

Purton Magazine

PURTON CARNIVAL

“WILD WEST”

CARNIVAL EVENTS 2015

Sat 25 th April	Hoedown Night	Village Hall	7.30pm
Sun 14 th June	Carnival Golf	Oaksey Golf Club	10.00am
Sat 20 th June	Adults 6 A Side Football	Bradon Forest Field	10.00am
Sat 20 th June	Aunt Sally	Royal George	6.00pm
Sat 20 th June	Under 18's 6 A Side	Bradon Forest Field	10.00am
Tue 23 rd June	Poker Night	Royal George	7.30pm
Sat 27 th June	Pig Roast & BBQ	Angel Pub	4.00pm
Sun 28 th June	Afternoon Fun Run	Village Hall Car Park	4.00pm
Tue 30 th June	Teddy Bears Picnic	Purton Club	1.30pm
Tue 30 th June	Carnival Quiz	Purton Club	7.30pm
Wed 1 st July	Carnival Bingo	Silver Threads Hall	7.30pm
Thur 2 nd July	Carnival Crib	Angel Pub	7.30pm
Fri 3 rd July	Carnival Lunch	Royal George	12noon
Sat 4 th July	Carnival Fete	Purton House Farm	12 -6pm
Sat 4 th July	Carnival Procession	Starting at Ringsbury 1pm	

Post-Carnival Events

Wed 23 rd Sept	Bingo	Silver Threads Hall	7.30pm
Wed 2 nd Dec	Christmas Bingo	Silver Threads Hall	7.30pm

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND FROM:

ANDREW HISCOCK BUTCHERS, ANGEL PUB, ROYAL GEORGE
& PURTON CLUB

WWW.PURTONCARNIVAL.CO.UK

HIGH STREET CLOSED

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 1PM - 3PM

June 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	Deborah Lawrence	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

And it was soon over! Writing this a week or so after the General Election, it already seems like a distant memory. Broadly everything was conducted properly and many of the defeated candidates were even gracious in their post declaration speeches, however surprising the results might have felt, especially in the face of all those misleading pre-election polls. Despite all the surprises of the day itself, we are indeed fortunate to live in a democracy.

All of which is in complete contrast to the Wild West theme of this year's Purton Carnival. Even if the frontier stories about the conquest, creation and then defence of communities across America with notorious outlaws were apparently exaggerating the romance and violence, what better theme to stir the imagination for our Carnival? There are several changes to the Carnival this year and the many events are listed on our front cover. The Carnival procession will start from Ringsbury and end near the Purton House farm shop where the Carnival itself will be held. The new location provides an opportunity for a bigger event. More details can be found on pages 28 and 29.

It is always good to see so many Purton youngsters getting involved in the Carnival and in the magazine we learn that the way the youth services provided by Wiltshire Council has recently changed. The Council now allocates funds to the Area Boards for them to grant money to 'Providers of Positive Activities for Young People'. That means that groups and communities can decide what is best for young people in their area and apply for grants – more details are on page 9.

Activity Week this year is between 10 and 14 August. On page 50 there is an appeal for more volunteers with any skills that could be shared with children to join in and help out. Volunteering with children is both stimulating and satisfying as most parents will testify – the advantage is that when volunteering, you can hand the children back to the organisers afterwards! Maybe the Purton Entertainers could be approached to help out because, on page 23, we learn that they managed to perform *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* with a cast of three.

Recently a Microsoft engineer noticed that a customer had set a new password that read "*docdopeybashfulgrumpysneezyasleepyhappybashfulLondon*" before remembering that their web site required all passwords to have seven characters and a capital!

14th

June is the 'Great British Tennis Weekend' at Purton Tennis Club
– see page 56

70+

written responses to the St Mary's church renewal proposals
– see page 42

275

years ago John Wesley first visited Purton
– see page 45

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Distribution enquiries only:

Francis Sheppard (771018)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



A New Clerk – Deborah Lawrence

I now feel after a few months in post that I can introduce myself as the New Clerk with some reassurance that I have managed to master the basics of the village with the help of the extremely knowledgeable and hard working Councillors and excellent staff. I welcome all residents, although please not all at once, to pop into the office and say hello or give me a call.

I will however, be taking part in the Purton Carnival (Wild West, 4 July), with other staff members, so if I don't get to see you beforehand, you will see me in a different guise on the day, "The new sheriff has arrived".

“There's no such thing as a Dog Poo Fairy”

A competition run in Purton has received a good response to create a story highlighting the Dangers of Dog Mess.

Purton Parish Council has awarded book tokens to the following through a grant. The winning stories will be published in future issues of Purton Magazine and can be seen on our website. Thank you to all those who took part.

Joint 1st prize in the adult category goes to

Mr R Whelan and Mrs J Walker

1st prize in the children's category goes to

Jonathan Priddle age 13

2nd prize in the children's category goes to

Dina Geronikolos age 13

3rd prize in the children's category goes to

Lewis Swatridge age 12

Purton Cemetery Path – The pathway renovations are well underway. I am pleased to advise that we did not have to remove any headstones to carry out the works as originally thought. A great relief to all involved. Works have been put on hold for a few weeks due to contractor timings, but the pathways are all accessible. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact our offices direct.

Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing

Due to contractor delays we were unable to start the planned resurfacing works at the Village Hall car park. As soon as new dates are available we will advise all hirers, put notices up and also advertise on our website. Thank you for your patience.

Purton Youth Council

The Council are keen to create a Youth Council to involve the younger members of our community in projects and plans for the village.

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 in the Parish?

If so 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 – The works are well underway. Thank you to all the children and parents for your patience.

Be Tick Aware 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 is available on the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk. Leaflets are also available from the Parish Council offices.

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.

Planning Applications approved, with conditions by Wiltshire Council:

N15/00142/FUL	6 The Fox: Proposed front extension and replacement garage.
N13/00507/FUL	22 Station Road. Erection of five dwellings, access and parking (Resubmission of 09/01848/FUL).
N14/10132/FUL	Mandrea, The Hyde: Demolish existing dwelling, erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage.
N15/00228/FUL	18 Pear Tree Close: Front porch.
N14/11425/OUT	Land South of 3 Common Platt: Erection of dwelling (All Matters Reserved).
N15/00435/FUL	Woodside Farm Braydon: Erection of loft conversion with rear dormer and lights to front.
N15/00587/FUL	Forest View 29 Queen Street Braydon: Demolition of existing detached garage and erect two-bay garage and workshop/store with office above.
N15/00607/TPO	3 Long Acre: Fell 2 beech trees, 20% crown reduction and branch tip reduction of up to 5 metres to 3 beech trees. Crown lift 7 beech trees to 6 metres from ground level.
N15/1500098/FUL	20 The Common, Locks Lane: Double garage.
N15/00696/FUL	51A The Hyde: Single storey rear extension.
N15/00746/FUL	Clardon House, Clardon Lane: Single storey rear extension.
N14/10939/FUL	LPG Depot Purton Industrial Estate, Mopes Lane: Change of use of existing liquefied petroleum gas storage and distribution yard to General Industrial (B2) Storage or Distribution (B8) and LPG Storage and Distribution Use.
N15/00539/FUL	Plain Farm, B4696 Oaklands North to Braydon Road Crossroads Lydiard Plain: Grid Connection Cable route (option A, B and C).
N15/01053/FUL	No Parish Bungalow, Braydon: Erection of replacement dwelling and double garage, reposition vehicular and pedestrian access. (Revision of 14/10400/FUL).

N15/01133/FUL 20 Willowbrook: Rear single storey extension replacing existing conservatory.

N15/01134/FUL 51 Pavenhill: Side extension.

Refused Applications:

N14/11695/FUL 55 Pear Tree Close: Two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and removal of existing garage.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

Youth Provision in Wiltshire – Positive Activities for Young People

Last year the way youth services are provided by Wiltshire Council changed. Instead of the council providing the service at a number of youth centres across the county to a relatively low number of young people in our communities, the council allocated funding to the Area Boards to grant money to Providers of Positive Activities for Young People. This means, in principal, that groups and communities can decide what is best for their young people in their own areas and apply for the grants from the Area Boards to help support them in delivering the activities.

Part of the process is to identify what the young people need in each community, hence Local Youth Networks (LYNs) have been set up comprising young people and adults from the community who will identify the need, and decide who to recommend for the funding. The RWB LYN has already been set up and work is now taking place to set up the Cricklade and Purton LYN.

We are fortunate in Purton to have a number of existing groups which young people attend, the uniform groups, the sports groups, young farmers, Church youth club etc. all of whom may wish to look in the future to apply for the funding we have in our community area. However the purpose of the funding is to support additional positive activities for young people who may not normally attend the existing groups. There is a 'toolkit' to download if you are interested in knowing more - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/toolkit-activities-for-young-people.pdf

Locally in Purton, this change in the service has resulted in Wiltshire Council handing back to Purton Parish Council the youth centre at Reids Piece hence the future of the building and whether it will continue to be used as a youth club will now be decided by the Parish Council.

Councillor JACQUI LAY, Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon

News from The Trustees

Village Hall

We are hoping to install a loop system in the Village Hall which will include a public address system. Our idea is to make it simple so that, at the touch of a switch, it will all work and the use of it will be included in the cost of the hall when you hire it. For people who do not know what a loop system is, it caters for people with hearing aids. You just press a button on your hearing aid and you are tuned in but, of course, the speaker system must be on. There is one snag and that is the cost, which is around £5,000. We have had three estimates and the firm we chose is the one that fitted a loop system in St Mary's Church. We have had advice on what we have chosen to do. If any club or person would like to make a donation it would be most welcome – either contact Teresa at the Council Office or myself.

Another project that is going to happen is the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park. When the contractors' work on the paths in the cemetery is finished, they will move to the Village Hall or they may fit the work in between.

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

The football season has ended with Purton finishing well up the league. I would presume next year they will be hoping to run a second team, keeping some of the players from the under sixteens who won their league – congratulations to them. Could I just add here how nice the pitch always looks – it is a credit to the football club's groundsman.

The Tennis Club's summer season will be well under way when you read this – mind they did well with their winter league performance. It is a good sign for the future with all the coaching they do, bringing on the younger players so we wish them well and hope they enjoy their tennis.

It is the same with the Bowls Club like the Football Club – the people who look after the green and surrounds are to be complimented for the way it all looks. In the pavilion we have replaced some windows, added blinds and curtains plus water heaters over the hand basins in the toilets and the Bowls Club have decorated and steam cleaned the carpet tiles so the inside is looking as nice as the outside, so we hope they have an enjoyable season.

It is very appropriate that we stop and think why the Village Centre is there for us all to enjoy because at this time we are remembering VE day 70 years ago and the Red House first and foremost is a memorial to the men who gave their lives in the 1939-45 war. It is a living memorial with all the activities that go on there so why not make sure it continues and get involved in all that goes on there.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Obituaries

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

Purton & District Age Concern



At the start of our recent committee meeting, we had a very informative talk by Marie Cranfield – Manager of The Cedars care home. Marie has only been manager for 6 months but has already implemented several positive changes at the home. She is passionate about her future plans for improving the lives of the people who live in The Cedars. One thing she would like to see is the local community getting involved by attending events held there. Marie gave us leaflets to distribute with details of events in May and June. She said that all local people are invited to The Cedars coffee morning held every Friday morning from 10 am - 12 noon. Thanks Marie for attending our meeting. We wish you well with your future plans and look forward to seeing you again for an update.

Our Family Fun Day due to be held on Sunday 14 June has been put on hold. We are hoping to hold this event at a later date and will let you know as soon as possible when we have more details. Sorry for any confusion this decision has caused.

Mick and Ali have been successful in finding us a new treasurer. We are happy to announce that Charlotte Griffin will be taking over from Colin and Sylvia very soon. She has met with Colin and Mick to discuss what the job entails, and they didn't manage to put her off! Our thanks go to Charlotte for volunteering and to Mick and Ali for "persuading" her to join Age Concern.

FUTURE EVENTS

Half day trip – Wednesday 3 June to Bourton-on-the-Water, leaving the village at 11 am. Food is 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 – 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.

Full Day Trip – Wednesday 1 July. We are going to Stratford-upon-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 and 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

May Mystery Tour – We have seen an increase in numbers attending our mystery tours again this year which is good news. The recent tour was in The Cotswolds,

taking in Bibury, Burford, Stow-on-the-Wold, Toddington, Broadway then on to Dumbleton where an excellent tea was served including sandwiches, homemade scones with strawberries and cream followed by assorted cakes and numerous cups of tea. The return trip took in Winchcombe, Cheltenham and Cirencester. Forty people went on the trip and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. The next mystery tour will be in September with tea included, more details nearer the time.

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 and 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.

Introducer Service – The list of products and service offered by Age UK Enterprises has been amended recently. They now offer: Home Insurance, Car Insurance, Travel Insurance, Gas & Electricity, Funeral Plans, Annuity Service, Equity Release Advice Service, Hearing Aids, Personal Alarms, Stairlifts and Bathing Aids. For further information and/or a quote please contact Age UK on 0800 032 6476. If you would like a product and services leaflet please contact Louise on 772558.

LOUISE TIDMAN

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

OFFERED: Old, sound, rustic chair complete with material necessary to restore rush seat. Would suit anyone who wants to try their hand at this ancient skill. Phone 772007 for more information.

OFFERED: Eckman 24V rechargeable cylinder mower complete with battery and charger unit. Less than two years old. Good condition. Tel: Mark 770593 or email mark@mjfcadsolutions.co.uk. Small donation to charity appreciated.

OFFERED: Kitchen beech wood high stool with padded top seat. Excellent condition. Tel: Mark 770593 or email mark@mjfcadsolutions.co.uk.

OFFERED: Heavy duty mould to make stone-effect wall. Tel: Mark 770593 or email mark@mjfcadsolutions.co.uk.

OFFERED: Kitchen foldaway step stool with wooden seat. Tel: Mark 770593 or email mark@mjfcadsolutions.co.uk.

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

News from The Cedars

Last month we held our election brunch on Friday, 8 May with residents reading all the latest election results with their mid morning Bucks Fizz and Croissants. We also held our own in-house voting campaign to vote for the Employee of the Month.



Our Bake-off competition winning cake was a delicious Lemon Drizzle Cake baked by Betty Adams and enjoyed by all the residents and friends. Our resident guinea pigs now have a new home – a Gipsy Caravan. Their hutch has been made out of a recycled wardrobe thanks to our handyman. May also saw our Dementia Café held on our front lawn with residents being joined by friends and family for tea and cakes. The Cedars “Official Bus Stop Opening” ceremony will have taken place as we go to press so will report back next month.

June events to look forward to:-

Friday, 19 June, 2 - 5 pm

National Care Home Open day – wild west afternoon planned and BBQ – everyone welcome.

Friday, 26 June, 2.30 pm

“Behind the Scenes” – a talk from Keith Walker on what really goes on in the theatre – everyone welcome.

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

Befriending Service: 01380 727767



Could you give a few hours a week to bring a smile to an older persons face?

The Befriending Service helps tackle social isolation by linking older people with local volunteers who will visit or phone them regularly.

Our volunteers really enjoy the contact, and this can vary from a chat in the client's home, a trip out for a coffee, or going along to a local community event: it just depends on the people involved, like any relationship.

It is important to link people who will enjoy each other's company and the befriending support worker will match you carefully to ensure this happens.

Volunteers will receive training and ongoing support as well as travel expenses. All volunteers are subject to a free DBS check.

Could you volunteer?

Please contact one of the befriending team for a chat on 01380 727767 or go to our website www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk for more information.



Uplands Education Trust - Tadpole Lane



Community Governors

We currently require four community governors to join our governing body and I would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of Uplands Education Trust;
- business management, human resources, finance, health and safety skills and any work place/industry links to get disabled young adults into work;
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community;
- an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and join in debate;
- the equivalent of two evenings per month spare time;

Community governors are important to the strategic management of Uplands Educational Trust as they broaden the experience and skill base of the governing body and can bring objectivity and a fresh pair of eyes to the issues we face.

Uplands Educational Trust admits pupils with severe or profound disabilities and multiple learning difficulties. Many students have additional needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), visual or hearing impairments or complex medical needs. A few pupils are looked after by the local authority and the Trust is a sizeable business in its own right and will continue to grow rapidly. The purpose of the charity is to provide high quality education and learning opportunities for young people with special needs. Uplands Educational Trust in partnership with Uplands School are committed to meeting the needs of disabled young people and their families. It is recognised by both the Trust and the School that these complex needs do not cease at 19 years of age. The Uplands Educational Trust (UET), in partnership with Uplands School, will meet the needs of complex learners 19 - 25 years in Swindon and the surrounding areas and will provide unique, exceptional and innovative Learning, Working and Living provisions.

Being a member of the governing body of the school is similar to being on the management board of such a business and we recognise that some of your members are likely to have the skills and experience we need.

Please don't be put off by thinking that you have to have specialist expertise or knowledge. Enthusiasm and interest is much more important to start with and there is tried and tested training and support available to help you throughout the four years term of office. And remember, you will be supported by fellow governors with many years of combined experience.

I would like to stress that being a governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. Schools are interesting places and education is right up there at the top of the list of topics of conversation. It can give you quite a lift when people ask and respect your opinions about matters in the news.

Serving as a governor will give you a good understanding and keep you well informed about current policy and practice regarding the further education of Students. If you are interested and would like to apply or would like to know more before committing yourself then why not first have an informal chat with our Clerk, Mrs Heather Large who can be contacted via e-mail h.m.large@btopenworld.com.

JACKIE SMITH, Executive Head Teacher



George Stokes in Year 9 and Katherine Moyse in Year 8, together with Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Dickson went on a unique education programme and Battlefield Tour in Belgium and Northern France. The First World War Centenary battlefield Tours Programme, funded by the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government, is designed to help teachers and students from every state funded school in England teaching Key Stage 3 and/or 4 to develop a deeper understanding of the Great War.

Students from Bradon Forest, as well as fifteen other schools joined a four-day tour to the Western Front accompanied by professional battlefield guides and serving soldiers. During the tour students attended The Last Post Ceremony in Ypres. They also visited museums, battlefield sites, memorials and cemeteries including the Commonwealth War Grave sites of the Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium and Thiepval Memorial in the Somme, France. Going out to the battlefields and seeing the landscape and the history of the war made it easier for students to visualize the scale of the war and the lives lost.

The two students had won a school competition to gain their place on the trip. After their return part of their brief was to ensure that they share their experiences with other students through assemblies and presentations to local Primary Schools.

Humanities Trip to the USA: In April, 51 students from Year 10 and 11 visited the USA. Initially they flew to a very chilly Washington DC, with some of the lowest recorded temperatures in years hitting the nation's capital. They visited the White House and Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Time was spent at the Lincoln memorial, before taking in the Dr Martin Luther King memorial, where Humanities



Teacher, Miss Mazelin led an emotional reflection on his, "I have a Dream" speech.

Then it was on to New York, via Philadelphia to see Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Students enjoyed the time spent on the road trip making new friends and watching the countryside roll by from the windows of the bus. We made the most of the

Big Apple, first with a visit to the Empire State Building at night – the city stunningly lit up against the cold night sky – and ticked off a variety of must-sees including Central park, Grand Central Terminal, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, Rockefeller Center and 5th Avenue. Our students were very moved by the memorial to 9/11 at Ground Zero, something we prepared for and learned about during our lunchtime meetings prior to the trip. All showed a quiet respect for the victims of the tragedy and a great level of maturity and empathy was demonstrated by the group. At all times the students were a pleasure to spend time with, and a real credit to the school and to their parents, so much so that we were complimented on a number of occasions.

Open Visits

We welcome parents and pupils in Year 5 to come and visit our school:

- Open Evening - Thursday 2 July - 6 pm to 8 pm.
- Open Morning - Monday 6 July - 9.15 am to 10.30 am.

For Year 5 information, or admission in any other year groups, please contact: Admissions, Mrs Emma Hayden, 01793 770570 or visit our website www.bradonforest.org.uk

Wiltshire Volunteers' Week Celebration 2015

Join local charities and voluntary groups to celebrate the amazing contribution of volunteers in our community. Volunteer Centre Wiltshire is hosting a special session of their Volunteer Manager's Network open to everyone and dedicated to those who give their skills and time throughout the year.

This celebration will showcase: Wiltshire's amazing volunteers demonstrating and sharing their skills; Information about local charities and groups in your area; New opportunities for you to get involved with as a volunteer; Music, food, dancing ... and much more!

This is a special opportunity to thank those who make Wiltshire a better place to live every day.

When? Thursday 4 June 2015, 9.45 am - 1.30 pm

Where? Salisbury Methodist Church Hall, St Edmund's Church St, SP1 1EF
This event is FREE, Refreshments included.

For more information please visit www.developeps.org.uk/VMN4JUN or call us on 0845 034 5250. Invite your friends, everyone is welcome!

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

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



Something to Think About

There's a difference between a philosophy and a bumper sticker.

Charles M. Schulz

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



With an aging population our National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) resolution was quite pertinent as many of us are either getting a little more mature than we might prefer or we are involved in the care of aged parents or other family members. The wording was as follows *'This meeting calls 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'*. Each WI branch makes a decision and their delegate will then attend the AGM in June at the Royal Albert Hall when a vote will be taken.

The April meeting was our opportunity to discuss this matter. One of our members spoke on behalf of the resolution and we were delighted to welcome Angela Rogers who manages a local nursing home. She talked us through the procedures that are followed to assess if someone is entitled to what is known as NHS continuing care for those with primary health needs which is free at the point of delivery. The resolution was concerned that there was inequality in how needs are assessed (despite there being a National Framework in place) and this was leading to vulnerable patients being denied access to NHS continuing care resulting in an unfair system that forces families to rely on local authority social care instead, which they may have to contribute to financially.

We recognised that whilst there is a compelling argument for combining health and social care this resolution does not address the wider problem of finding sustainable funding when you consider that the social care system is described as being in 'crisis' and the NHS is facing a £20 billion shortfall. The majority of members felt unable to support the resolution.

On a lighter note our home grown Purton Entertainers delighted us with a pantomime *'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'* with a cast of three! One cast member had numerous costume changes and I think must have been quite exhausted by the end. The rest of the entertainers then came together to sing *Seven Little Girls Sitting in The Back Seat*, first released in 1959 (can it be that long ago?), with much hilarity both from the performers and audience. A big thank-you to them for all their hard work.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 17 June at Purton Village Hall, 7.30 pm, when Philomena Liston will talk to us about Theatrical and Everyday Make-up. We will also have a Famous Face quiz and there will be a prize for the winning team of 6.

This is an open meeting so we hope to welcome members from other local WIs as well as our regular members and visitors (entry £3).

HELEN DIXON, 770648

Volunteer Gardener

If you are green fingered or a budding gardener then Cricklade Children's Centre needs you! We are a local charity working with families in the Cricklade, Purton and Lydiard area with a child under the age of five. We are located in the grounds of St Sampson's School and have our own play area. For more details see rwc.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/job/volunteer-gardener

Purton & District Probus Club



On 14 April **Bjorn Watson** of the Shrivenham Heritage Centre gave an account of **T E Lawrence and the Arab Revolt**. He began with an analysis of the complex character of his subject, Col. Thomas Edward Lawrence, CB, DSO: polymath, charismatic hero, arabist, linguist, scholar, archaeologist, Fellow of All Souls, soldier and guerrilla leader, recommended for a VC, motorcycle enthusiast, designer of fast boats and aircraft, masochist and flagellant, self-publicist and consummate liar – an enigma and a legend.

Lawrence was the son of Sir Thomas Chapman and Sara Maden, originally the Governess of his legitimate daughters. Posing as a married couple they moved from Ireland to Wales. Thomas Edward was the second of five sons, being born on 16 August 1888 at Tremadog. In 1896 the family settled in Oxford where TE attended High School and Jesus College. His first interest was medieval military architecture, studying Crusader castles in France and, in 1909 in Syria and Palestine. Submitting a Thesis on the subject (later published) won him a first class honours degree in 1910. With the offer of a Fellowship from Magdalen College, he joined an expedition excavating the Hittite settlement of Carchemish on Euphrates at the border between Syria and Turkey. Here he worked from 1911 until 1914, first under D G Hogarth and then with Sir Leonard Woolley. He used his free time to get to know the language and the people. (He had studied Latin at the age of 6.) During this time (1913) he brought two young Arab friends home to Oxford. Early in 1914, he, Woolley and Capt. S F Newcombe explored northern Sinai on the Turkish frontier East of Suez. The resulting maps and information, published as "The Wilderness of Zin" proved of great strategic value. The month the war began, Lawrence became a civilian employee of the Map Department of the War Office in London. By December 1914 he was a lieutenant in Cairo. Experts in Arab affairs were rare and he was assigned to intelligence receiving and processing data from agents behind enemy lines. He produced a handbook on the Turkish Army. When his brothers Will and Frank were killed in France, Lawrence became restless and a trip to Arabia convinced him of an alternative method of undermining Germany's Turkish ally. Meanwhile early in 1916 he was ordered to Mesopotamia and with two other officers crossed the Turkish lines to negotiate with the Turkish command besieging Kut-al-Amara. They offered £1 million in gold if Townsend and his troops were allowed to leave. The Turks refused and on 29 April the city fell. 13000 men were taken prisoner.

In October, with Sir Ronald Storrs, he visited Hussein-ibn-Ali, Emir of Mecca and his son Abdullah and further with another son Faisal, commander of an Arab force southwest of Medina. Hussein had in June, **Proclaimed a Revolt** against the Turks. Back in Cairo Lawrence urged his superiors to back the dissident shayaks who were striving for their independence. He rejoined Faisal's Army as political liaison officer, heading up to General Allenby whose main thrust was in the west. Lawrence soon established an elite Camel Corps to sabotage and isolate the Turkish army defending the Hejaz railway which connected Mecca to Damascus. May 1917, he led an expedition to recruit Northern tribes to the Arab cause and made a secret journey through northern Syria. Lawrence carried 20,000 gold sovereigns. The Turks put a price on his head of £5000. In June 1917, Lawrence and 40 of Faisal's men met with

Auda Abu Tayi, leader of the northern Howeitat tribe of Bedouin, who joined them with a large number of his men. Aqaba, lightly guarded by the Turks, would be a useful supply route for the Arabs and easily reached by British shipping. Attack from the Desert of Nafud would not be expected. First, a blockhouse at Abu al Lasan, occupied by the Arabs, was retaken by the Turks and reinforced by a battalion of the 178th. On 2 July Lawrence and his force, arriving by night, managed to pin down the Turkish position until mid-afternoon when Auda personally led a camel charge into the Turkish guns. With a second charge, when Lawrence accidentally shot his own camel, the rout was complete. 300 Turks were killed and 160 taken prisoner. The road to Aqaba was now open and Arab forces had risen to 1000. They easily surrounded the port and with the arrival of a British gunboat offshore, the Turkish garrison surrendered. Subsequently the Arab thrust from the east, supplied through Aqaba continued to assist the British, who at the time were stalled in Gaza. On 9 December Allenby and Lawrence, who wore Arab dress, entered Jerusalem and as a mark of respect did so on foot.

In January 1918, his Arabs destroyed a whole battalion at Tafia. In September, at Deraa, a diversion for Allenby's Battle at Meggido, Lawrence and Faisal with 3000 Arabs tied down 50,000 Turks. "Meggido" left the road open to Damascus. By the time Allenby arrived Lawrence and the Arabs were already installed. With T E as translator Allenby informed Faisal that the Arab government would not be recognised and the city was to be handed over to the French. Lawrence asked for leave and returned home a broken man. He continued to fight for recognition of the Arabs. The Sykes-Picot Agreement between France and Britain frustrated his efforts. At the age of 46 he died in an accident on his Brough Superior motor cycle. Allenby said at his passing, "He was the mainspring of the Arab movement. He knew their language, their manners and their mentality; in daring, he led them; in endurance he equalled, if not surpassed their strongest". "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom", perhaps not wholly true, is a ripping yarn.

The next Probus meeting is at the Red House lounge 10 am on 9 June: "The Defence of Cirencester in WW2".

BOB STEVENS

Volunteer magazine distributor wanted

A volunteer is needed to distribute the Purton Magazine each month in the Pavenhill area. If you are able to help, please contact Francis Sheppard on 01793 771018 or email: francis@sheppard.org

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 Francis Sheppard, 771018, or francis@sheppard.org.



2015 Theme is Wild West New Year New Carnival

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

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

Upcoming Events

Purton Carnival Fete! Saturday 4 July Purton House Farm 12 - 6 pm

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

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

Games for children and adults!

Dance Groups!

Martial art show!

And more to be confirmed!

Around the outside so far we have –
Rodeo Bull!

Funfair!

Dog Show!

Purton Bake Off!

Bar and entertainment!

And so much more!

Free shuttle bus available!
Please note road closures for
the procession and the day!
Car parking available
Procession starting at 1pm
from Ringsbury Close!

Purton Carnival's Annual Pig Roast!

At The Angel - Saturday 27 June from 4 pm

pig logo picture

This year's Pig Roast is back bigger and better than ever before!

- Face painting
- Live Music
- Fairground
- BBQ

Line Up So Far

- Too Much Lipstick
- We are 'Capela'
- Post12
- Bobby Paul - Elton John
- Belly Dancing
- Sasha Baker
- Emily Sheppard
- Shani Cherry
- Michael Bubl  tribute
- Wootton Bassett School of Dance

Special Bands yet to be confirmed so keep checking us online for **live** updates and like our Facebook page!



Also

- Saturday 20 June: Under 18's 6 A Side at Bradon Forest Field 10.00 am
- Saturday 20 June: Aunt Sally at the Royal George 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 23 June: Poker Night at the Royal George 7.30 pm

See front cover of magazine for a list of all Carnival events for 2015! Also pick up your copy of the listing from:

The Angel Royal George Andrew Hiscock Butcher
Purton Club Red house Club One Stop Best One

Free Purton Planner's Still Available!

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

Keep checking our website, Facebook page and posters for updates on all our events!

Or find one of **your** Purton Carnival Committee members!

PAIGE BASKERVILLE, Purton Carnival Marketing

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

■ COTTAGE IN WITTS LANE

For several months, I have watched the agonising sight of a slow 'death' on the corner of Pear Tree Close and Witts Lane. If it had been a human or even an animal, somebody would have put it out of its misery by now. Instead, the old, thatched cottage is being demolished by stealth.

Every time I pass by, a little more of the old thatch has been yanked away so that the bare bones are exposed. I heard a rumour that this was a way of speeding up the planning process but, having lived in the old thatched cottage in Locks Lane, I have an emotional attachment to these lovely old buildings. I wish someone would be kind and pull it down once and for all. It is the saddest sight in Purton.

Fran Ririe

■ LIFT TO BRISTOL!

I just wanted to say a great big THANK YOU for printing our request for a lift to Bristol for Andrew. We had a response virtually the day the April issue of the magazine was printed which was great. He now has an arrangement with someone to get a lift door to door on Mondays and Fridays which is brilliant. (The rest of the week he is getting a lift from another person who picks him up from The Link Centre).

Thanks again to you and the magazine for helping us out. We are very grateful.

Amanda and Andrew



PURTON PLACARD

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

BRINWELL SINGERS

OPEN EVENING

*Come and enjoy an evening
singing for pleasure
at the*

PURTON CLUB

Wednesday 10 June

8.00 - 9.30pm

*New Members are warmly invited
to join us*

*Please call 07582 298306
for full details*

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

Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society

presents The Choral work

Sprig of Thyme

by John Rutter

at St Bartholomew's Church,
High Street, RWB.

Monday 13 July at 7.30 pm.

Free admission with retiring collection.

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

Boat Trip

Friday 12 June

On the "Rose of Hungerford"

Coach leaves at 10.15 am

Cost £15 – lunch included.

Contact Louise on 772558

for more information

Full day Trip

Wednesday 1 July

Stratford-upon-Avon

Coach leaves at 10 am

Cost £10 (food not included)

Book your place

with your street warden

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

PURTON
CARNIVAL

PIG ROAST



The Angel
Purton

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE

FROM 4PM!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



Facepainting

ULTIMATE
RAFFLE

FAIRGROUND



Purton Diary - June 2015

3	W		275th Anniversary of 1st visit of John Wesley to Purton
		10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		11.00am	Age Concern Half day trip to Bourton-on-the-Water
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
6	Sa	2.00pm	<i>to 6pm</i> : Summer garden party at 16 Church Path with the Chedworth Band (for Prospect Hospice)
<hr/>			
7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: <i>Defence of Cirencester in WW2</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads: Roger Mepstead on the Keyboard at Silver Threads Hall
10	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
		8.00pm	<i>to 9.30pm</i> : Brinwell Singers Open Evening at Purton Club
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		10.15am	Age Concern Boat Trip on the "Rose of Hungerford"
		7.00pm	<i>to 10pm</i> : Pamper Evening at Silver Threads Hall (India Link Fundraiser)
<hr/>			
14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	<i>to 5pm</i> : Tennis Club open day, by Red House. All welcome
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
15	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Jan Partridge - <i>Weaving</i>
16	Tu		100th Anniversary of Women's Institute in Britain
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	<i>After 8: White Horses in the Local Area</i> led by Sandra at her house
17	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: Philomena Liston - <i>Theatrical and Everyday Make-up</i> - Open Meeting
18	Th		200th Anniversary of Battle of Waterloo (1815)
19	F		National Care Homes Open Day:
		2.00pm	<i>to 5pm</i> : Wild West Afternoon at The Cedars - all welcome
		11.00am	<i>to 3pm</i> : Opening of new annexe at Ashgrove House with champagne reception - all welcome

20	Sa	9.00am	Historical Society coach outing to Croft Castle
		10.00am	Carnival Under 18's 6-a-side at Bradon Forest Field
		6.00pm	Carnival Aunt Sally at the Royal George
<hr/>			
21	Su		Summer Solstice
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
22	M		
23	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>Bounty Mutiny</i>
		2.00pm	Silver Threads: WI Choir at Silver Threads Hall
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.00pm	Carnival Poker Night at the Royal George
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Robert Harvey - <i>Travels in Search of Remarkable Plants</i>
26	F	2.30pm	Talk at The Cedars: Keith Walker - <i>Behind the Scenes at the Theatre</i> - all welcome
		9.00am	<i>to 11am:</i> Country Market at The Club at Cricklade
27	Sa	4.00pm	<i>onwards:</i> Carnival Pig Roast at The Angel
<hr/>			
28	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Youth Service at Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church

July

1	W	10.00am	Age Concern Day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon
4	Sa		Carnival Procession and Fete

Every week

Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.00am	<i>to 11am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	11.15am	<i>to 1pm:</i> New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads for over 60s
	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm:</i> Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church
F	10.00am	<i>to 11.30am:</i> Tea, Coffee & Cake at The Cedars

Moon Phases

○ 2 June ● 9 June ● 16 June ○ 24 June

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



Past Meetings & Events

Saturday 18 April 2015 – Outing to the Imperial War Museum

A large group of PHS members and guests left Purton at 8.30 am to visit The Imperial War Museum.

The Museum was founded during the First World War to make sure that we never forget what it is like to live in a world torn apart by conflict. The Museum has spent a century recording the way in which war continues to impact on the lives of service personnel and civilians. From the fighting front and the home front, they have collected weapons, uniforms, vehicles, flags, maps, medals, films, audio recording, photographs, diaries, letters, works of art and anything that gives a sense of how war looks sounds and feels. In addition to the excellent exhibitions about the First and Second World Wars, there were sections covering the Holocaust, Art, Peace and Security and the Lord Ashcroft Gallery commemorating the 'Extraordinary Heroes' involved in the conflicts.

It was certainly a very interesting and 'thought provoking' day and I am sure that it has made many of us think about a second visit. The coach left for home at 4 pm giving some members time to enjoy an ice cream in the gardens and grounds surrounding the museum.

Grateful thanks go to Helen Dixon who again organised the outing for the Society. Arrangements went smoothly from start to finish – a lovely comfortable coach, a first class venue and excellent organisation.

Thursday 23 April 2015 – Uses & Abuses of Chemistry in WW1 – David Badcott

David started this very interesting presentation with an introduction to the basic fundamentals of chemistry. We learnt about protons, neutrons, electrons and molecular structure. Following this the production of gas from coal and the byproducts from this process were covered. Samples of byproducts were passed around, e.g. coal tar soap and Jeyes Fluid, the smells being a childhood memory for many of us!

It is perhaps not widely known that at the start of WW1 Germany was very strong in the textiles industry including dyes which, of course, were based on chemicals. It was exporting more than 20 times the volume of dyes coming out of Britain and it also held the patents for these dyes. Khaki dye was very important in the production of uniforms for British soldiers. Initially this caused major problems in the supply of uniforms but as the war progressed this was overcome and there was a boom in 'khaki contracts' in the British tailoring trade.

David went on to cover the manufacture and use of chemical weapons during World War One. The types of weapons employed ranged from disabling chemicals, such as tear gas and the severe mustard gas, to lethal agents like phosgene and chlorine. As the war progressed effective countermeasures were developed, such as gas masks and as the use of gas increased, its overall effectiveness diminished.

Not perhaps so obvious, chemicals were used by the secret services e.g. in invisible ink. Another interesting subject was the invention and supply of aspirin –

again the Germans held the patent and stopped supply during World War One.

A big thank-you went to David for a very informative presentation on a wide ranging subject.

Future Meetings / Events

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

There are still a few seats left. 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. 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.

Contact: HELEN DIXON, Telephone 01793 770648

Saturday 18 July 2015 Visit to Lacock Village

(arranged in conjunction with Lacock History Group)

A walking tour around the village of Lacock has been arranged as follows –

Lacock Ramble - Saturday 18 July - £2.00 fee per person

- Assemble at 9.30 a.m. in the Purton lay-by at the bottom of College Road. Transport is by car and everyone will be included in car share arrangements.
- Any queries regarding car share arrangements contact Tony and Janet Neate, tel: 01793 770117 email: tjneate57@gmail.com
- Depart 9.40 am.
- Parking at the National Trust parking area in Lacock at 10.15 am.
- Ramble – inclusive of visit to church – takes one and a half hours.
- Option to enjoy a pub lunch or refreshments after the walk.

Sunday 19 July at 2 pm – Purton & The Great War

Walk and talk at St Mary's Church – Bob Lloyd

The 'Walk & Talk' will highlight the Memorials and War graves that can be found at the Parish Church. The event will take approximately 2 hours. The event is not weather dependent – please come dressed for the weather conditions with suitable footwear for the uneven graveyard.

Ceramic poppies created by Bradon Forest School Art Department will be on display in the church.

New members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JANET NEATE

email: tjneate57@gmail.com tel: 01793 770117

Great War Project

Part 23: June 1915

The Second Battle of Artois continued. The British 7th Division including the 2nd Wilts moved into the Givenchy sector (*Givenchy-Lès-la-Bassée*) shortly after their costly involvement in the Aubers Ridge and Festubert assaults. It proved to be a very difficult line to hold, being subject to constant mining, sniping and trench mortar activity. A decision was taken to make a large-scale attack on the German front between a point east of Givenchy to just south of Rue d'Ouvert, to capture some key points.

Percy Charles Matthews, had arrived in France in March 1915 and joined the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment at Estaires. On 15 June, the Battalion was in the trenches at Givenchy. During the day their trenches were shelled and those platoons suffered a few casualties. At 6 pm the battalion broke out of their trenches to attack and were subjected to heavy frontal and enfilade fire. The attack was subsequently cancelled and the Wiltshires withdrew, handing over their position to the Bedfordshire Regiment. During the action the Germans used incendiary bullets, and also sniped the wounded in front of their trenches.

Percy was reported missing in action on 15 June 1915 aged 17 years, 9 months old. His parents were later told that he had been killed in action, the youngest recorded Purton casualty of the war. Percy has no known grave and is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial (*pictured*), 33/34 (Pas De Calais, France). The Memorial book in St Mary's Church states "missing (France)".



The Artois offensive ended on 18 June. It is an irony that the Battle of Waterloo was fought exactly 100 years previously on 18 June 1815, some 83 miles to the east, territory held in 1915 by the Germans.

On 7 June the German Zeppelin LZ37 was destroyed in the air near Ghent in Belgium by Lt Warneford of the Royal Naval Air Service. This was the first shooting down of an airship by an aeroplane.

On 2 June, Britain announced a blockade of the coast of Asia Minor and 2 days later British forces made a third attempt to capture the strategic village of Krithia at Gallipoli. The next major attack by British forces was on 28 June in the Gully Ravine area.

On the Southern Front, on 3 June San Marino declared war on Austria-Hungary. The River Isonzo (Soča) area was important to the Italians as it was the only pass between Italy and Austria on which they could mount an attack and dividing Italy from one of its major goals, Trieste. The Italians captured Monfalcone (now in Slovenia) on 9 June and then mounted a major offensive on 29 June, the first of 12 battles in the Isonzo area.

On the Russian Front, on 3 June, joint Austrian and German forces recaptured Przemyśl, a crucial city in southeastern Poland, and the entire Russian front began to collapse.

In Western Africa, on 10 June, British and French troops captured Garua, effectively conquering the German colony of Cameroon. They completed the victory by capturing Naugundere on the 28th.

To the south, on 19 June, South African forces began an advance on Otavifontein, in German South West Africa (Namibia). An anti-British revolt in South Africa was ended on 21 June with the arrest of General De Law.

In Mesopotamia, the 6th (Poona) Division captured Amara on 3 June. And on 27 June a joint British and Indian force began an advance up river on the Euphrates.

Following the sinking of the Lusitania in May, William Jennings Bryan resigned as US Secretary of State on 9 June, the same day as President Wilson sent a second Lusitania note to Germany demanding reparations and prevention of 'the recurrence of anything so obviously subversive of the principles of warfare'. America refused to recognise the war zone that Germany has proclaimed around the British Isles.

During June 1915, the following men with Purton connections were posted to action:

To Gallipoli:

Arthur Robert Bunce, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

Frederick Keen, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

Harry Robert Thomas Matthews, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

To France:

John Charles Arthur Evans, Royal Field Artillery.

Alfred J Mussell, Wiltshire Regiment (*Battalion unknown*).

Bertram Plummer, 4th Battalion Royal Irish Regiment.

Leslie Victor Selby, Royal Field Artillery.

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.

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.

Gaffer's Tales

Hi folks, a bit more chat me, old gaffer.

Isn't it a good thing we humans cannot control the weather? Some would want sunshine all the time, perhaps with a drop of rain at night, no frosts. We have had some extremes in my time. 1962 to 63 for instance. It snowed on Boxing Day, and the snow stayed about till the end of March. The road outside the farm was blocked for a week, and we, along with other farmers, had to take the milk into Wootton Bassett every day. It was great fun for a couple of days, ploughing over fields, through big drifts and ending up in a cafe for a hot drink. Thereafter it was tedious, time-consuming, and cold. After a week, a huge bulldozer cleared the road and we were able to resume a more normal time.

Some people like the snow, but we on the farm got fed up with that year. Although the cattle were all in sheds and comfortable, sometimes the water froze, and had to be thawed out with hot water or a blow lamp on the frozen pipes. That year was not as cold as another decade, when the diesel in the tractors froze. To combat that threat, the drop of kerosene in the tractors fuel tanks prevented freezing.

In 1976 we had too much sun. There was a severe drought that year. The grass, burnt by the sun, was like straw. No goodness in it. The cows ate it along with precious hay, and looked very well. It was not until September that it rained again.

We survived the snows and the drought. There is no control on the weather, and we farmers have to live with the vagaries. The worst time for livestock farmers is haymaking time. We hear the weather forecast, and then decide if it is safe to cut grass for hay. It takes at least four days without rain to properly dry grass enough to safely bale it and store it in a barn without it heating up and going mouldy or, at worst, catch on fire. During those four days, one hopes the sun will shine to dry the grass. Haymaking involves turning the grass by tedding it, so as to get all of it dry, and letting the air blow through it. If the sun does not shine it could take a week to dry. So when the weather is right, it's all go. It is vital that you get things right – if the weather turns, and it rains, the hay crop is ruined, and so much depends on the quality of the hay for the next winter.

Silage, the other way of harvesting the grass, is less dependent on the weather inasmuch as only 48 hours is usually enough time to gather it all in. With the modern machines the whole crop can be cut in one day, wilted a bit, then all picked up the next day, put in a clamp, rolled by driving a tractor over it, to exclude all the air, then covered over by plastic sheets and weighted down by old tyres. Silage can be done in big round bales too. These are wrapped up tight, also to keep the air out. You must have seen fields full of these big round bales. So when you get stuck behind tractors with a lot of trailers, be patient, it is farmers getting their fodder in their cattle for next winter, before the weather breaks.

Let's hope this June is kind. The best quality hay is made in June. Then in July onwards is corn harvesting, so the arable side of farming needs more fine weather for that. Of course some rain is needed to make the grass and crops grow. There is no satisfying some people!

Cheerio for now.

GAFFER

George and Barbara Percival

Cricket, School and two red houses (three in fact!)

It's spring. Swifts majestically sweep low in the field next to our red house at the bottom of Purton hill, one of two, distinct, identical houses, one commissioned by my late father and mother George and Barbara Percival. It's sometime around 1960 and I can still remember seeing the house take shape from its foundations in the seemingly vast endless green field with a solitary pond in the corner. My playground. No Waite Meads Close then but many Friesians!

Standing near Mitchards the butchers at the top of the hill in the triangle with my mother. Nearby the Women's Institute and along the lane to Dr Belts and down the road from the Co-op store where we collected Green Shield stamps on our shopping trips from our base then in Reids Piece, where I was born in 1954. Then up to the school where at the bottom of the hill I used to buy Sherbet Fountains and collect pen pictures of the Beatles with my hard won pennies!

Purton school. My father's first teaching role brought us here. Having served in India and Burma as a young man may otherwise have brought him a different livelihood and follow in his father's footsteps. Harold played for Chester FC for many years, but George would have been a cricketer, not centre-half.

Spring, and that meant one thing. Cricket. His contemporaries may agree that he was an outstanding opening batsman who scored many runs as an opener for the Purton first team. He learnt the right way to bat at Kings School, Chester when schools had cricket coaches, or many did. He was placed a year ahead of other students as an academic due to his prowess particularly in History and Literature. He excelled not just academically, but as a number one batsman, as an exceptional pianist and later as a highly regarded Bridge player where again he ended up most weeks as number one, both in Swindon and Llandudno where he retired with Barbara.

So it's spring again. Up the hill through the woods to the field. Cricket, leather against willow and crickets grating in the long grass. He helped get the pitch ready during the week taking turns in a rota system, painting the sight screens and preparing the outfield, but the best part for me was free-riding on the petrol driven mower on the hallowed wicket. The smell of freshly cut grass will always stay with me. The groundsman's tools and mower were stored in a picturesque circular wooden shed with a thatched roof, now long gone I suspect along with the quaint wooden pavilion. Wives, such as my mother, made the teas and sandwiches and homemade cakes for the hungry eleven and loyal scorers.

I am lucky to have been introduced to cricket then and meet so many people and Purton was central to that. Finishing the day at the other *Red House* with everyone was always something to look forward to. Many names have now vanished with time but I remember Norman Mills, Mike Canter, Tony Smith and their sense of humour! Others will be remembered if my memory is jogged I am sure!

Sadly, my dad passed away in May last year, my mother in 2007 and Michael my elder brother in 2005. But who can take away those memories?

Thank you for allowing me to write for you. Do get in touch if you wish to at sgpercival@btinternet.com

STEPHEN PERCIVAL

St Mary's Church Renewal Exhibition

In the April Magazine I invited everyone to visit an exhibition in St Mary's church to see our draft proposals to renew the church building. I am pleased to say that many of you came and just over 70 left us written feedback. Thank you. I promised in April to let you know what people had said.

Firstly, thank you for all your thoughtful comments, both positive and negative; they are all helpful to us. I can assure you that St Mary's Parochial Church Council will have an opportunity to consider all this feedback before they finalise their proposals. Also we are grateful for the kind and encouraging words some of you included with your response. Overall, we were greatly encouraged that nearly 90% of your returns are generally supportive of what we plan.

As we expected there are many who are passionate to keep pews in the church but what surprised me was the strength of feeling from those who want the pews replaced with chairs. I counted 9 exclamation marks with votes for chair! What also surprised me was that over 50% of the returns wanted chairs, almost twice as many as those wanting to keep pews. However, many of those asking for chairs stressed that they should be of good quality and comfortable, with many favouring wooden chairs. Concerns were expressed about how and where the additional stacking chairs would be stored and the noise chairs can make if they move on a stone floor. There were also concerns about how the traditional character of the church can be retained if the pews are replaced by chairs. Clearly, if the final decision is to replace pews with chairs great care will be needed in selecting the right design of chair, one in keeping with the building that is comfortable and suitable for the infirm.

In this table I summarise specific likes and dislikes as a percentage of the total returns:

Proposal	For	Against
Pews	27%	51%
Chairs	51%	27%
Heating	77%	10%
Lighting	68%	8%
More flexible space	68%	7%
Closing arches (including to Lady Chapel)	77%	13%
Annex (for Toilet, Parish Office and Kitchen)	82%	8%
Servery-Kitchen	76%	8%
Move font to front of nave	66%	8%
New nave floor plan with dais	72%	11%

The percentages shown above include those who just said they were for the whole proposal, and those who were against it, but did not choose to pick out individual parts for comment.

Although a clear majority supported our proposal to close in some arches many said their support was conditional on this being done mainly in glass. I have already discussed this with our architect, Jeremy Bell, and it was good to find that he is of the same opinion. A number of respondents commented that the double solid

wooden doors at the main south entrance to the church are very unwelcoming and encouraged us to consider including some glass there too.

Many were concerned about the cost of the work, some even doubting whether the renewal would ever take place because of its high cost. However, others expressed some urgency for the renewal work and said how important it was to keep the church a living building and not to let it become a museum. We were also reminded that the Church is not just the building but also the people who worship there, and asked us not to forget the importance of the renewal of their Christian faith too.

So what happens next? Once the Parochial Church Council has reviewed and finalised the renewal proposals in the light of your feedback, they will commence the process to obtain the necessary approvals for the work. This is likely to take some time as great care is needed when changing a Grade I listed building. Once the necessary approvals have been given, including any revisions to our plans they require, we will begin a phased programme of renewal work. We will continue to keep you informed throughout including alerting you to any other opportunities to contribute to the project.

DAVE NETTLETON, Churchwarden St Mary's Church

Playclose Methodist Church

Ever since the first visit of John Wesley was made to Purton on 3 June 1740, the people called Methodists have endeavoured to be faithful in their witness and devoted in their service. 1843 saw the first building that would help us do that (in the Row) and then at Upper Square, with our current home in Playclose built in 1882. Eventually the "Prims" and the Wesleyans joined forces in 1973 and the congregation has held firmly to its desire to WORSHIP, ENCOURAGE WITNESS and SERVE.

The way we work through our Mission statement has changed as the community has changed but regular acts of worship (Sunday 10.30 am) and Women's Fellowship (Wednesdays 2.30 once a month) provide the bedrock together with children's and youth work (Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings and a regular pram service Thursday 2.30 pm). These we share with St Mary's Church in the Local Ecumenical Partnership, with occasional shared services, study times and fundraising for charities (the Lent lunches are famous!; the shoebox appeal goes from strength to strength).

We are constantly seeking to be relevant and challenging in our Christian faith with lots going on and more we would love to do. But we need 'past' Methodists to come home and new friends to join us so do give us a try and give us a chance to give you a warm welcome.

Please contact me with any queries.

Rev DAVID PERKINS, Minister, 853197

Cricklade Country Market

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

Christian Aid Week



We are grateful to all who took part in the Christian Aid Quiz this year. **£330** was raised, which was a great way to start Christian Aid Week.

The worthy winner this year was Jane Halstead of Stone Lane, with Lucy Lewis (Pavenhill) 2nd and Julia Cook (The Hyde) 3rd.

It is amazing that, with the Quiz sheets travelling as far as France, the Orkneys, Germany and the Scillies, most of the top competitors came from Purton.

We are grateful to Andrews the Butcher; In Touch Services and Best One for selling copies for us. Congratulations to all who bought copies and took part.

Maybe I'll have to make it harder next year!

LIBBIE, for the Christian Aid Team

This year we were able to start Christian Aid Week with a real bang!

We organised a Big breakfast in St Mary's Church and everyone was welcome to come and join in the fun. Huge quantities of delicious sausages were donated: huge pots of porridge were cooked and freshly baked croissants were available for all. Over £393 was raised for the funds at this first event of the week

And all was cleared away in time for a special United Church Service to take place immediately afterwards.

A superb speaker, Becky, came from Christian Aid. She had visited Ethiopia a few months previously and was able to tell us about her visit, where she met women who were treated with no respect and very little consideration. Christian Aid is trying to support these women by giving them each a cow, so that they achieve status as well as having sufficient milk and butter for their families. Becky spoke from the heart and was truly inspirational.

We felt privileged to hear her and were grateful to all who attended to support us at this event.

The Christian Aid team in Purton

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 *Purton Stoke, Bentham, Hayes Knoll, Braydon and Cross Lanes*.

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

Buns and Beverages and Sandra's 'super duper' kettle!

21 April was a very enjoyable evening. We learned about the history of tea and coffee and enjoyed some delicious, calorific, regional teatime treats.



Research suggests that moderate drinking – up to 4 cups per day – of either tea or coffee is good for our health.

Tea – Although drinking tea is a very British institution, tea originally came from China where it was a medicinal drink. It comes from the plant *Camellia Sinensis*. This is an evergreen shrub.

“Herbal tea” usually refers to infusions of fruits or herbs made without the tea plant. These are also called tisanes or herbal infusions to distinguish them from the “cuppa” as we know it.

Tea came to the west via Portuguese priests and merchants during the 16th century. It became fashionable in Britain during the 17th century largely due to Charles II's marriage to Catherine of Braganza. The British introduced the plant to colonies in India in order to by-pass the Chinese monopoly. Tea was very expensive and only drunk initially by the wealthy classes. Alarming, because of its price it was sometimes mixed with other substances such as sheep's dung (YUCK!). The history of tea is quite political, but eventually the tax was lowered and it became the popular drink enjoyed by millions worldwide. There are some variations as to how it is drunk however, depending on where you are.

Coffee – was thought to have originated in Ethiopia in the 10th century, where its stimulating properties were observed. Its use travelled through the Middle East and Balkans to Europe. Its history is long, complicated and political, with people wanting to make money out of this commodity. People smuggled it. The Americans declared it a patriotic drink after the Boston tea party. In 17th century London, coffee houses were the meeting places for science and politics and innovation, sometimes known as ‘Penny Universities’ as the price of a coffee was 1d. Women were banned from these places. 17th century coffee was not very palatable but the buzz from the caffeine made it more acceptable. Today, increasingly, there are more coffee houses – Starbucks and the like, with a myriad of different tastes and types of coffee to be drunk. Plus a huge range of devices developed in order to make coffee. It is big business.

Buns – so delicious!

Parkin from Yorkshire; **Tuffs** from the SW – a bit like Devonshire Splits; **Lardy Cake** – local to Wiltshire; **Eccles Cakes** – Lancashire; **Bara Brith** and **Welsh cakes** – Wales; **Oast cakes** and **Tunbridge biscuits** – Kent; **Dorset knobs** – best with cheese; **Ships biscuits** – hard!

Sandra's kettle heats water to different temperatures depending on tea, coffee or tisane! It also beeps. Most impressive!

MARION ANDREWS

Next meeting: Tuesday 16 June at Sandra's - *White Horses in the Local Area.*

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ... 10 years ago, Purton Magazine had two articles filled with photographs to record notable physical endeavours in the village although the first event didn't even start in Purton. A team of four cyclists set off from Héric – our twin community in Western France – to cycle all the way here. Pictures of the French four show them by the Purton sign coming in on Restrop Road and refreshing themselves in The Greyhound pub – as well as presenting a commemorative plate to Shirley Bevington who accepted it on behalf of the Parish Council.

The other local event much photographed event in the magazine 10 years ago was the 3rd Tug of War competition organised by P.E.S.T. – the Purton Extreme Sports Team. Even 10 years later, some of the contestants are still recognisable as they dig in their heels while heaving backwards on the rope in front of a crowd of over 300 cheering onlookers.

The launch of the mobile skateboard park was anticipated in the magazine 10 years ago and now the permanent installation is in regular use at the Village Centre.

Finally the June 2005 issue of your magazine carried the local results of the General Election – and of the Wiltshire County Council election when Helen Dixon held on to the seat for the Liberal Democrats with a 6% majority.

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

Activity Week

10–14 August

Last year we had to curtail activity week due to a lack of volunteers, which was a great shame for the children. This year I want to do better!

Could you help out at all this year? It will run from 10 am to 3 pm each day between 10 and 14 August and any help would be appreciated – one morning/afternoon, one day or even all week! Also, do you know anyone else who could join us?

If you can help, please let me know as soon as possible what time you can spare, what you would enjoy doing most and what you would hate to do. Also, if you have any skills that you could share with the children, that would be wonderful!

MARY NETTLETON, 772298

Purton & District Guide Dogs

I shall be having a stall at the final Charity Dog Show at Bowood on 21 June, and will see if I can have one at the Carnival Fete. We are also trying to sort out a date for a Concert by The Cricklade Band.

Many thanks for your continued support.



BRIAN DAVIES,
for the Purton Support Group

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Rainbows have taken advantage of the spring weather and even headed outside for a look at the blossom and leaves. They've also made flower and butterfly pictures, iced some flower biscuits and made St George's dragons with the clever use of Sainsbury's carrier bags!

1st Purton Brownies are journeying around Europe, within the confines of the Millennium Hall! They are completing challenges relating to each of the countries that their helper Alice is visiting in the summer on her guiding City Hop expedition. They started by completing a quiz on English culture and celebrating the Queen's birthday – with cake of course. In Denmark they have had a go at saying some Danish phrases and completed a Lego challenge – working in teams to collect bricks and then use them to build trains; all four trains looked completely different. Still on a transport theme, Ciara and Alyssa made 1st Purton Brownie history by being the first to gain the Cyclist badge – thanks to Lucy Normington for testing.

2nd Purton Brownies held an apple evening: they made felt apples, bobbed for apples and then used them to make apple crumble to take home. Another evening they made “monster rolls” adding ham for a tongue, cheese for teeth etc. One Brownie even added slices of radish for earphones! Jessica and Chloe made their Promise and the same evening Megan, Grace and Edie gained their Hostess badge (thanks to Lindsey Hall for testing). As part of the Hostess badge the three Brownies arranged entertainment of a treasure hunt, quiz and a game of bingo.

Purton Guides, Taya and Elizabeth joined other Guides from across Wiltshire North for a ‘Wet ‘n’ Wild’ weekend. They windsurfed, went kayaking, swimming and orienteering and tried maypole dancing too – had to be done given it was May Day weekend.

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



Tea at the Pips?

The Pips Community Café project team would like to invite you to join us for a Cream Tea and homemade cakes on Sunday 12 July from 3 to 5 pm. Teas will be served in the beautiful gardens of College Farm House, High Street (thanks to Caroline and Hector), with live music accompaniment from local group Breeze, who will be performing throughout the afternoon. Entry: adult £5, children 3-10 £1.50 and under 3 free.



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



For our April meeting we welcomed John Graham for a talk on the subject of 'Herbaceous Peonies'. John is the proprietor of a small nursery that he set up 26 years ago after acquiring a small patch of land in Wantage. 26 years on he states that he has yet to complete his '5 year plan'!

We learned that, according to legend, the peony derives its name from Paeon, a student of Asclepius, who was the Greek God of medicine and healing. Hades, the god of the underworld, was treated and healed by Paeon, inciting the jealousy of Asclepius for his pupil. Grateful for Paeon's care, Hades turned him into the 'Peony' flower so that Asclepius would be unable to find and kill him.

Few other garden plants go back in history as far as peonies. From Greek and Roman times, through the Middle Ages and in particularly in Chinese medicine, the peony was held in high esteem as a medicinal plant, proving beneficial as an anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, analgesic and sedative, with the roots, bark, seed and flowers all believed to be of some medicinal use.

The talk continued with John presenting the case for growing peonies:

Firstly for their versatility with new purple shoots appearing from January/February, a sure sign that spring is on its way. The variety and form of plants available is another plus. Plants can range in size from small species for rock gardens to larger herbaceous perennials and then on to tree peonies some of which resemble large shrubs or even small trees.

Then for their longevity as some plants will survive 50-60 years from planting and so together with their non-invasive habit, they are considered a very well behaved plant for the garden.

Lastly they are grown for their fragrance. Peonies produce good cut flowers that are long lasting and durable with pleasant scents in most cases. They can be picked in bud that will open even after being held in cold storage for up to 6 months and with the current revival in their popularity, with their large blooms proving fashionable for wedding bouquets and displays, they are popular with the cut flower industry.

When it comes to their cultivation, John recommended a well-drained soil in sun, although a few will tolerate light shade. Autumn is considered the best time for planting to enable the plants to settle in before winter starts. As their roots need to be able to easily penetrate the surrounding soil, a generous planting hole is necessary and for that reason John advised us to remember the garden saying '*Penny for the plant, Pound for the hole*' when planting peonies.

Staking of taller varieties is often necessary to support the weight of the heavy, flamboyant flowers.

Propagation is usually by seed, division, root cuttings or grafting, although propagation by seed can be slow and laborious, explaining why shop bought plants can be costly.

John's slideshow highlighted the many species available to us including:

'**Bowl of Beauty**' with its cupped, cerise pink flowers and creamy white stamens, probably the most purchased of all peonies.

'**Bridal Gown**' widely used as a cut flower for weddings because of its large flowers.

'Emperor of India', considered to be one of the biggest peonies with its rich purple red petals with gold stamens, and last but not least, 'Karl Rosenfield', one of the mainstay varieties, with its large semi-double flowers of bright magenta-red.

David Herbert offered a vote of thanks to John for his informative talk on this beautiful perennial.

John kindly judged our competition 'A decorated egg' and congratulations go to the winners, 1st Chris Jefferies, 2nd Mary Read and 3rd Janice Simpkins.

Our next meeting will be on 23 June at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall, when Robert Harvey is our speaker. The topic of his talk is *Travels in Search of Remarkable Plants*. The competition will be *A single rose*. New members and visitors can be assured of a friendly welcome so please feel free to join us.

MOIRA WHITE (Chair) & MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The season started well with three friendly matches played in excellent playing conditions and weather. The first league matches resulted in wins for both the 1st and 2nd elevens. The highlights of the games were two magnificent innings by young players, Neil Little scoring his first fifty for the 1st XI and Lachlan Beggs scoring a century for the 2nd XI. Keep up the good work!

Pitch preparation and protection will be greatly aided by the purchase of a new set of covers and with the square and outfield in perfect condition a successful season is anticipated.

The members and supporters thank all those who contributed to a successful Race Night especially the Red House staff, the MC Terry Crumbie, Robert Preddy and Mark Bisset. They conducted an enjoyable evening for the club funds. Congratulations to all the winners and our grateful thanks to the sponsors.

Fixtures for June:

			14 th	U15 v Malmesbury	2.00
6 th	2 nd XI v Trowbridge	1.30	20 th	2 nd XI v Burbage	1.30
7 th	U11 v Wanborough	10.30	21 st	U15 v Corsham	2.00
7 th	Wilts U13 v Devon	1.00	27 th	1 st v Marshfield	1.00
13 th	1 st XI v Calne	1.00	28 th	U13 v Cannings/Potterne	2.00

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Annual Dinner – Chairman's Report 1906. Some of the points made:-

Stephen Brown after playing two matches in the early season had left England for Ceylon.

James Sadler promised a new bat each year to be presented to a successful player each season.

A new mower and roller had been purchased.

A cricket coach had been employed and The Round House rethatched.

JOE GARDNER



The 2nd annual Khalique Cup, although only attracting a small entry, was very successful with all 8 pairs enjoying a day of good tennis and good food. The weather tried its hardest to intervene with several short, heavy showers but this could not stop Ange Baldock and Jason Stevens becoming champions. Thanks to Ange for organising this event again.

The summer league has started under cloudy skies and howling winds, not the weather we were looking for. It is hoped that the sunshine and warmer weather of late March, early April returns to make the matches an altogether more enjoyable experience!

The U16 Boys team has had their first match, a tough one away at Pewsey. Although losing the match, Oli Madsen and Tom Kendall put up a good fight and are looking forward to the remaining matches.

Numbers attending on the Saturday morning Junior Club Sessions are increasing and 17 children are enjoying the fun based games. To attend these sessions all we ask is that the children are members of the tennis club. Membership costs just £24 for junior school children 7-11 and £36 for senior school children 11-16. One free session is offered before you decide if your child would like to join the club and continue to attend. Why not bring your child along to have a go.

We are hoping for good weather on Sunday 14 June when as part of the 'Great British Tennis Weekend' we will be opening our courts to ANYONE who would like to come and participate. There will be mini tennis, junior coaching, adult coaching, cardio tennis and free courts for you to play around as you wish. For details and to book your place please visit www.lta.org.uk/gbtw.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Bowls Club

Come on weather! Give us a break! The season has started quite well but has been blighted by the cold damp evenings and even the weekends so far. Some of the matches have been played in some awful weather, and we don't come off the green until there is water laying on it, so we get pretty wet, and cold at the moment.

Friday evenings are proving very popular for our coaching evenings and both coaches have a busy time with new and nearly new bowlers attending from 6.30 pm onwards. Come along if you fancy it.

We will be having an Open Day on 4 July to coincide with the Carnival where you will be able to see whether you might like to play Bowls. Details to follow.

PETER BERRY



Marlborough Open Gardens

Marlborough Open Gardens will take place this year on Sunday 14 June from 2 pm to 6 pm. Stroll around Marlborough and visit 12 lovely gardens and have a delicious tea available from 3 pm to 6 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from The Merchant's House or £6 on the day, £3 for teas. All in aid of The Merchant's House Appeal.

Wessex Male Choir Summer Concert



On Saturday 25 July, Wessex Male Choir will hold their summer concert in Steam, Fire Fly Avenue, off Kemble Drive, Swindon near the retail Outlet Centre, accompanied by some accomplished young singers, MJ-UK Arts and the all-female wind trio Breeze. Tickets for this event are on sale from In Touch Services; the Information Office in the Central Library, Swindon 01793 466454; and the Steam Ticket Office in person; from the choir on 01793 852786. Further details can be found on the choir's website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk or email tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk.

The award-winning choir, based in Swindon, is on the lookout for new recruits. Regular rehearsals are held in the church at Abbey Meads village, north-east Swindon, on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm (apart from breaks at Easter, during August and over the Christmas period). This year, in addition to their local concerts, they will be singing in Oxford, Taunton and London, with choirs from the USA and Norway.

If you are male, at least 16 years old, and like the idea of raising a song together, why not come along to a rehearsal and see what you think. Alternatively, have a look at our website, www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk, or have a chat with Nick, our membership secretary, at membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk.

Wessex boys go the extra mile for Charity

Members of the Wessex Male Choir went to London and sang their hearts out around the London Marathon course and in various other locations in London, on Saturday 19 April, in order to raise funds for Parkinson's UK.

With breaking voices, refreshed by free coffee from Costa Coffee and Parkinson's refreshment stops, they raised an amazing £1,400 for the charity. This has been an annual event for members of the choir over a number of years, and the totals have added to the choir's overall fund raising for Parkinson's UK, which now tops £60,000.



TIM YEOMAN, press@wessexmalechoir.co.uk

Brinwell Singers Open Evening

Come and enjoy an evening singing for pleasure at the Purton Club on Wednesday 10 June from 8 to 9.30 pm.

New Members are warmly invited to join us. Please call 07582 298306 for full details.



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.

What's On with The Cricklade Band

New Date – Saturday 6 June – Spring Table-Top Sale, The Club at Cricklade, 11 am to 1 pm. This replaces the one we unfortunately had to postpone, mainly because of a spate of tonsillitis in the band and Crew.

Table-Top sellers, please call 01793 750516 to book your table, still at just £5. Setting-up is from 10 am.

Table-Top browsers, who knows what you might find? The band itself will have our famous eat-in or takeaway home-made cake array, tea, coffee, games of chance and a raffle or two.

And for all those who've been asking ... it's back, the return of the hog! – Saturday 17 October – Bierkeller Night, The Club at Cricklade, 8 pm.

Ok, it's a slightly smaller venue and won't involve us in such 'Glastonbury-type' organisation. Everything else will be as you expect – food, drink, music and, above all, the party atmosphere! It will be all-ticket entry and they might be in short supply so put it in your diary and look forward to a great night out!

Storytime at Purton Library

Your local village library is the place to be on the first Wednesday of the month if you are a mum, dad or carer with a child under the age of 5. Join our storytime volunteers, Nick, Catherine, Rupert and Judith to meet a myriad of story books characters and discover the magic of interactive storytelling. Interspersed with rhymes to make you bounce and jump, it is also a great place to meet up with other children and discover the library space and the books for loan. Why not come along next month on Wednesday 3 June at 10 am? It is great fun and entirely free.

We Record ...

Weddings - all at St Mary's Church:

4 April	Lee Michael Oram & Jessica Anne Worth
25 April	Jonathon Peter Andrew Dunbar & Kersty Ann Bletso
2 May	Lewis Robert Bolton & Victoria Louise Samuel

Funerals - all at St Mary's Church:

16 April	Norman Richard Chapman
1 May	Edward George Page
6 May	Olive Hedges

In Memoriam:

15 June 1915	Percy Charles Matthews killed in action, Givenchy, France, aged 17 years. No known grave but remembered on the Le Touret Memorial.
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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 ...

