

More information available on the Wiltshire County Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk – and on [page 7](#).

Leaflets are also available from the Parish Council offices.

The following Planning Applications have been approved, with conditions by Wiltshire Council

- N14/10893/FUL The Barn, New Road – Erection of garage and store
- N14/11337/FUL Old Orchard, 15b The Fox – Rear single storey extension
- N14/11406/FUL 19 Restrop Road – Erection of white PVCU conservatory
- N14/06026/FUL Manor Farm, Church Street – Conversion and adaptation of existing buildings to provide self contained dwelling and detached garage
- N14/10184/VAR Ashgrove House Nursing Home – varying condition 2 of planning permission N13/00244/FUL
- N14/10837/FUL Village Centre Play Area, Church Street – Install a new play equipment area, safety fencing, gates and safety surfacing. Resubmission of 13/06195/FUL
- N14/0764/FUL Western Villa, 38 Station Road – Erection of 2 dwellings and associated works
- N14/11742/FUL Studio Cottage, Hyde Lane – Change of use of self contained annex to separate dwelling, loft conversion including dormer windows and front single storey extension
- N14/11934/FUL 76 Witts Lane, Single storey rear extension
- N14/12001/FUL 59 Mustang Way – Single storey side and rear extension

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.

Eco-Themed Area Board

The next meeting for our Community Area is an eco-themed Area Board on 20 May at the National Self Build Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon SN5 8UB (by M6 junction 16). Everyone is invited to come and view the many exhibits and stalls set up for your interest from 5.30. There will be 10 minute talks on environment issues from 6.30 and formal Area Board business from 7.30.

Come along and find out more about how you can save money on your household bills, how you can use alternative energy every day and have a chance to win free tickets to another future eco show.

We look forward to welcoming you and if you want any more information, contact alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk tel. 01249 706263 or jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk tel. 01793 770704.

Enjoying the Countryside ... Safely

We are very fortunate in our community to have the chance to walk in beautiful countryside, with a feeling of freshness around you, peace and tranquillity particularly on the more extended footpath networks. There is also a feeling of the historic past, knowing that for hundreds of years our forebears walked these paths, from farm to farm and from farm to village and church. However it is important if you are to use the public paths to be aware of the Countryside Code, ensuring that you leave the countryside as you find it, closing gates, and respecting any livestock that might be in the fields.

The key messages in the Countryside Code are:

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors;
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home;
- Keep dogs under effective control.

Enjoy

- Plan ahead and be prepared;
- Follow advice and local signs.

See: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

Although paths are public to walk and you may feel you have a right to walk the path, if there are cattle with young then it may be wise to consider another route. Dogs should always be kept on leads and under control when approaching any fields with livestock in them. PLUS it is extremely important to pick up any fouling from your dog. Dog Fouling Issues are a huge problem not only in built-up areas but also in open countryside – a little research on the matter may make dog owners realise the importance of clearing up and properly disposing of this waste as there are many health reasons which can impact everyone in the long term!

The Right to Roam gives access to the countryside under legislation passed in 2005 BUT it is important to know where you have those rights – you cannot walk where you like in fields and private land. Rights to Roam gives access to most areas of open country in England and Wales: mountain, moor, heath, down and common land – but there are not many areas local to Purton where these rights exist, so please keep to designated footpaths. There is a useful factsheet written by the Ramblers Association which will help walkers know where they can walk off a public path and where they need to stay on the route.

www.ramblers.org.uk/~media/Files/Go_walking/AccessFactSheet-FS8.pdf

If you are planning to be out and about in the countryside wear appropriate clothing to protect you particularly from ticks. More information on this can be found in the online leaflet - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news-ph-beware-of-the-tick-leaflet.pdf

FINALLY – we have all seen them – pedestrians walking on country roads, where there are no pavements or lighting, walking on the wrong side of the road – i.e. with

their backs to traffic – and in dark clothing and no torches! The Highway Code is quite explicit on how to walk on roads where there are no pavements ... in fact it is the second rule in the code – www.gov.uk/highway-code

Code 2 - If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and ...

- be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light;
- keep close to the side of the road.

It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.

The code is written in several sections with the rules for pedestrians being the first section – 1-35 – hence presumably very important for pedestrians to know them. To use any part of the highway, pedestrians, cyclist, motorist, horserider etc. it is essential to know the rules of the Highway Code.

Perhaps 'Code' is the wrong word as this is essential knowledge and are 'Rules and Regulations' there to keep us all safe.

When out and about driving around the parish, particularly as the school holidays are fast approaching us, think about what might be around that bend – it might be a child out on a bike, or a horse rider or two, or a farm vehicle coming out of a gateway – slow down and be ready to stop if necessary. Keep your speed down to reflect the capacity of the country roads around our village.

Hence please stay safe, enjoy our countryside and hopefully we will have a wonderful summer to give us some lovely memories to take forward for the future.

Councillor JACQUI LAY, jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk, 01793 770704

Jubilee Gardens Open Day

... will be on Saturday 23 May from 10 am until 3 pm. Jubilee Gardens Project is located on the B4553 mid-way between Cricklade and Purton and there is ample parking. There will be a wide range of horticultural products on sale. Jubilee Gardens Project is a registered charity that teaches horticultural skills to people with learning difficulties.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

The sun is shining, the birds are singing and there isn't a cloud in the sky... or is there?

As I write this I am sitting in a shaft of sunlight thinking positive thoughts of the summer and feeling pretty good. However, the question is, what is over the horizon? We never know what the future brings, good or bad. If there are clouds on your horizon, or if it's pretty stormy right now, can I help? If nothing else, I can listen whilst you talk about your problems and I may be able to put a new slant on the issues which may help you to solve or relieve them. I can give information on a range of things, both practical (money worries, mobility aids etc) or emotional such as social activities or support groups in your area.

I don't bite and no matter how trivial it may seem, give me a call on 07557 110414 for an informal chat.



ELLEN BLACKER

Purton & District Age Concern



Khalique, Wendy Johnson and all at the Maharajah Restaurant have announced they will be holding another afternoon tea event on Bank Holiday Monday 25 May from 12 - 4 pm. Proceeds from the afternoon will be divided between Purton Age Concern and a children's charity in India. Our thanks go to all involved in organising this event. It is a very pleasant way to spend the afternoon, with lovely cakes and plenty of cups of tea, so please come along and join us, we look forward to seeing you there.

Now for some serious news, Colin and Sylvia Freemantle have decided to step down as treasurer and assistant treasurer of our general committee. They will leave at our AGM at the beginning of June. We are very grateful to both of them for all they have done for Age Concern. Looking after the finances is a big responsibility and they have worked very hard on our behalf. We are pleased that Colin has agreed to remain on our committee. This means we are now looking for someone to take over as treasurer. If you are good at handling money, can use a PC and think you would be interested in this position please contact Mick Looker on 772461 or Louise on 772558 for more information.

FUTURE EVENTS

Mystery Tour – Wednesday 6 May with a 2 pm start and tea included. The cost is £13.00 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.

Half day trip – Wednesday 3 June to Bourton-on-the-Water. Leaving the village at 11 am, food not included on this trip but there will be plenty of time for you to have lunch in Bourton. Cost is £8 for pensioners and £10 for non-pensioners and those from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 25 May.

Boat Trip – I have booked the trip on the “Rose of Hungerford” for Friday 12 June – with a 10.15 am start. Cost £15 which includes a fish and chip lunch. Money to be paid to your street warden before 12 June. The boat trip has proved to be very popular and is fully booked. If you would like your name on a waiting list in case anyone drops out please contact Louise on 772558.

Afternoon event and BBQ – The committee is in the process of organising a fun afternoon event with games, music and a BBQ which will be held on Sunday 14 June from 3 - 7 pm outside the Red House. We are hoping to attract people of all ages not just pensioners so please put the date in your diary and come along to see what goes on at an Age Concern event. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us! More details next month.

Full Day Trip – Wednesday 1 July. We are going to Stratford-on-Avon with a 10 am start. Food is not included in this trip. The cost is £10 for pensioners and £12 for non-pensioners and others from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 22 June.

Annual Coffee Morning – This will be on Saturday 4 July from 10 am - 12 noon at the

home of Dick & Jackie Scott, Bentham House Farm, Bentham Lane. Admission will be £1 and includes tea/coffee/biscuit. There will be plants for sale, bric-a-brac, tombola, cake stall and a raffle. To book the minibus please contact Keith Hart on 771533.

PAST EVENTS

Easter Market – This was held on Saturday 4 April and what a bitterly cold, windy morning we had outside the “top” shops. Our thanks go to Andrew Hiscock and Robert Collis for supplying the sausages and cooking equipment. Richard, Kevin, Alfie and Morgan were able to provide delicious cooked sausages and keep warm at the same time! Thank you everyone who donated raffle prizes, cakes, bric-a-brac and books. We made a profit of £344.01

3 B's Evening – This was held on Friday 9 April. As always it was a fun-filled evening. Thanks go to John and Brenda Lilley for calling the bingo, we really appreciate their support with this event. Thanks also to Maria and all the helpers in the kitchen for the lovely food. We made a profit of £512.00. The next 3B's evening will be on Friday 9 October – put the date in your diary!

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.

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 andywhitepacmb@gmail.com. New volunteers are always welcome.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Mrs Rushen Retires

Mrs Rushen started working at St Mary's School as a supply teacher in summer term 1987 and will be retiring at the end of this term. She has given a huge amount to the school during this time working as a class teacher, Acting Deputy Head Teacher, and most recently as our dedicated Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, supporting some of our most vulnerable learners. We will be celebrating Mrs Rushen's retirement during a special assembly with the children on her last day on Thursday 26 March. I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Rushen a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

LAURA OAKES, Acting Headteacher

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

OFFERED: Epson DX4800 printer/copier with spare cartridges - a bit temperamental but still working. Tel 01793 771210.

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

Mrs Joyce Berry

I felt that I would like to pay tribute to that very distinguished neighbour of ours, the late Mrs Joyce Berry who has passed away recently. What a marvellous world it would be if everybody had the kindness and thoughtfulness that Joyce had; and she was prepared to share it with others. Joyce was born at Hook, the youngest of three sisters, but was brought up in Church Street, Wootton Bassett – of course it was not Royal in those days – just covering myself as I forgot to put it in! She had a happy childhood in a hard working family – there was not much money although that was life then. Joyce was a very pretty girl which stayed with her all her life. In fact, she was Rose Queen at Wootton Bassett.

Her first job was in the egg factory at Wootton Bassett and then she was conscripted to war work in Garrards. That's what happened during the 1939-45 war if you were not called up. It is a very small world because, while at Garrards, she became friends with her future son-in-law's mother and auntie. I bet they all had a very pleasant surprise when, in later years, Michael and Shirley started courting (that seems an old fashioned word now.)

One of Joyce's assets was that she was a good talker but it landed her in trouble both at school and work. Apart from being a good talker she had a lovely singing voice, in fact that was how she met Peter, her husband to be, in Wootton Bassett Church choir. I think it is quite nice when that happens as, when I was in the choir at St Mary's, there were three or four couples who got married either through the choir or Church connections. They all had lovely marriages like Joyce and Peter were to experience. Joyce always says that Peter saved her life and I am inclined to agree with her because they were out for a bicycle ride and, on the return trip, they were coming down Broad Town hill when Joyce's brakes failed. Peter did not panic but caught hold of her handle bars and guided her to safety. What a hero – no wonder she married him!

Mind, Joyce had more worried moments than that. It was war time and Peter joined the Royal Navy. Peter's ship was HMS Exeter and they had news that it had been sunk by the Japanese on 1 March 1942 in the Java sea. Joyce remembered seeing a little piece in the national newspaper about it. No one knew what had happened to Peter for a very long time and it must have been very hard for the family and, of course, Joyce.

Joyce was a very good dancer and, as you know, we had lots of army camps including American ones around here and, obviously, there were dances and the local ladies would be encouraged to go to these dances as it would not be much fun for men dancing with men – also remember these troops were a long way from home and in training for the invasion of the continent, not knowing when that would be. When the time did come they were here one day and gone the next and you would not have known troops had been here. The Playclose was a prime example of this as were Braydon woods – what a massive operation that was (sorry, getting carried away). Joyce used to attend these dances and her mother perhaps did not approve as she was always saying to Joyce 'Ah my girl, you'll go round the orchard and pick a crab if you're not careful', but Joyce was loyal to Peter although it was

not known whether he was still alive. The good news came through that he was alive and he was on his way home – this was a very long journey, still I don't expect they minded as they were free. They came by boat to San Francisco, across America by train to New York then home by boat to England. It must be a funny feeling seeing the one you love after a period of four or five years, wondering if they are still the same, especially with the war on. However all was fine and they were married in St Bartholomew's Church at Wootton Bassett in 1946. Peter and Joyce always felt very fortunate to have been able to celebrate their diamond wedding and, of course, Joyce was always proud to have proved her mother wrong by choosing the star apple of the orchard in Peter. After getting married they lived with Joyce's parents for about a year in Wootton Bassett and then it all began to happen for the benefit of Purton. One Sunday afternoon they cycled over to Purton to look at a cottage Peter had heard about in the GWR where he worked. Who should they meet but Vivien Lawrence (née Griffin) and they asked her where Mr Eatwell lived. She told them and then rushed indoors to tell her mum and dad that somebody was looking at Mr Eatwell's house opposite. Peter and Joyce liked what they saw and bought the cottage on the shake of a hand and they lived there all their married life. They had a daughter Shirley who, it would appear, along with husband Michael is following in Peter and Joyce's footsteps in village life. As I briefly mentioned, Peter worked in the GWR works and would have his holidays during trip week (that later became trip fortnight) and their destination was always Paignton on the trip trains, with their luggage sent on before.

We know of Joyce's interest in Guiding, well it started like this. When in Wootton Bassett she helped with the Cubs and she had been in Purton for a couple of years when she was asked if she would help with the Brownies. After a few weeks she became Brown Owl as the previous one had moved away, so she was in at the deep end but help was on hand as a senior guide came along to see her and asked if she would like some help. The answer was "yes please" and who was that young lady? – Pauline Hall (née Beasant) and that was the start of a nice friendship. (As you will see elsewhere in the magazine we are running a garden party on 6 June in Pauline's memory at 16 Church Path). Joyce was Brown Owl for a good number of years and went on to be District Commissioner. What an ideal person she was for a position like this, always smartly turned out, shiny shoes and let's not forget the lipstick. She would do an inspection then choose someone to carry the flag. What an example of the Brownie motto she was – think of others before yourself and do a good turn every day. She certainly did that – alright I suppose she broke it in a way as she would do more than one if she could! She would organise a float in the Carnival for her Brownies and displays in her shop window in Hyde Lane. Going back to her thought for others, she would ring me up and say 'You have some briars growing across Church Path and they might scratch the children on their way to school' and I was always duty bound to get the hedge cut, in fact I had it cut before Joyce's funeral so I wouldn't feel guilty at the service.

Talking about her shop in Hyde Lane, Joyce took this over from Mrs Welch in 1970 – the property, I think, was owned by Eric Webber. She had worked for Mrs Welch but, when she took over the range of goods increased and she sold knitting wool and

patterns, haberdashery, ladies and gents underwear, baby and children's clothes, ladies fashions, household goods – the list goes on. If a customer wanted something she didn't stock, Joyce would do her utmost to get it for them. I said to one lady about Mrs Berry's shop and she said, "We used to get our school daps from there". Joyce used to run a weekly savings' club where you could pay a weekly amount for goods and this was very popular, especially at Christmas. Joyce would put on fashion shows for charities and village organisations, especially one that was special to her – the WI. I spoke earlier about her shop window for Carnival but it was always a pleasure to see it decorated, especially for Easter and Christmas. Some of you would have been invited to her shop for afternoon tea to mark a special occasion. Peter was a very handy man to have around and, when we used to get those power cuts, he would rig up gas lights in the shop to counter that. Joyce finally gave up the shop in 1988 and it was really missed by the village.

Joyce was very involved in village life – when it was the Coronation, Joyce and Mrs Win Griffin organised a street party in Church Path and everyone went in to Mr and Mrs Griffin's to watch it on TV – the only one in the Path. Soon after moving to Purton she joined the Afternoon WI and helped start the Evening WI, which used to meet in the upstairs room at the old Red House building. Joyce enjoyed all the WI activities, skittles, flower arranging and, of course, here again she put on fashion shows in the company of her friends Isobel Robins and Joy New. She was still attending WI meetings until a few weeks before she died. She was also a member of the Purton Branch of the Mothers' Union – their standard was in the stand that I had made for them at the funeral and I felt quite proud to see it. Joyce had a very strong faith and would say her prayers every night. Peter and Joyce were regular attendees at St Mary's and Joyce always helped with the cleaning and the flower rota at the church. Joyce's main hobby was knitting, which became difficult in later years with her eyesight failing but, being the type of lady she was, she was determined to carry on knitting vests, baby clothes etc. for the hospital, blankets for cats and dogs and items for different charities to sell. She recently joined a knitting group in the village, enjoying the chat and giving advice with her experience.

Another of Joyce's interests was the Poppy Appeal – was this because of what Peter went through? I do know that it is a mammoth task, counting out all the poppies for the different boxes, accounting for all the money, getting all the people to collect, then sorting out the collectors for Asda. She started helping by selling the poppies and came up through the ranks to become Purton and District organiser. If that wasn't enough, Lydiard lost their organiser some years ago and Joyce was asked to take it over for a year – this arrangement is still going on. If you take into account that she has been losing her sight over the last twenty years to a point where she was almost blind, it is amazing that she was still counting the poppies last October. We are so lucky to have Joyce's daughter Shirley and son-in-law Mick who helped her carry on with all the things she was involved in and I know how grateful she was to friends and neighbours for all their help and support.

Another involvement was through her friend Pat Stephenson with the Prospect boxes and she undertook to collect them in the Church Path, Church Street and The Hyde areas. She would give you a ring to tell you it was collecting box time

again and this made sure you had something in the box to collect and, as you read in last month's magazine, she delivered the magazines in her area.

She loved playing whist in various people's houses to support the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and had a group to play in her house once a month. I expect there was always a cup of tea and a piece of cake too. She was still involved in all these things right up until she passed away.

Michael was more like a son than a son-in-law and Joyce loved all her family, grandsons Jonathan and James. When you ask them what they remember about their grandma, she was always busy, cooking, gardening, supporting her charities and interested in everything. Mind, she wasn't always working as the family enjoyed train trips, especially to the seaside. Jonathan and James chose Snowy the kitten that was to become Joyce's constant companion for many years. Jonathan married Tara, and Joyce thoroughly enjoyed the wedding and was very excited when two great-grandchildren came along – Alexander and Nicholas, who gave her so much pleasure. She passed away knowing that James and Becky were getting married in August – she was very happy for them and looking forward to the wedding.

Joyce loved her life in Church Path and I agree with her as I feel the same – it is a grand place to live. She loved seeing the children coming and going to school and playgroup and they would wave to her. I wonder how many brushes Joyce wore out sweeping parts of Church Path – she did like it all tidy especially for the children. I hope you can understand why I wanted to write about such a lovely lady for whom I had such respect. In any situation she remained calm and kind, always knowing the right thing to do. She gave so much to Purton and she will be missed so much. Our thoughts are with Shirley, Michael, family and friends. Could I also thank the people who gave me snippets about Joyce, especially the Revd Judith Wells.

TONY PRICE

Mrs Olive Simpkins

Olive's son Keith has asked me to put a small piece in the magazine to say that Olive has recently died. She used to live in Suttons Cottages along Cricklade Road and, with husband Len, was involved in village life – in fact Olive was Purton Age Concern's street warden in that area for many years. Olive and Len moved to Cornwall to be near their son Keith some years ago and I was never sure whether they were happy moving at their time of life, leaving so many friends back here in Purton. Len has nursed Olive for a good number of years and at least he will be able to look after himself a bit now as he has always put Olive first. Len and Keith will be in our thoughts and prayers.

TONY PRICE

Obituaries

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

News from The Cedars



Last month the farm came to visit with a variety of animals including alpacas, ponies, rabbits, ducks, chickens, ferrets and many more and we couldn't have had a better day as the sunshine came out for us. Our residents had the opportunity to hold, stroke and feed all the animals who were brought to the home by "Dave Ewe & Friends".

Our Manager, Marie gave a very informative talk to visitors about the different options for care when thinking about our loved ones.

The eagerly anticipated Village Bake Off took place on Saturday 25 April and we will let you know who were crowned "Mary" and "Paul" in next month's issue.

By the time you read the next issue, work should be well underway with our new refurbishment and we will keep you updated to the progress.

We would like to express our thanks to those who volunteered to help with our gardens and have transformed our vegetable plot and we are always looking for more people to help with any tasks in the garden to help our residents. If you have a spare hour or so please get in contact with us.

We have lots of things to look forward to in June including a photography competition, our Open Day with a barbecue and a talk from "Behind the scenes" in the theatre and welcome everyone to join us with any of our events.

Tea Party at The Maharajah!

It's that time of the year again!

On Bank Holiday Monday 25 May from 12 noon to 4 pm we are holding our now well established annual tea party at The Maharajah restaurant by kind permission of Khalique.

Please come along and support this fundraising event, all the money donated will be shared equally between the Purton Age Concern and The Special Needs Hostel Udaipur.



Last year the money donated bought some much needed tables and chairs for the hostel, which now enables the children to sit at tables to both eat and study instead of sitting on the floor (*see photos*).



This year Professor Garg, who is a volunteer at the hostel, will be present again to share more information about the work of the charity in Udaipur.

We look forward to seeing you on 25 May. There will be a wonderful selection of cakes, scones and Indian delicacies all accompanied by pots of tea or coffee!

TINA, WENDY, KHALIQUE & ASHISH

Purton & District Probus Club



On 10 March an old soldier, Company Sergeant Major Shaun McCormack, introduced us to the origin, functions and duties of "The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard". Having retired from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1992, Shaun was sworn into the Corp of the Bodyguard in the year 2000 and is still serving. He opened his address with jocular reference to some of the misconceptions when the Yeomen parade in public in their traditional uniforms of scarlet and gold: Are they Masons, Morris Dancers or are they about to sing "Gilbert and Sullivan"? Our speaker quickly explained that the Bodyguard has been in continuous service guarding the Monarch for the past 5 centuries.

Henry VII, the first Tudor King defeated Richard III at Bosworth Field in August 1485 thus ending the House of Plantagenet's reign and the Wars of the Roses. By marriage to Elizabeth of York he combined the red of Lancaster with the white of York to create the Tudor Rose. The day following his coronation in Westminster Abbey, on 30 October 1485, he issued an edict that any gentleman who swore fealty to him would be secure in his person and property, effectively creating "The King's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard".

In 1550 the household guard had about 200 members. It is the oldest of the Royal Bodyguards and the only bodyguard corps to carry arms, a sheathed sword and a halberd or partisan (pike). Shaun told of a recent occasion when the halberd was used to trip and bring down a stalker at the Queen's garden party.

The Beefeaters at the Tower of London are an offshoot of the Queen's Bodyguard but their function is as live-in jail wardens. They are salaried and do not carry arms. The ceremonial dress is identical but without the red and gold shoulder belt which once carried a breech-loading gun, the Harquebus. The most recent Colour Standard of the Guard (presented 1985) is of crimson damask and has, in the centre, the Royal Badge – the rose, the thistle and the shamrock together with E.R. and battle honours. At each corner are the emblems of the Royal Houses of Tudor, Stuart, Hanover and Windsor, all served by the Bodyguard.

Members of the corps, about 70 strong, are recruited from ex-servicemen with at least 22 years' service, a record of good conduct and Service Rank from sergeant to Warrant Officer. The Captain of the guard is a government post usually held by the Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Lords, currently Lord Newby. Yeoman Ranks still include "Yeoman Bed Hanger" and "Yeoman Bed Goer" which stem from the time, in the field, when the guard collected straw for the King's bed.

Shaun's talk closed with scenes of the many State Occasions when the Queen's Bodyguard are required to attend. The images, the items of ceremonial dress and the framed documents that were passed around raised our awareness of the importance, to this country, of the Monarchy and its voluntary bodies.

On 24 March Paul Morris, a veteran RAF Wing Commander with 33 years' service gave an informative account of his experience as navigator and in-flight controller of Air to Air refuelling in the Vickers-Armstrong VC10. The civil version of this long-range airliner first flew at Brooklands, Surrey, in 1962. Used initially by BOAC as a passenger carrier, it holds the record for the fastest London to New York crossing for

a sub-sonic aircraft. It began its military service with the RAF in 1965 at Brize Norton, at first as a troop/freight carrier or for aeromedical evacuation.

Converted to an in-flight refuelling tanker it soon became indispensable for long range operational missions, the most significant being the Falklands out of Ascension Island and Iraq/Afghanistan out of Qatar. At the liberation of the Falklands (Operation Black Buck), Vulcan bombers required 7 refuels on the outward trip and one during the return. Victors and VC10s shared the task. The first RAF aircraft, VC10C1 was delivered in 1965.

VC comes from "Victoria Cross" and each aircraft carries the name of a VC medal winner. Initially it was a general-use troop/freight carrier. In 1977 began the conversion to aerial refuelling tankers. Early types were dual purpose with pods to supplement the wing tanks and only two hoses. In the 1990s VC10 K2 and K3 were developed with extra reinforced floors and fuselage tanks which increased the capacity to 85 tons (K2) and with the addition of a tail fin tank to 90 tons (K3). These had the option of a third hose reel behind the fuselage.

Paul joined 101 Squadron at Brize Norton after K2 was out of service but he saw action with K3s and K4s over Iraq, Kosovar, Afghanistan, Libya and during the continuous patrols of the Cold War, mainly over the North Sea, when the "V" Bombers were flying 24/7. Combat condition were often dangerous. Landing at Basra it was necessary to approach at 20,000 ft, descend at 11,000 ft/min and put down at high speed to avoid ground to air missiles. A picture on the internet shows Paul at the Navigation/Fuel Control panel of a K4. K4s were converted with some difficulty from Super VC 10s beginning in 1990 by BAe at Filton.

The talk was illustrated by short videos of the refuelling of Tornados and Typhoons but the most exciting clip was of a pilot's view eyeing along the nose probe of a receiving aircraft as he attempted to dock with the basket at the end of the trailing hose which at times oscillated wildly in the turbulent slip stream of the forward tanker. It needed two attempts!

Retired from RAF Service, VC10K3 ZA147 flew its last flight in September 2013. Paul flew in the penultimate trip from Brize Norton. He was very sorry to see their going because they were extremely reliable aeroplanes. He was once offered the navigator's position in a Canberra, but because the navigator's seat is below the leading tip of the nose, he politely declined.

Purton Probus meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each Calendar Month at 10 am in the Red House lounge.

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.



Tandoori & Balti
Restaurant

6 High Street
Purton, Swindon
Wilts SN5 4AA
01793 770253

Come and join us for good company
and good food at the Maharajah's
Curry night!



**Tuesday
May 12th**

With thanks to Khalique
all Proceeds to ...



Book to avoid disappointment

Contact Wendy on 01793 771749
or Kate on 01793 772930 if you would
like to reserve a place!!

Tickets £15
per head, two
sittings 6:30pm
and 8:00pm

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

for the Prospect Hospice
in memory of Pauline Hall

SATURDAY 6 JUNE

at 16 Church Path
2 - 6 pm

with the Chedworth Silver Band
Refreshments including cream teas
and barbecue etc.

Various stalls and raffle

Do come along and support us.

India link fundraiser Pamper Evening

Henna, Nails, Massage ... and
more!

Friday 12 June
Silver Threads Hall
7 - 10 pm

£5.00 for a ticket
Bucks Fizz on entry

All money raised will go to our
India link Fund
Sophie and Harriett Kell
01793 770217

Personal Assistant required

1 Permanent Part-Time job
23 hr per week
or 2 at 12 hr per week

£9.50 per hr + 6 weeks respite cover
Own car essential – Mileage paid

A lively, outgoing man with mild
Downs Syndrome needs a P.A.
with the same qualities
to help me run my home etc.

Previous experience desirable
but not essential.

**Please call 01793 770065
or 07964 210564**

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Afternoon tea

Monday 25 May

2 - 4 pm at the

Maharajah Restaurant

Come along and enjoy a lovely social afternoon.



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

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 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

Afternoon tea

Monday 25 May

2 - 4 pm at the

Maharajah Restaurant

Come along and enjoy a lovely social afternoon.

Guitarist Richard Durant:

Bach on a Bicycle

7 pm on 17 May, Purton Village Hall

£10 (£8.50 concessions)

available from Cycle Care shop

by phone from 07768 552101;

or online at www.richard-durrant.com

or on the door.

See [page 31](#) for more information

Purton Churches
Together

Invite you to

Story



Craft

Songs

Drinks,
sandwiches
& cakes

The theme this month
is 'Noah'

Sunday 17 May : 4 pm

At St Mary's School, Purton

Parents and children aged 0-11
welcome

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Half day trip

Wednesday 3 June

Bourton-on-the-Water

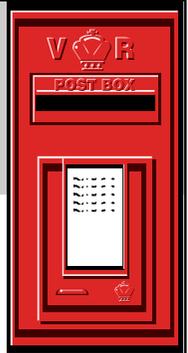
Coach leaves at 11 am

Cost £8 (food not included)

Book your place with
your street warden

PURTON POSTBAG

The Editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However those details may be withheld from being published if so



■ LAST SUPPER

In "Purton Magazine 10 years ago" in your April edition there's a paragraph about the painting of the Last Supper in St Mary's Church. May I correct one or two points in it.

The painting was given to the church by the Dowager Countess of Shaftesbury (not the Countess of Salisbury) whose late husband had been patron of St Mary's with the right to appoint a priest, a right that remained with the Shaftesbury family until the 1960s. After the painting was stolen it was recovered by the Florida police in 1999, the thief having acquired it in 1998. It returned to this country in 2001 so the restoration took 3 rather than 6 years, but a major challenge all the same. It was re-dedicated by the Bishop of Swindon on 4 April 2004.

Hector McLean

■ THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF JOYCE BERRY

We would like to thank everyone for the many cards and letters which we have

received since Mum passed away. So many memories of Mum's life in Purton. Special thanks to all her friends and neighbours for their kindness to Mum.

Shirley and Michael

■ WILD FLOWERS ARE IMPORTANT

For several years Bob and I have watched the cowslips slowly increase by the footpath that runs through the cricket field.

Last year if you had walked that way you would have been treated to an abundant display of this lovely wild flower. Unfortunately not this year, as the cricket club have mowed this piece of natural beauty for a car park.

Hopefully the plants will survive to flower another year. Whoever is responsible for cutting the grass please, please wait a few weeks before mowing next year to give the cowslips a chance to flower and set seeds.

Jo-Anne Stimpson

Knit-A-Square

Following the success of our recent coffee morning I now have the funds to send the following items to Knit-a-Square charity in South Africa:

2297 squares, 175 hats, 218 pairs hand warmers/mittens, 10 scarves, 78 cuddly toys, 35 jumpers/tee shirts, 28 pairs underpants and socks and 1169 stationery items – crayons, pencils, books etc. We have enough money left over to send another shipment at the end of the year so please keep knitting/crocheting those squares.

If anyone would like to join our group please contact me. Thanks again for all your support.

LOUISE TIDMAN, 772558

We Record ...

Baptisms – all at St Mary's Church:

- 15 March Lara Comrie Patton Cuthbert *at St Mary's Church*
29 March Molly Rose Kinsella *at St Mary's Church*

Weddings:

- 21 March Kevin John Clifford Hillsdon
& Carole Elizabeth Glendenning *at St Mary's Church*
4 April Lee Michael Oram & Jessica Anne Worth *at St Mary's Church*

Funerals:

- 16 March Joyce Elizabeth Berry *at St Mary's Church*

Interment of Ashes:

- 23 March Sidney Wheeler *at St Mary's Church*

In Memoriam:

- 20 May 1915 Nelson Caldwell, died aged 21, of wounds received at Battle of Festubert. Buried in Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery, I.D.2. (Flanders, Belgium).
Headstone: "In ever loving memory of our dear son, gone but not forgotten".

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 ...



Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society

The Society will be presenting The Choral work, *Sprig of Thyme* by John Rutter at St Bartholomew's Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett on Monday 13 July at 7.30 pm.

This concert is free admission with a retiring collection.

Wessex Male Choir

The Choir's Summer Concert is at STEAM, Swindon, on Saturday 25 July at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7 pm). Tickets priced £12 are available from In Touch Services, tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk or from 01285 869955. Under-16s are free but must have a ticket.

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are always welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are known or supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. It follows that opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors.

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

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

Purton Diary - May 2015

1	F	1.30pm	<i>to 4pm and 4.45 to 7.15pm:</i> Blood Donor sessions at Village Hall. Details: www.blood.co.uk
<hr/>			
3	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Service at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	M		Early May Bank Holiday
6	W	10.00am 2.00pm	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children Age Concern Mystery Tour with tea included
7	Th		General Election day
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
8	F	9.30am 10.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon Election Results Brunch at The Cedars. All welcome
9	Sa	2.00pm 7.30pm	Purton FC Presentation Night at Red House British Legion Annual Concert at Bradon Forest School
<hr/>			
10	Su		to 16 May: Christian Aid Week
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		9.00am	<i>until 10am</i> Christian Aid Breakfast at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service for Christian Aid at St Mary's Church
11	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
12	Tu	10.00am 11.00am 2.00pm 6.30pm	Purton Probus at the Red House Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Silver Threads Club: <i>Co-op Choir</i> <i>and 8pm (2 sittings):</i> Christian Aid Curry Night at Maharajah
13	W	2.30pm	Talk on Sculpturing and working with Clay at The Cedars. All welcome.
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
16	Sa	8.30am 10.00am	<i>onwards:</i> Christian Aid Cakes, Plants & Bric-a-brac, Top Shops <i>to 12 noon:</i> Plant Sale & Coffee Morning, Silver Threads Hall
<hr/>			
17	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm 7.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Communion at St Mary's Church Messy Church at St Mary's Church Guitarist Richard Durant: <i>Bach on a Bicycle</i> , Village Hall
18	M	10.00am	<i>until 4pm:</i> Dementia Café - Tea & Cakes on The Cedars Front Lawn. All welcome.
		7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Valerie Thelsall - <i>Honeymoon Suitcase!</i>
19	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House

		8.00pm	After 8: <i>Desert Island Discs</i> led by Christine & Helen at Christine's
20	W	12 noon	Christian Aid 3-Course Lunch at Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: John Clark - <i>Underwater Treasure Hunting</i>
21	Th	7.30pm	Le Navet Bete presents Dick Tracy at Bradon Forest Theatre
22	F		Purton Darts League Finals and Presentation Night at Red House
23	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 3pm: Jubilee Gardens Project Open Day</i>

24	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
25	M		Spring Bank Holiday
		12 noon	<i>to 4pm: Age Concern afternoon tea at The Maharajah Restaurant</i>
26	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Lynda Warren - <i>History of Herbs</i>
		2.30pm	Holy Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Carl Sadler - <i>Trug Making by a Miserable Trugger</i>
28	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: Bob Lloyd - <i>Purton Remount Depot at Manor Hill - A Village at War 1914-1918</i>

31	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

June

3	W	11.00am	Age Concern half-day trip to Bourton-on-the-Water
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Every week

Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11am: 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 11am: 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 May ● 11 May ● 18 May ○ 25 May

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

Summer Garden Party for the Prospect Hospice

We promised to let you know final details of the garden party on Saturday 6 June at 16 Church Path which we are running for Prospect in memory of Pauline Hall. She was cared for so lovingly at Prospect and they made such a difference to her last days for her and for her family. As we said before, Nicki wanted to do something to raise money for Prospect and the three of us came up with the idea of the garden party – very fitting as Pauline was involved with so much fundraising at 16 Church Path. Her cheese scones were legendary – no one else makes them quite like her (but if anyone wanted to try and then donate them on the day that would be lovely!)

Originally we were going to start at 12 noon and do lunches but through circumstances we have changed it to a 2 pm start and going on until 6 pm. The Chedworth Silver Band will be entertaining us during the afternoon and we will be serving teas with sandwiches, cakes and cream teas and there will be a barbecue for anyone who enjoys a bacon or sausage butty. We shall have stalls including tombola, plants, cakes, produce, bric a brac, books, a new stall etc, so plenty to look at. We are also having a major raffle with excellent prizes, all donated, including, a Dyson vacuum cleaner, £25 voucher for David Austen roses, 2 MOTs, an 18-hole round of golf for four people, 2 one-hour courts at the Delta Tennis-Centre, a hamper etc, etc. Tickets are on sale beforehand and on the day itself when the draw will be made.

Any donations for this occasion would be greatly appreciated but most of all we would like to see you there. Let's hope for good weather but, if it rains, we are going to transfer to the Village Hall.

NICKI HALL, TONY & SHEILA PRICE, 770696

Purton Historical Society

Thursday 26 March 2015 - Annual General Meeting

Followed by a talk on 'Purton Footpaths in 1744' – Marion Hobbs

Following the business of the AGM there was an official presentation of original 'Inclosure' maps dated 1739 to the Society. These unique and valuable documents were discovered by Mr and Mrs Carter in their home at Bentham Farm and have been to Chippenham for conservation work. They are now displayed in the Purton Museum. Mr Gerald and Mrs Moira Carter attended the meeting and Marion Hobbs thanked them. They were presented with a copy of the book 'Purton's Past' as a token of appreciation from the society.

Following the presentation and a break for refreshments, Marion gave a talk on 'Purton Footpaths in 1744'.

The village is very fortunate to possess maps from different periods. The 1744 map created about the time of the "Inclosures Act" is fascinating with houses marked, fields named and footpaths. A perfect example to use for researching a talk.

The footpath commencing at the Iron Age fort of Ringsbury Camp going south of the village in an easterly direction to the Iron Age Settlement at Ridgeway Farm adjacent to the Old Forresters Arms, Common Platt may date back over 2000 years.

Several footpaths radiate from the church to the far corners of the parish. These



paths would have been used by folk walking to work, visiting family, going shopping and attending church as this was before the advent of canal, railway, bicycle and motorised vehicles. The horse and carriage were for the wealthy using the mile stones for directions to Cricklade, Royal Wootton Bassett, Cirencester and Bath.

The talk will be repeated for the Silver Threads on 10 November 2015.

A detailed article on the research will appear in the Autumn issue of the Bulletin.

MARION HOBBS

Future Dates

Thursday 28 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Purton Remount Depot at Manor Hill – A village at war 1914-18 – Mr Bob Lloyd

On 4 August 1914 mobilisation was ordered as the Country went to war. Another mobilisation not so widely acknowledged is the mobilisation of horses and mules. Huge numbers of these were required to support the Army as it deployed to France and Belgium. To cope with the numbers the Army Remount Service expanded and a Depot was established at Manor Hill run by William Robson and his sons.



The talk on 28 May at the Village Hall will detail how the Army was supported by the mobilisation of horses, and detail the work carried out in Purton as the Depot established itself as a specialist breaker's Depot for problematic horses and mules. An important and not widely researched area of the Great War that happened here in Purton.

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.purtonmuseum.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](#)

Great War Project

Part 22: May 1915

Western Front

On 3 May, a Canadian soldier John McCrae, wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields". He was a field surgeon in the Canadian artillery and in charge of a field hospital during the 2nd Battle of Ypres. His friend and former student, Lt. Alexis Helmer, was killed in the battle, and his burial inspired the poem.

On 9 May, the Allied spring offensive began. French forces attacked in Artois, captured the Lorette heights and advanced on Vimy Ridge. The British attacked further north in support of the French at Aubers Ridge to prevent German troops being moved south beyond the La Bassée canal. No ground was won and no tactical advantage gained -- a total disaster for the British with 11,000 dead or wounded.

The British attack was repeated further south on 15 May when the BEF attacked at the Battle of Festubert (15-25 May). A 60-hour bombardment by 433 guns firing about 100,000 shells preceded the attack, but made little impact on the German Sixth Army's front line defences. The initial advance made some progress in good weather. The attack was renewed on 16 May but by 19 May the British 2nd and 7th divisions (which included the 1st Wilts) had to be withdrawn due to heavy losses.

Nelson Caldwell, born in Purton c.1894, had arrived in France on 19 January 1915 as part of a draft of 128 men joining the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment at Locre (Loker). Between Nelson's arrival date and his death, the 1st Battalion was in the trenches at Locre, Kemmel, La Clyte, Dickebush, Vermezeel and Elzenwalle. He died, aged 21, on 20 May 1915 of wounds received at Festubert. Nelson is buried in Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery (**pictured**), I.D.2. (Flanders, Belgium). His headstone inscription reads "In ever loving memory of our dear son, gone but not forgotten".



On 18 May the Canadian Division and 51st (Highland) Division renewed the advance but made little progress against German artillery fire. The Allied forces entrenched themselves at the new front line while the Germans reinforced theirs. From 20-25 May the attack was resumed and Festubert was captured. The offensive had resulted in a 3km (2 miles) advance.

On 9 May the first British New Army division sailed for service in France.

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

- Charles Lockey, 3rd (Reserve) Battalion Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry.
- Ernest Reuben Hewer, Royal Field Artillery.
- Thomas Norman Hale, Royal Field Artillery.
- Arthur Edgar Ovens, Royal Field Artillery.

Italy: On 13 May, both the Italian Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister resigned in the light of political moves away from the Central Powers towards the Allies. The new government ordered mobilisation on 23 May and declared war on Austria-Hungary. Next day, Italy formally joined the Allies and crossed the Austrian frontier at midnight 24-25 May. Germany immediately cut off diplomatic relations and war was declared between Germany and Italy on 27 May.

The Italian fleet started operations in the Adriatic and the Italian Government announced a blockade of the Austro-Hungarian Adriatic coast. A British naval battle squadron had formed at Malta and joined the Italian Adriatic fleet on 27 May.

Valona (Vlorë) in Albania was formally occupied by Italian forces on 29 May.

Gallipoli Campaign: On 5 May, Ottoman forces began shelling Anzac Cove from a new position behind their lines while, on the 6th, Allied forces tried for the second time to capture the strategic village of Krithia on the peninsula. Little ground was taken after two days of costly fighting and the objective remained out of reach. On 19 May the Ottomans made their third attack on Anzac Cove but were repelled by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Naval losses were also increasing. Between 13 and 27 May, HMS Goliath was sunk by a Turkish destroyer (750 dead) and a German submarine (U21) sank HMS Triumph (78 dead) and HMS Majestic (49 dead).

On 15 May Admiral of the Fleet John Arbuthnot "Jacky" Fisher resigned as First Sea Lord, in frustration over Winston Churchill's Gallipoli campaign. Churchill, himself, resigned as First Lord of the Admiralty on 27 May. Fisher was replaced by Sir Henry Jackson and Churchill by Arthur Balfour on 28 May.

Eastern Fronts: In the east, the Austrians and Germans began their spring offensives against Russia in the Baltic provinces and Galicia.

Russo-Turkish Front: The Battle of Dilman, North Persia, on 15 May was a total victory for the Russians against an Ottoman force of predominantly Kurdish troops. On 19 May, Van, in Armenia, was taken by Russian forces and the Armenian garrison relieved. A Russian Expeditionary Force to West Persia landed at Enzeli on 21 May. Russian forces captured Urmia in North Persia on 24 May.

Africa: South African forces occupied Windhoek in German South West Africa on 13 May, while in East Africa British forces secured control of Lake Nyasa on 30 May. In West Africa, the Siege of Garua in German Kamerun began on 31 May, with French and British forces surrounding the fort.

Politics: On 17 May, Prime Minister Herbert Asquith reorganised his Liberal government as a coalition of all parties with effect from 25 May.

Meanwhile on 7 May, the British Foreign Minister (Sir E. Grey) gave Serbia a conditional guarantee that Bosnia and Herzegovina (Austrian) would be ceded to Serbia after the war.

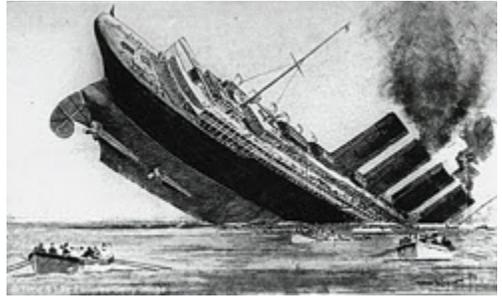
On 24 May, the Entente Governments declared that they would hold Turkish Ministers personally responsible for the Armenian massacres earlier in the year.

China agreed to the Twenty-One Demands of the Japanese on 25 May, and signed agreements regarding Shantung, South Manchuria and Inner Mongolia.

The Lusitania

On 1 May, the American 5,189 ton oil tanker SS “Gulflight” was torpedoed without warning west of the Scilly Isles. She was damaged but reached port. This was the first United States ship attacked by German submarine.

Then on 7 May, the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania, homebound for Liverpool, was torpedoed and sunk by the German U-boat U-20 off the Old Head of Kinsale, Ireland, killing 1,198 civilians, many of them American, en route from New York to Liverpool. This created a US-German diplomatic crisis. In a speech on 9 May, President Wilson defined United States policy in regard to the “Lusitania Outrage” in which he said, “There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight. There is such a thing as a nation being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right”. Britain was alarmed at the lack of threat in this speech, having expected America to declare war immediately.



An artist's impression of the sinking

Wilson sent a subdued note to the Germans protesting about submarine warfare against commercial shipping. An evasive German reply was received with indignation. The pacifist Secretary of State Bryan resigned in the face of potential war, and was replaced by Robert Lansing.

Elsewhere at sea, on 27 May, the British Minelayer HMS “Princess Irene”, a commandeered and converted liner, blew up while being loaded with mines and was destroyed by an internal explosion in Sheerness harbour.

Other

At Quintinshill, Scotland, on 22 May a troop train bound for Liverpool collided with a local train. A north-bound express then hit the wreckage and a fire set off by the trains’ gas coach lighting engulfed two goods trains on adjacent tracks. 226 were killed, mostly troops of the Royal Scots bound for Gallipoli – the highest number of fatalities in a rail accident in the United Kingdom.

31 May saw the first German airship raid on London.

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.

Something to Think About

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Pips Progress



Publicly, it's been a bit quiet on the Community Café front, but behind the scenes the 'core' team have been working hard to move the project forwards.

Following an offer from Wiltshire Council of pre-planning advice, we gratefully accepted and were pleased to find that they could foresee no major issues with our plans to modify the function room at the Purton Club. Since then we have had the plans professionally drawn up, with the generous help of Mike from MJF CAD Solutions, to whom we owe sincere thanks. The plans for improvements to the function room, which will enable us to cater for the needs of local people and visitors to the Community Café, look fantastic. These are now ready to present to the Purton Club Committee for approval, whilst also discussing the terms of the lease of the function room as a community space, for mutual benefit. The outcome of this meeting will be revealed in the next issue of the Purton Magazine and once all parties are in agreement with the proposed changes to the building, the plans will be submitted to Wiltshire Council.

As soon as we are granted permission to carry out the building work, we'll be keen to start so will be looking for local tradespeople to help us out. Our list has already been started by John Butcher, electrical engineer – many thanks John!

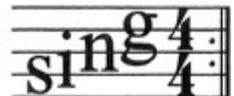
In the meantime, we've been doing more detailed research into sources of funding and are exploring various avenues, from lottery grants, local businesses and community partnerships to crowd funding. As part of our fundraising efforts, we also have a couple of events in the pipeline, details of which will be in the forthcoming issues of Purton Magazine.

As always, offers of help (of all descriptions!) should be sent to Dave Nettleton
Tel: 772298 email: david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Sing 4/4 Community Choir

On Tuesday 31 March, our local Community Choir was delighted to entertain an appreciative audience at the Silver Threads Hall in Purton. The programme included favourite songs from West End shows, plus an opportunity for Community Singing of WW1 and 2 songs. Yes, a little flag waving too! The choir thank members of Silver Threads for treating us all to tea and cakes at the end of the afternoon.

Anyone interested in singing with the choir should contact Mary New on 01793 770630. We rehearse on Thursday evenings in the Jenner Hall, Cricklade at 7.30 pm.



*Cricklade Community Choir
entertain Purton Silver Threads.
Photo: Jan Furze.*

What Purton kids got up to in the fifties!

There were many bird nests in every hedgerow so nesting was always rewarding! Learning all the species, their eggs and nest building methods meant you could identify birds from their nests or eggs. Taking one egg for a collection wasn't frowned upon so most boys had collections. Modern farming methods have somewhat destroyed habitat, and the insects that were their staple diet are very much in decline. Butterfly and moth collections interested some kids, fishing in local streams for sticklebacks, stone loach, newts and fresh water shrimps was a challenge for others.

Being only a handful of years after the war most of us knew our way around guns, knives and other weapons! After all there had been a war in every generation living then, so it was assumed we would fight too. Thankfully we didn't. So war games were played out a lot over fields, woods and any derelict buildings.

Every stream, ditch, pond and lake was home to multitudes of creatures to be investigated, named if possible, with no internet, just eye spy books, encyclopaedias or ask a grown up! So lots of times we were fed misinformation! Most adults thought Red Campion were Ragged Robins for example! We had to learn to double check every bit of information given to us.

As far as I can remember the dinner knives all had sharp edges so your sausages were easy to cut up, unlike the modern serrated edge that struggles with most things! Mind you, penknives were in most boys' pockets, so we learnt to be respectful of them, cuts hurt! Carving and whittling taught us dexterity and amused us on wet days.

Another of the pleasures of boyhood was knocking holes in empty tins, stuffing them with old oily rags, putting a stick through holes in the can, lighting the rags so they smouldered very smokily then running holding the sticks at arms length, you were then a jet fighter, space rocket or whatever you fancied that day! Hitting old car tyres with a stick to keep them rolling around the village was another pastime! Mind you most of the time was spent over the fields and woods, hunting with bows and arrows or catapults with a gang. Free as a bird until hunger drove us home!

Dad was still a boy a heart and we spent much time at the gravel pits at Ashton Keynes, fishing, swimming and playing with model boats made from reeds for hulls, flat stones for keels and fag packets for sails.

We were used to fires, they were in every house and garden! Lighting bonfires were great fun if a bit smelly!

Gardening chores were expected to be carried out, digging, weeding and keeping the bonfire stoked was the main things.

Collecting car number plates must have helped with our writing skills, this had to happen on the main road, even then there was excitement when a vehicle actually came along!

Aeroplane spotting was good. Blake Hill was still open so we could watch the fighters take off and land. Jets were very rare and caused much excitement! One day the Brabazon appeared with maybe eight engines, don't think it ever flew again.

A common sight was chaps with guns and rabbits tied to their belts. They would tell stories of hunting methods and if we were lucky war stories as well!

The village policeman kept us in order riding his bike all over and knowing who was up to what! I didn't have a bike until I was 13, there was no riding on pavements and we all had bells and mudguards! These were checked at school by the policeman.

What we didn't have is any electronic gadgets! A flashlight was as high tech as we got! Rich kids maybe had an electric motor for the Meccano set and an electric train set!

Very few people had a telephone – there were two call boxes, the Beeches phone box number was 363 maybe. No codes! Had to ask the operator to make a non-local call.

So apart from Sundays, when we were not allowed to do anything that would make a noise or upset the deathly silence, there would have been no time in our lives for all the paraphernalia of this age! But would we have liked the Gameboy or PS3? A big yes please to that! But all the old games still go down well with the kids these days ... They have the best of both worlds!

BOB STIMPSON, fifties kid!

Guitarist Richard Durrant: – Bach on a Bicycle

At **7 pm on Sunday 17 May**, one of the world's greatest and most entertaining virtuoso guitarists, Richard Durrant, comes to Purton Village Hall!

Richard, who will be on a nation-wide tour, by bicycle, pedalling up to 100 miles between concerts, and carrying everything on his bicycle, will play his own Cycling Music for guitar, complete with spectacular projected animations.



This amazing guitar show will also include stories of Richard's travels not only to faraway parts of the world, including his adventures in South America, but will also feature a variety of musical styles and pieces, such as JS Bach's mighty D minor Chaconne.

This is an exciting concert coup for Purton and, if you like guitar music, stories, and brilliant entertainment, this is an event not to be missed.

To bring this brilliant guitarist to the Village Hall is the idea of Purton resident John Holland, whose grand daughter Evie Holland will be providing tea and coffee at the event, seeking to raise funds for her Bradon Forest School trip to India.

Tickets for the show, *Guitarist Richard Durrant: Bach on a Bicycle*, at 7 pm on 17 May in Purton Village Hall, are £10 (£8.50 concessions) and are available from the Cycle Care shop in Purton; or by phone from 07768 552101; or online at www.richard-durrant.com; or, on the day, on the door.

This event promises to be a real musical treat for Purton. We look forward to seeing a full Hall.

Purton Lent Lunches

On 25 March, Purton held its final 2015 Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church. Over the 6 weeks we had served 348 lunches to all from the village and beyond. This year the profit is £1,360.00 and this will be divided and sent to 'Tear Fund' and 'The Leprosy Mission' – since 1997 the profit sent to charity has totalled £16,958.94. A huge thank-you goes to all those who have given so generously in so many ways to make this the success it has become.

LINDA, SHEILA, VAL & SYLVIA

Christian Aid Week in Purton: 10-16 May

Please come and join us for as many Christian Aid activities as you can.



We really need your support. All are welcome.

- **Sunday 10 May:** Breakfast in St Mary's Church: from 9.15 - 10 am. £6 cost includes cereals/porridge: sausages : croissants and all sorts of other treats.
- **Sunday 10 May:** Christian Aid Service: 10.30 at St Mary's Church. Please do join us and hear more about the work of Christian Aid. There is a speaker coming especially to talk to us.
- **Tuesday 12 May:** Curry Night at The Maharajah: 6.30 and 8 pm sittings: £15 per person. Contact Wendy for tickets on 771749.
- **Saturday 16 May:** Cakes/Plants/Bric-a Brac/Raffle: Top Shops from 8.30 am. Please come and buy.
- **Wednesday 20 May:** 3-course lunch for £5: 12 noon at the Methodist Church. No need to book, just turn up. Phone 770686 if more details needed.

There will also be the usual Quiz, to tickle the memory and brains

And of course there are the Christian Aid little red envelopes that need distributing and collecting up during the week. If you would like to come and help with that job we would be extremely grateful

LIBBIE (771018) & MARY (770505)

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

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Kibblewhite Close, Proud Close, Reids Piece, The Peak, Willis Way, Long Acre, High Street, College Road and Hooks Hill.*

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or 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.

After 8

Well there is nothing easy about organising a game of “Twenty Questions” for fourteen chattering ladies. With conversation still buzzing it took a while to get us into four groups of three. But still Mary Smith and Christine Gill managed it in the end.



I don't know which was the harder whether being in the team which had to discover the item or the team that was answering their questions. Mary certainly had a job checking up on the number of questions asked. One team was trying to find out the object described as vegetable in origin. On asking the question “is it a flower?”, got the answer “sort of” which completely took them up the garden path to the flower border and not to the vegetable patch to find the cauliflower.

One team trying to find an abstract item on being given the helpful hint that it was a lot of hot air, went in the direction of air balloons and not to the imminent election. All together a very enjoyable evening with a lot of laughs and discussion verging on the slanderous when teams thought that they had been given misleading answers. Other items that had to be discovered included Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the Crown Jewels, Easter Island and even After Eight Mints.

Thank you, Mary and Christine for a great evening.

EVE BOOY

The next meeting is on Tuesday 19 June at 8 pm: Desert Island Discs led by Christine and Helen at Christine's.

Church Floodlighting

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



- 23 April St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Jess (Jessica Sawyer)** on her first anniversary.
A dear daughter, sister, niece and granddaughter.
Dearly loved and sadly missed by all the family
- 18 May St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Dave Binstead**.
Always in our thoughts: for ever in our hearts.
Greatly missed by Dorn and family
- 20 May St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Mary and Pete Simpkins** on their 65th wedding anniversary.
With much love from all the family XX
- 28 May St Mary's will be floodlit, in memory of our Mum, **Nancey Williams**, who died 25 years ago.
With love from all the girls and boy and families.
Still missing you, Mum. You are always in our hearts.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie Sheppard](#).

Two mistakes were made in this column last month and I am grateful to Hector McLean on [page 20](#) for pointing out my errors. Quite apart from replacing

Shaftesbury with Salisbury, the year was incorrect as well. Looking back, the heading might more correctly have read 'in your magazine 11 years ago' – *mea culpa!* So now you can be sure that what follows were indeed included in the May 2005 issue of Purton Magazine.

Just as is happening this month, the forthcoming General Election was being anticipated back in May 2005 with the observation that the arguments between the parties were often enough to put people off voting – sadly so little seems to have changed 10 years later.

Voting of a different kind was also taking place 10 years ago – but this time in secret and only by a very select group of Cardinals in Rome, following the death of Pope John Paul II. Since then there have been two more Popes and the current incumbent, Pope Francis, succeeded Pope Benedict XVI on 13 March 2013.

10 years ago, Purton Magazine also carried an article about the benefits of trees that highlighted numerous interesting points such as that a large tree can release up to 400 gallons of water into the atmosphere and that larger trees remove 60 to 70 times more pollution than smaller trees. So next time we admire any of the wonderful views available from so many points in Purton, it may be worth remembering the importance as well as the attractiveness of all those larger trees visible in each vista.

FRANCIS SHEPPARD

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

Barn Dances

Wroughton Support Group is a small committee of 3 who help to raise funds locally for Prospect Hospice in Wroughton. Hilary Fleming volunteers at the Hospice at weekends and her 2 friends have sadly both lost their husbands, who were cared for by Prospect.

In the last 3 years they have held 6 Barn Dances and raised over £3,800. These dances appeal to all ages, all abilities and have been a lively and fun way of raising money. As the last 3 dances have sold out they are trying to expand their venues.

- 18 July 2015 at Marlborough Football Club, Marlborough. £9 a ticket. This is the first dance they have held in Marlborough.
- 10 October 2015 at Ridgeway School, Wroughton. £8 a ticket. This is a new larger venue as the last 3 at The Ellendune centre have sold out.

Both will have a live band and caller, a bar and a raffle. There will also be a free to enter icebreaker quiz on the tables, your chance to win something delicious! The atmosphere is informal and friendly. Wear comfy shoes and be prepared to get out of puff!

For tickets/details contact Hilary on 01793 813069 or hilaryfleming@live.com

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

A short month this time with the Easter break.

2nd Purton Brownies completed the Cookafun pizza making challenge. They started their meeting an hour early to make sure all the pizzas were cooked for judging. The previous week the Brownies had chosen which base they wanted, the tomato sauce they preferred and which toppings they would like. They had to make the pizza from scratch and at the end of the evening it was a hard job choosing a winning pair. However, Summer and Grace were the winners going through to the next round of the competition.

1st Purton Brownies held an Irish evening to celebrate St Patrick's Day which included wearing green, completing a quiz, playing games and tasting soda bread.

Easter was marked in various ways: Guides made wooden decorations, 1st Purton Brownies made woven Danish heart baskets which they then filled with eggs and 2nd Purton Brownies said goodbye to Jessica who was leaving them. They had an egg hunt and made animals/monsters from a Creme Egg, icing and marshmallows.

Guides rounded off the term with a fabulous trip to The Golfing Hole (an indoor crazy golf centre). There were some rogue shots but a few holes-in-one were managed.

The two Brownie units got together with Brownies from Cricklade and Minety for a sleepover at Boomerang soft play centre in Melksham at the end of term. Brownies and Leaders alike wore themselves out on the play equipment and sleeping at the bottom of the big slides was very exciting!

1st Purton Brownies are pleased to welcome Beth as a helper. Beth is helping out to complete the service element of her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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 Guide Dogs

Just to say I will be having a stall at Bowood Charity Dog Show next month. This will be their tenth and the final one of this kind.

Thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



Cricklade Country Market

The Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 29 May 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 & District Gardeners' Guild



A last minute hospital admission forced our March speaker to cancel his visit and so we were both relieved and delighted when Jenny Tidman from Malmesbury Garden Centre stepped into the breach at short notice. Jenny is a popular regular speaker at our meetings and her topic on this occasion was 'Summer flowering bulbs, rhizomes and corms'.

Before explaining the planting methods for the different types, Jenny discussed some of the problems associated with growing bulbs etc. along with suitable pesticides and fertilisers to ensure successful growing.

Their lush growth is like a magnet to slugs and once the first fresh shoot is eaten, the bulb is almost certainly finished for that year. It's therefore essential to protect them with a slug deterrent. Metaldehyde is one of several chemical based slug pellets that may well kill the slugs, but also have been known to kill or harm other species in the garden including insects and birds and even household pets like cats and dogs.

On the other hand, Slug Gone, wool slug pellets, are a totally safe and organic way of getting rid of slugs and snails without killing them. They are formed from the dags of sheep and benefit from the addition of phosphorous, potassium and nitrogen. As soon as water is added the fibres swell to form a barrier that irritates the slug's foot and causes it to seek easier feeding elsewhere.

To prevent attack by ants and other insects, crushed fossils can be applied to the ground around the plants, whilst Bug Clear, a contact pest killer, quickly eliminates any insects when applied as a drench on plants. It works as a systemic, by going into the plant's leaves and moving in the sap stream protecting the plants for weeks to come. The application of a fungicide is also beneficial to control fungal disease.

Jenny explained that most bulbs have enough energy to flower. The flowers are formed from the goodness in the dead stems from the previous year's growth. For that reason, only the flower heads should be cut off when they die, **not** the stems, and the plant should then be fed. This will ensure that the bulb will flower the following year. VITAX Q4 is an all-purpose pelleted fertiliser containing all the vital plant food for vigorous growth with the application of one pellet being considered sufficient to feed container plants for 6 months.

Jenny's continued her talk whilst demonstrating how to plant the various bulbs, rhizomes and corms.

She explained that *Gladioli* corms should always be planted at a depth at least 3 times the size of the corm, with a layer of vermiculite below, and a layer of grit above, to mark where they are until growth emerges. Secured deep in the ground you are less likely to need to stake the plant. To extend the flowering period, she recommends planting over a period of weeks.

Orientalis lilies are produced from rhizomes that are stem feeding, producing supporting roots along the stem as they grow. For that reason, they need banking i.e. the addition of more soil, to accommodate the supporting roots. They should be planted in 1/3 pot of soil with the addition of 2" vermiculite with the tip of the rhizome just showing in the vermiculite and then topped with a layer of soil.

The same method applies to the rhizomes of the *Canna Indian Shot* whose name is believed to derive from the Turkish sieges in the 11th century, when it is reputed that the hard, solid seeds of the plants were used as a substitute when the army ran out of cannon shot.

Dahlia tubers should be planted 4-6 inches deep ensuring that each section has a root and shoot. They should be staked as required and shoots pinched out to promote bushiness. Keep well watered and feed regularly to promote flowers. They should be cut to the ground after the first frosts and in mild areas can be left in the ground covered with garden compost to protect them, although in colder areas, or on heavy soil, they should be lifted, dried off and stored until the next season.

The flowers of *Ranunculus* develop from bulbs that should be planted about 2" deep after they have been immersed in warm water for 1 day to allow them to swell. This process should be extended for another day if there has been no movement in that time. If no swelling occurs then the bulb is almost certainly dead.

Nerines and *Amaryllis* can be planted straight into the ground, whilst *Habrunthus*, an autumn flowering rockery bulb, should be planted now in gravel in a sunny position.

Once again Jenny's talk highlighted her vast horticultural knowledge which she acquired whilst serving as an apprentice in the gardens of Hampton Court.

Tony Price offered a vote of thanks for what he considered was one of the most enjoyable and informative of talks.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 26 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall, when Carl Sadler will be presenting a talk entitled '*Trug making by a Miserable Trugger*'. The competition will be '*One spray of blossom*'.

MOIRA WHITE (Chair) and MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)

Allotment To Let

There is an allotment vacant in the quarry off Church Path – could be shared. Further details – 770696.

Purton Bowls Club

Work throughout the winter is always tough on our members who look after the green, and once again it looks magnificent. They do a fantastic job under the guidance of Graham Price, and we thank them all for their efforts.



We have now started our 2015 season with friendly matches and the first of our league matches in the Swindon & District and Wiltshire Leagues. For a small club we have some big matches to play throughout the season, and our players are kept very busy. I will keep you up to date with our progress throughout the season.

It was heartening to see that we have had an influx of new members joining this year and hopefully they will progress well with our two coaches Vic Austin and Andrew Davie who are running the Friday evening coaching courses. These courses can be joined at any time, and anybody interested can either turn up at the green after 6.30 pm on a Friday or ring me on 778119 for further information.

PETER BERRY

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The Easter Cricket Camp for girls and boys aged 8 to 13 was very successful and the club welcomed several newcomers whom we hope will become members.

According to Wisden published on 19 April 2015 a survey revealed that 64,000 fewer people are playing cricket at grass roots level. Purton CC is doing all it can to encourage people to take up the sport while young and to continue playing after leaving school. Please come and support the teams this summer which we hope will be both a successful and enjoyable one.

May Fixtures at Purton

2 nd	Great Bedwyn	2 nd XI	1.30	23 rd	Marlborough	1 st XI	1.30
3 rd	Corsham	U13	2.00	24 th	Malmesbury	U11	10.30
9 th	Winsley	1 st XI	1.30	24 th	Chippenham	U15	2.00
16 th	Westbury	2 nd XI	1.30	25 th	Burbage	U13	2.00
17 th	Swindon	U13	2.00	30 th	Devizes	2 nd XI	1.30

From The Archives

Wilts Glos Standard 27 July 1861

A match which usually produces an excellent contest will be played at Purton on Wednesday next, the 31st inst. between elevens of different professions. Mr Gough, the photographer, is coming to Purton with his apparatus where he will doubtless find many interesting subjects and groups to exercise his skill.

PS. If anyone has any information about Mr Gough I would be very pleased to receive it.

JOE GARDNER



The club held a very successful and enjoyable 'Bingo night' at the Red House Club on Saturday 28 March. Thanks to Rachel Williams, our Social Secretary, for organising this event which has become a popular addition to our social calendar. Thanks also to the caller, John Lilley, and the Red House Club for hosting the event.

Our 'Easter Camp' enjoyed mixed weather, the first week being rather windy and chilly but the second saw warm temperatures and blue skies. Twenty-five children enjoyed the varied drills and competitions and it is hoped that those not already members will join us this season.

By the time you read this the Swindon & District Summer League will have commenced and it is hoped that the weather will allow us to get off to a good start. Membership numbers are about at the same level as last year and everyone is looking forward to an enjoyable summer season. There is plenty of room for more players so come and join us!

The 2nd tournament for the Khalique Cup takes place on Sunday 3 May and I will report on the results next month.

NICOLA GARDNER

Tennis Truth

I love the winning, I can take the losing, but most of all I love to play. *Boris Becker*

On The Lighter Side

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other, except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her wardrobe that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

All of those years, he had never thought about the box, but one day, the little old woman became very ill and the doctor said she would not recover. Trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside.

She agreed it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totalling £50,000.

He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll."

The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

"Darling," he said, "that explains the dolls, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?"

"Oh," she said. "That's the money I made from selling the dolls."

Last year, I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double-glazed energy efficient ones. But this week, I got a call from the contractor complaining that his work had been completed a whole year ago and I had yet to pay for them.

Boy, oh boy, did we argue! But I'm not stupid, you know. So, I proceeded to tell him just what his fast-talking salesman had told me. He said that in just 12 months the windows would pay for themselves.

There was silence on the other end of the line, so I just hung up, and he hasn't called back. Guess he was embarrassed.

The local radio was interviewing an 80-year-old lady marrying for the 4th time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years.

After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining she had first married a banker when she was in her 20s, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40s, and a vicar when in her 60s, and now, in her 80s, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!"

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



The AGM was held in March and there was a stir in the air. Undoubtedly there will be changes made – for example, should the minutes be read at the meeting, displayed via our laptop or sent out beforehand? And, of course, far more important matters will appear on the agenda now and then, and keep the Committee on their toes. Spare a thought for the new President having to cope with all this.

Thanks went to Jane for organising the Quiz – the winner was Val Walker. Congratulations to Val – I find these puzzles fascinating but incredibly difficult, don't you? They must take hours of brain-strain to organise.

We have a good mixed programme for the coming year in which the Purton Bell Ringers are a part (October meeting). This is always fun – I had many years with the Lydiard group but being the clumsiest member, I inevitably knocked the music stands flying at some point in the programme. If you would like to try hand bell ringing, here's your chance. We play skittles and other games in a league as well as playing 'friendlies' amongst ourselves and with other WIs.

But WI isn't just a club for happy days: we have serious intent too, and can achieve national importance – and I didn't mention any politician but we know what we can do! Will anyone be brave enough to speak next month against the National Resolution – 'We call on HM Government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing'. It would be good to have a percentage of young Purton members who have an interest in the community and could join in the discussion. (Equally, you would surely enjoy the Open Meeting in June, on "Theatrical and Everyday Make-up".)

The subject for 20 May is "Underwater Treasure Hunting" by John Clark, and visitors are welcome, for a small fee. The competition table should be overwhelmed with items – you have never let us down when it came to interesting curiosities, especially if family-orientated. Truly, one could write a book on the knowledge tucked away in the minds of our members!

So here's to a good summer with the Women's Institute under the presidency, for the second year, of Mrs Jane Smith!

CONSTANCE REED, tel. 771571

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