

Purton *Magazine*



A moment of Tranquillity

Photo by Eileen Coe – a member of Purton Artists

July 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, tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031) 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 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine BRAYDON Sundays 6.00 pm Evening Worship</i>	

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

Last month the Parish Council announced the winners of the “There’s no such thing as a Dog Poo Fairy” short story competition. The stories were to highlight the dangers of dog mess and this month we are pleased to publish one of the joint winning stories in the adult category from Rupert Whelan and on [page 17](#), we are introduced to Doris. The other winning stories will be published in future editions.

But this month your magazine seems dominated by the details of several recent deaths of people well known in our village; people who have helped to make Purton a place where people want to live. Estate Agents often quote Purton as a “much sought after village” and it is at times like this that it becomes much clearer about some people who have been quietly getting on and doing so many of those things that plenty of others take for granted.

There is no true sense of community without first a sense of sharing, the evidence of which is in the myriad of different contributions seen in our community. For some it can simply start with a friendly smile as well as a readiness to help and support each other. For others, such as Ron Harris and Bruce D’Arcy-Masters (both previously Parish Councillors) and Brian Freegard (previously Curator of Purton Museum), the details of all their different but extensive community contributions often only become clear after they have left us.

Sad though deaths are for families and friends, we are pleased to be able to publish such informative accounts of their lives. When future generations research their family trees, many important and interesting details about their ancestors may well have been published in past editions of Purton Magazine. Just imagine how proud descendants would feel if, in several decades’ time, they found out just how much a great grandparent or other relative had contributed to our village in north Wiltshire.

Losing friends and neighbours who have lived such full lives leaves us tinged with a little sadness but offset to a large degree when remembering all the many achievements and contributions each has so often made towards the betterment of our community.

And then we hear about the tragic accident when 11-year-old Daniel Climance was killed while out riding his bicycle on Station Road and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

15th

anniversary party
celebrations at
The Cedars
– see [page 19](#)

≈3000

knitted squares targeted
before despatching to
South Africa
– see [page 19](#)

£5,500+

raised from Christian
Aid events and
activities in the village
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Parish Council News



Sad loss to the Village

It is with sadness the Parish council must announce the passing of Ron Harris and Bruce D'Arcy-Masters, both past Councillors.

Bruce was a Parish Councillor a few years ago and retired when he had an operation and was unsure of his health position. Although Bruce stepped down from Council he continued to support us with regular inspections of Play Close play area; he was always keeping an eye on the equipment and reporting back any damages or faulty items of equipment. Bruce gave a lot of time to help the community without thought for himself and he will be missed by his family and many friends around the village.

Ron Harris passed away recently having been a serving Councillor until December 2014 when ill health forced him to resign, a decision I know he was loathe to make. Ron worked tirelessly on Rights of Way and Footpaths around the Parish, ensuring the paths were kept open and, if necessary, fighting hard to get them re-opened. He was always an active member of Council contributing fully at meetings and, apart from illness, rarely missed an opportunity to engage in discussion. His knowledge and enthusiasm will be sadly missed, and I for one will miss someone I was proud to call a friend. He gave a lot of time to the Parish in many ways and I am sure the community is a worse place for his passing.

RAY THOMAS, Chairman of Council

Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing

The much awaited resurfacing of the Village Hall car park will take place on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 July – the car park will be closed from 5 pm on Wednesday 1 July and the entrance will be coned off – please do not park in the car park. Notices are displayed and hirers of the Village Hall will be advised. Thank you for your co-operation and patience.

Household Recycling Centre

The Purton Household Recycling Centre will be changing its operational opening times/days effective from 13 July. The Centre will open from 10 am until 4 pm, Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. It will be closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For more information please visit the Wiltshire County Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

Garden Waste Collections

As from 15 June 2015 Wiltshire County Council will no longer collect garden waste free of charge. The charges levied and details of how to register with Wiltshire County Council are available on their website or you can call 0300 456 0102. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/gardenwaste

Facebook, Twitter and Website

Just one click away will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures, meet the staff, "did you know's", photographs and much more. If you have an event in the Parish that you would like us to promote on any of the above media sites please contact the Clerk on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call 771066.

Find us at :- Facebook – Purton Parish Council, Twitter - @PurtonPC

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 with the Parish?

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

Village Centre Play Area

It's open! The newly refurbished play area at the Village Centre is now officially open. New safety surfaces, brightly coloured equipment for varying ages challenging both mental and physical abilities is now available.

Road Closure – Watkins Corner – Wiltshire County Council Highways

The works will consist of reconstruction and resurfacing of the carriageway between a point 80m north of the access to Haxmoor Farm south to a point 200m east of the junction at Packhorse Corner: installation of 100m of drainage pipe in the vicinity of Watkins Corner to provide support to the carriageway & installation of new kerbs where necessary to provide carriageway edge protection and prevent further erosion of the verge / carriageway.

The scheme is due to commence on Monday 27 July 2015 for a duration of 7 weeks.

Due to the nature of the required works and the local environment, the works are to be carried out within a temporary road closure to ensure that adequate health and safety is maintained for local residents and the Contractor.

The temporary diversion route is shown on plan MIS4-005 Proposed Diversion Route (Rev C4). The road closure will be implemented in two phases:

- Phase 1 – First 6 weeks of the project – Junction at Packhorse Corner north to the crossroads at Purton Stoke.
- Phase 2 – Final week of the project – Junction at Packhorse Corner east to the junction with Hayes Knoll Lane.

More information can be gained from Wiltshire County Council on 01225 730630. Contact: Daniel Ward, Highways Engineer.

Litter Bins

Do you live in an area of the village that you feel needs a litter bin? The Council are reviewing the positioning of bins throughout Purton and would like your suggestions for consideration. Please email or call the Parish Council Offices.

Be Tick Awareness Campaign

Stay active and healthy this summer and avoid ticks by:

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

More information available on the Wiltshire County Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

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.

The follow planning applications have been approved, with conditions by Wiltshire County Council

N15/00142/FUL	6 The Fox. Proposed front extension & replacement garage.
N13/00507/FUL	22 Station Road. Erection of five dwellings, access & parking (Resubmission of 09/01848/FUL).
N14/10132/FUL	Mandrea The Hyde. Demolish existing dwelling, erection of replacement dwelling & 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 & lights to front.
N15/00587/FUL	Forest View, 29 Queen Street Braydon. Demolition of existing detached garage & erect two-bay garage & 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 & Distribution Yard to General Industrial (B2) Storage or Distribution (B8) & LPG Storage & Distribution Use.
N15/00539/FUL	Plain farm B4696 Oakland's 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 & 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.
N15/00672/FUL	12 Hoggs Lane. Two storey extension, garage & alterations (Resubmission of 14//08582/FUL)
N15/01311/FUL	Green Farm, Braydon. Extensions to provide orangery, en suite and garage area, and variety of internal/external alterations.
N15/01605/FUL	Beechley Fields, Minety. Construction of a stable building with 11no. loose boxes, tack room & store and ménage, temporary stationing of mobile home, change of use of land from keeping & stabling & breeding of horses for private domestic purposes to the keeping, stabling & breeding of horses for commercial purposes and the demolition of an existing open-sided barn. (Resubmission of 14/08782/FUL).
N14/05859/REM	Land at Ridgeway Farm. Construction of Phase 2 Primary Infrastructure including roads, drainage & structural landscaping.
N15/01616/FUL	Old Dairy, Upper Pavenhill. Provision of extension link and conversion of agricultural building to garage and workshop. approved with condition.
N15/01893/FUL	4 Long Acre. Proposed decking and raised fence panels from 1.8m to 3.0m.
N15/02053/FUL	14 Greenhill. Erection of detached garage.

Refused Applications:

N14/11695/FUL	55 Pear Tree Close. Two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension & removal of existing garage
N15/01666/FUL	1 The Fox. Proposed car port

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.

Facebook – Purton Parish Council

Twitter - @PurtonPC

Purton & District Age Concern



At our recent AGM we had the pleasure of meeting our new treasurer – Charlotte Griffin. Colin and Sylvia had given us advance notice that they would be stepping down from this role at the AGM and fortunately for us Charlotte agreed to take over. Our grateful thanks go to Colin and Sylvia for doing a grand job of looking after the finances and for implementing our computerised accounting system during their stint as treasurers. We welcome Charlotte and hope she enjoys her new role. The rest of our officers and committee agreed to continue for the next 12 months with the addition of Helen Griffin, who will be joining our committee from next month.

On a sad note I have to inform you of the death of **Ron Harris**. Ron was a good friend, and an integral member of our committee for many years. He was a great asset to Age Concern and the rest of the village with his knowledge and expertise. He will be missed by all. His absence will be felt at our committee meetings and at many of our future events. Our thoughts are with Heather and all the family. (Ron's obituary, written by Tony Price is on page 15)

Unfortunately Ron's death isn't the only one I have to report this month but, as I'm relatively new to Purton, Tony has helped me to write about the following people who have passed away.

Firstly, **Eileen Higgins** who lived in Purton Stoke most of her life. When Eileen's husband was alive they both enjoyed our mystery tours and more recently Eileen used our minibuses to go to Luncheon Club. Eileen always appreciated what was done for her and we sincerely thank Eileen's family for allowing money in lieu of flowers be shared between Luncheon Club and Age Concern's minibus service.

Then there's **Nesta Maskrey**. Nesta was a true Purtonian, she lived down the hill at Lower Pavenhill. She was a very interesting and easy person to talk to and she never complained. She used our minibuses to get to Luncheon Club and she enjoyed coming on our outings when she was able to. Over the years Nesta enjoyed attending church and Methodist Fellowship, one of her great passions was knitting which she continued to do when she moved into Ashgrove House. I had the pleasure of chatting to Nesta at the monthly knitting group in Ashgrove. Our thanks go to Nesta's family for the donation following her Thanksgiving service which was particularly moving due to the involvement of her family.

Bruce D'Arcy-Masters was a lovely, friendly, interesting man who had time for everyone. After moving to Purton, Bruce became involved with village life, he was a member of the Purton branch of the Royal British Legion, he helped out with the maintenance of the Cenotaph garden and also collected money for the Poppy Appeal, including doing his stint at Asda. Until fairly recently Bruce could be seen walking his little black dog and going along Church Path on his way to Probus meetings. Val and family have kindly said donations in lieu of flowers be shared between Prospect Hospice and Age Concern, and we sincerely thank them for this.

Sadly another Purtonian has died, (although he had been in a nursing home for a while) that is **Reggie Roberts**. Reggie was one of the Tanner Boys who played down Collins Lane for Fred Comley and he was one of the three musketeers along with Joey Haines and Alan Saunders who could be seen walking the village. Reggie was

always interested in what was going on and always made an effort to support Age Concern in various ways. It is an honour for Age Concern to share money in lieu of flowers with the Royal British Legion and we thank Reggie's family for this.

Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go to all the families and friends of the deceased.

Finally, on a lighter note, I would like to thank all the Age Concern committee members, friends and family who helped at the recent garden party hosted by Sheila and Tony. It was a lovely afternoon and a wonderful amount of money was raised in memory of Pauline Hall in aid of Prospect. I won't say anymore as Tony and Sheila have written their own piece about the garden party, to be found on page 57

Future Events

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

Annual Coffee Morning – This will be on Saturday 4 July from 10 am - 12 noon at the home of Dick & Jackie Scott, Bentham House Farm, Bentham Lane. Admission will be £1 and includes tea/coffee/biscuit. There will be plants for sale, bric-a-brac, books, tombola, cake stall and a raffle. To book the minibus please contact Keith Hart on 771533. **Donations of cakes, bric-a-brac, books, raffle and tombola prizes will be much appreciated - thank you.**

Trip to Weston - Wednesday 5 August – Our annual village outing to Weston for all ages takes place on Wednesday 5 August. The coach will leave Purton at 9.30 am and sets off from Weston at 6.30 pm. The cost will be the same as last year at £13 for pensioners/children and £15 for others. Let's hope the weather will be kind and all will enjoy a lovely day at the seaside! Please book your place with your street warden before Saturday 25 July.

Jumble Sale – Our next jumble sale is on Saturday 5 September at 2 pm in the Village Hall. More information next month.

Past Events

Half day trip – This was on 3 June to Bourton, numbers were lower than for recent mystery tours but this may have been due to the boat trip on 12 June which was fully booked. We have been informed a couple of people struggled to walk from the coach park to the main street in Bourton but unfortunately coaches aren't allowed to drop off and pick up in the centre of Bourton. We have had a couple of requests to return to Millets Farm for our half-day trip next year. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions on 772558.

Afternoon Tea at The Maharajah Restaurant – This was a busy afternoon, the restaurant was so full when Mick Looker our chairman was there that he had to give up his seat. Khalique, Wendy, Tina and the team at The Maharajah hosted a lovely afternoon and raised £547.30, which has been shared between Age Concern and a children's charity in India. Our grateful thanks go to Khalique, Wendy, Tina and team and to everyone who went along to support the event.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Mr. Ronald Harris – Known as Ron

I would like to pay tribute to the late Ron Harris – my only fear is can I do justice to him, a man who gave so much and asked for so little, a good husband and father – a man with high standards – everything he did had to be right, no half measures with Ron whether it was to do with work before he retired, Parish Council work, the footpath gang, gardening, the British Legion Flower Show etc. You knew where you stood with Ron, he was straight to the point, perhaps a bit harsh at times with his verdicts on people who broke the law. While he respected other people's opinions, you had a job to get him to change his mind. He and I have been mates for many years and, while we didn't always agree with one another, we never fell out. He was a friend you could rely on, always sincere and I am sure there are many, many people who feel the same about Ron as I do.

Ron was born in Wootton Bassett (but we never held that against him) in Church Street, the youngest of five children. He attended Wootton Bassett County School now known as the infants' school. One of Ron's assets at school was his excellent script style of writing for which he had many awards. When Ron was eleven years old his father died. His last memories of his father was him being carried out of the family home on a stretcher. You can understand Ron's independence because the family had moved to a house with a large garden in Noremarsch Road. The war was on and people relied on vegetables to subsidise their rations. His brothers and sisters had gone their various ways so it was left to Ron to support his mother and one thing he did was to grow vegetables and tend the garden. When Ron was fourteen, he left school and worked for the Co-op in the gents' outfitters, helping in the shop and delivering to places like the Mall and Goddard Avenue – the posh part of Swindon in those days. Who remembers all the Co-op department stores along the bottom of the town? – it was certainly a Co-op stronghold.

Ron started an apprenticeship as a coach finisher in 1949 in the GWR works. I would assume he started in 7 shop – for those of you who do not know what a finisher is, the frame of a coach came into 4 shop where it was worked on by body makers doing the partitions, doors, roof etc. and the finishers would add the finesse to the carriages with all the lovely work that used to be in them in days gone by. The apprenticeship lasted five years and you were expected to go to night school in Swindon, which meant Ron would come home from work off the train at 6 pm, run home, have his dinner and ride his bicycle back into Swindon for night school at 7 pm. In those days, National Service was in force and you were called up when you were eighteen but if you were serving an apprenticeship you could finish it, which Ron did. He went into the RAF at 21 serving in Germany before he returned to British Rail to carry on his work as a finisher.

In 1959 Ron married Ruth, the daughter of George Slater, the village constable. (We want someone like him now, walking around the village and if he saw any children doing anything wrong he would tell them off, give them a clip round the ear and it would be no good them telling their parents as then they would get another!) Ron and Ruth first lived in Swindon and then came to Purton to 74 Witts Lane. What vision they had to buy that with a big garden and a small orchard. Ron was not a

great lover of gardening then but it was something that was done. Funnily enough, when he moved into 74 he was next door to his boss at 75, Ron Cox. I bet he was pleased to have somebody like Ruth and Ron next door. Christine was born in 1962 and Marcia in 1965 and to Ron the family always came first. One of Ron's priorities was making sure the family had a holiday every year, mainly at Paignton but also other places like Yarmouth, Aberystwyth, Llandudno and Newquay. Ron loved swimming and, in the summer months, would come home from work and say 'Right girls, get ready, we are off to Highworth'. (There was an open air swimming pool there). He was behind St Mary's school having their own swimming pool and put a lot of work into it himself. The girls had a den at the bottom of the garden and thought a bed would be nice. When their dad came home from work, they showed him what they had done and he seemed quite pleased until he realised they had used the wood he had ordered for a job. Ron became Ruth's main carer in 1989 when she became ill and supported her for four and a half years until she died from cancer in 1994. I would think Ron's best friend after losing Ruth was Corky, his dog, very loyal and always there for him. It was another sad day when Ron lost him.

In 1963 Dr Beeching came along and closed the works – what a pity that was with all the expertise that was there and now they are getting the coaches from Germany. On being made redundant Ron got a job in a joinery shop – he wasn't one to let the grass grow under his feet. In 1966 he became self employed, working all over the place, even London and during this time Ron did have a little pleasure on a Saturday night. He would meet up, usually in The Angel, with his friend Bert Pearce, who I might add was an excellent plumber and heating engineer, have a pint there then go to The Hope, a couple more pints and a game of rummy. What marvellous institutions pubs were in villages years ago – if you wanted to know anything, where to go to get what, somebody would be able to point you in the right direction.

Ron teamed up with Ray Hayward in 1980 and their main work was in old farmhouses, bringing them up to scratch. All his working life Ron didn't have to advertise – his work spoke for him. They were working in a farmhouse by Cross Lanes and they took a heavy door off to ease it. Like doors in those days, there were curtains behind them to stop the draught. Ron and Ray went off to have their lunch when suddenly there was screaming 'There's a snake indoors' so they left their lunch and went to investigate. There was the snake – quite a big one, curled up on the curtain. 'Are you going to kill it?' the lady asked. 'No, no we'll let it go in the fields' said Ron and went to get a box out of their vehicle. They shook the snake into the box (by now they were calling it Hissing Sid). They climbed one fence carrying the box then, as they climbed over the next fence, Sid poked his head out of the box. Ron ran one way and Ray the other – the lady of the house was in hysterics with two grown men running away from a snake – whilst it was a big one, it was only a grass snake.

Ron and Ray always made sure that they were paid for a job and never went back to bad payers. Ron had a chap called Nick O'Sullivan working for him and Ron had been down to this restaurant and measured up for a new front door. He asked Nick to fit it and, when the job was done, Nick asked for payment as instructed by Ron. When the restaurant owner said 'I'm not paying yet' Nick did

no more than undo the screws. 'What are you doing?' said the owner and Nick replied 'I am taking the door off. 'You can't do that' came the reply. 'Oh yes I can – the door is ours until you pay up'. So you know what happened – he paid up. As I said, you knew where you stood with Ron.

Ron was a true craftsman, in fact he built his bungalow in the garden of his house in 2000. He did his own plans and did a great deal of the work on it himself with the help of Ray. He could turn his hand to anything although the one thing he didn't attempt was the electrics. This stemmed from the time he was working on a house with Ray and Tony Newth and a socket had to be moved. Ron turned the power off, Ray asked him if that would be alright and Ron said 'Yes, there's nobody about'. Ron went on with his work, got a pair of pliers, cut the wire and it fused the end of the pliers – good job they were insulated. Some builders had come back to the site, turned the electricity back on to mix some concrete – I wouldn't have wanted to be in their shoes! Ray and Ron enjoyed working together and had many laughs along with their hard work.

Now I will tell you a little love story. Sheila's cousin Heather was living in our granny flat and one day she asked me if I knew anyone who could make some imitation guitars for her daughter Stef who runs dancing classes for young children. I immediately thought of Ron and introduced her to him. She told him what she wanted and Ron said he would do his best. His best, as always, was more than good enough and, when he brought the guitars back, Heather was so pleased that she gave him a kiss and that was the start of their love story. They married in 2002 and have been very happy, with so many interests in common and sharing the pleasure of each other's family, children and grandchildren.

I am always saying how good Ron is with everything, well this applies to cooking. He always made the Christmas cake and his fruit cake was something to die for. When we went on holiday, he would always make a cake for us to have for our morning break along with a cup of milky coffee. When Heather was working, he would have a hot meal ready for her when she came home. He enjoyed good wholesome food with no frills and was excellent at cooking it. I don't think I have ever known anyone with so many skills – from building a bungalow to making furniture, being an excellent gardener and also a skilled beekeeper for many years.

Ron's idea of a good day out would be a walk, a piece of his cake and coffee for elevenses, then a pub lunch. If he carried his lunch on a walk, it would be salmon sandwiches (red salmon always) in brown bread. I think walking was one of his great pleasures. His involvement with the village was tremendous – he joined the Parish Council and became Chair of the Footpaths Committee. You walkers will know that he followed previous people, got a group together and worked on the stiles and footpaths. This was a Tuesday morning ritual through the summer, to be out mending stiles, clearing footpaths etc. There was always a lot of leg pulling going on with that group, especially when it came to a saw cut. Ron was always telling them they should go to Specsavers. Ron always took the group a flask of coffee – and it had to be milky – he would also give them a chocolate bar each – they would give him a ribbing 'Did you get them on eBay or was it a job lot at Lidl?'

Bowls was another pleasure for Ron – he played on Monday afternoons in days

gone by but, with all his other work for the village, he found he didn't have the time. He loved his skittles and took over from John Sorsby as captain and since then he has been the glue holding the team together. Look what happened without Ron – they got relegated. I am sure if they don't get promotion next year Ron will come back and haunt them.

I mentioned Ron being on the Parish Council – he was also Chairman of the Burial Committee and his knowledge and experience were a great asset to us in all areas. He also wrote the second footpath book and was a prime mover in getting Mud Lane opened. He was a very sincere person like attending all the repatriations through Royal Wootton Bassett. With the British Legion, he helped to resurrect the Flower and Produce Show and he would enter various items, but apples were his speciality. He was also involved in getting the High Street closed off for the Remembrance service. He became a member of the Age Concern committee also the sub-committee for fund raising which organised two popular events, the 3 Bs evening and the Burns Night. Ron and Heather were members of the Wiltshire Wild Life Trust although whether he was still a member I do not know as, when they sold Brockhurst Meadow, the best natural meadow around here, he said he did not think he would renew his membership. They also were members of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust and the Stroud one as well and both enjoyed visiting the canals and walking along the tow paths. Another of Ron's interest was bird watching, always taking his binoculars when out walking, and he knew them all and most of their songs and habits. Ron knew so much about the countryside and nature – if you asked him how he knew all this, he would say 'I'm full of useless information'.

Ron has certainly left a legacy with all he was been involved in around the village. When you are walking down Church Path, take note of all the various shrubs planted along there, chosen by Ron. It would help the world to be a better place if everyone was of Ron's nature; sincere, straight forward, kind and never wanting anything in return. He will be missed in the community and for me personally he will never be forgotten.

TONY PRICE

Brian Freegard: 14 October 1936 to 12 May 2015

Thank you to everyone who attended Brian's funeral on Tuesday 26 May at St Mary's Church and after at Purton Red House.

It was attended by so many friends and neighbours from all aspects of his life; from school days, Swindon & District Motor Cycle Club, Vintage Motor Cycle Club, Boat Club, Historical Society, Science Museum and Plessey.

He fulfilled his life and worked hard at everything he did. Two years were spent in Cyprus in the R.E.M.E. regiment, then back to Plessey until he retired.

The sundial in the Garden of Remembrance was made by Brian. He was an engineer by trade so continued using his skills by building model steam boats or by making parts for motorbikes.

He was always an avid reader, always at the libraries, always learning.

Thank you for all your generous donations.

DOREEN, SANDRA & HELEN

Brian Freegard

Memories of a very special man

Towards the end of 2008 the Curator of Purton Museum decided to retire unexpectedly. I was chairman of the Purton Historical Society at the time and was mortified by the news. In some ways the Curator is the most important and challenging post for a member to hold. At the next meeting I mentioned our dilemma and to my delight – and surprise – a volunteer came forward. Brian! Previously he had worked at the Science Museum, Wroughton, he possessed all the required skills, was keen to improve the Museum as a village facility and had already begun liaising with advisers. We were so fortunate to acquire his services.

A year later I reported that I hoped Brian had enjoyed the role of Curator as much as we had appreciated having him in charge. His plans for reorganizing the Museum involved building a team of helpers willing to sort, accession and display items and to keep the premises clean and tidy.

In 2010 Brian proved a revelation! He was the instigator of our Heritage Lottery Fund grant award winning project to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the PHS and commemorate the bicentenary of the death of the Reverend Dr Nevil Maskelyne, 5th Astronomer Royal, whose tomb is situated by the south porch in St Mary's Churchyard.

Having discovered that very few people in Purton had even heard of Nevil Maskelyne, Brian's inspirational idea was to clarify his connection with the village and specify his many fine achievements as a leading scientist and astronomer of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Brian led the enterprise from the start, assisted by Tim Burge and Helen Williams of the Wiltshire Museum Service. He established a friendly and helpful relationship with the staff at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre by visiting frequently while researching the Maskelyne family in Purton and Purton Stoke, using original sources held in the archives. His close connection with the Chippenham staff enhanced the reputation of Purton Museum at county level.

Brian devoted a considerable amount of time and energy working in the Museum on his own. Much investigating, planning and costing had to be done in order to complete the application form for a Lottery grant. Such a task demanded considerable patience and perseverance, qualities Brian possessed in abundance. He was an unassuming man, with a wry sense of humour and some specialised interests and skills, preferring to stay in the background on public occasions. He did not seek acclaim.

When news came that the application had been successful Brian began to organize the events he had planned. In particular he hired an inflatable planetarium, mainly for the children from St Mary's Primary School to enjoy an amazing demonstration by two young science graduates from Bristol. He also arranged the loan of three contemporary navigational instruments from the University of Oxford Museum of the History of Science. They became part of an exhibition that attracted over four hundred visitors in ten weeks.

Dr Richard Dunn, Curator of the History of Navigation at the National Maritime Museum, delivered a lecture on the 5th Astronomer Royal at Bradon Forest School to more than two hundred people. In April 2012 almost all the fifty project

volunteers were taken to Greenwich by coach where Dr Dunn led a conducted tour of the Royal Observatory, the Maskelyne family home for forty six years.

Other events included a Family Activity Day and a Flower Festival. Educational resource packs were commissioned. The enthusiastic cooperation of the staff and pupils of St Mary's School was most rewarding; the project was intended to appeal to all ages. The children produced some delightfully imaginative art and craft work for displays in both the church and Museum. Finally Brian designed a commemorative plaque that was placed by the tomb listing Maskelyne's outstanding achievements and the accolades he was awarded.

At the Annual General Meeting of the PHS in 2012 Brian completed his term as Curator, after three momentous years. He had neglected his other interests, spending so much time on PHS matters, and he wanted to restore a balance to his life. He remained on the committee providing essential technical support to Jan Walker, the new Curator.

The members of the PHS extend their deepest sympathy to Doreen, Sandra and Helen who always gave Brian invaluable support. He was a modest, dedicated, admirable man who will be greatly missed but the Society is stronger for the contribution that he made and he leaves a significant legacy. The extensive research he undertook culminated in his book "From Marsh Farm to the Moon, the Maskelyne Family of Purton" published in 2012.

JEAN BELT

I have just received an important email from Claire Skinner, the Principal Archivist at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, which would have been of great interest to Brian. The review by the Arts Council England into the Arnold-Foster archives which include those of Nevil Maskelyne has been completed and the decision taken to split the collection. The personal papers of Maskelyne himself (including his scientific notebooks) have been donated to the Scientific Manuscripts Collection of Cambridge University Library, the political papers of H Arnold-Foster are going to the British Library while the estate documents will be retained in Chippenham.

Claire adds they were not surprised to lose the Maskelyne material as it is of international importance but she is so pleased that it was still in Wiltshire for the bicentenary, when people were able to see the photographs taken by Brian and enjoy all the events he arranged. She sends her best wishes to everyone in Purton.

Her message concludes "I just wanted to say how sorry I am to hear of Brian's death. My condolences to his family and friends."

Purton & District Guide Dogs

Our thoughts are with Doreen Freegard and family on the loss of Brian.

We are having a stall at the Carnival Fete, we will have had a stall at the final Charity Dog Show at Bowood House, and I will report on this in next month's Magazine.

Many thanks for your continued support,

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



Purton Parish Council recently ran a competition for short stories to highlight the dangers of dog mess in the village. We are printing the winning stories in the adult and children's sections. This month we feature one of the joint winner's story in the adult category. The others will follow in future issues ...

Doris the Dog-Poo Fairy

By Rupert Whelan

"Look Aunty" said Rachel, pointing at the pavement. "Why do people do that?"

Rachel and her friend Kirsty were staying for a week in Purton with Rachel's Aunty Jane. So far, they hadn't found the holiday as enjoyable as their many trips to the seaside – they hadn't met any fairies yet, and they were beginning to think Purton was a very unmagical place indeed, despite having Aunty Jane's tiny puppy to play with.

"Some people just can't be bothered to pick up after their dogs", answered Aunty Jane. "They think that the Dog Poo fairy will clean up after them."

Kirsty and Rachel looked at each other. Unlike Aunty Jane, they knew that there really were fairies, but they had never, ever met a Dog Poo fairy.

That afternoon, the girls went exploring. They put on their wellies and took the muddy footpath to Ringsbury Camp. Scamp the Puppy trotted alongside them. Sadly, they kept on having to avoid the dog mess, which spoils the walk a little.

When they reached the camp, Rachel said "Can you feel it? There is magic in the air." A sparkling shower of brown fairy dust started falling near them, and a tiny girl in a brown dress appeared. Scamp barked excitedly, and wagged his short tail. Rachel and Kirsty gasped, not because a fairy had appeared – they were used to that, but because emanating from the fairy was a slight odour, a whiff like you might get from the bottom of your shoe if you didn't look where you were walking.

"Hi girls, I'm Doris the Dog Poo fairy" a small voice piped. "Please can you help me?"

"What is wrong?" asked Kirsty, "and why do you smell so bad?"

Doris started to cry. "I normally smell sweet, like the other fairies, but Jack Frost has bought a big dog, and it poos so much both in your world and Fairyland I can't keep up. When there is poo on the ground, I start to smell bad. I can't go back to fairyland smelling like this."

"Please don't cry," said Rachel. "We'll help you, and get our new friends in the village to help, too." "Thank you so much, girls" said Doris.

Rachel and Kirsty went back to their Aunty Jane's house and, without telling her about Doris, of course, explained they planned on getting a group together to pick up all the dog poo they could find.

Next morning, a group of 10 villagers joined Kirsty and Rachel at the village hall, all armed with rubber gloves, dog poo bags and flicking sticks. "If we all set out in different directions, and pick up all the poo we can find, we will soon get the job done" said Rachel.

The group met back at the hall a couple of hours later, with slightly disgusted looks on their faces. "Well, that wasn't much fun, was it", said one. "I hope people start picking up after their own dogs from now on". Rachel and Kirsty thanked

everyone for their efforts and went back to Aunty Jane's house to wash their hands very thoroughly.

That afternoon, they took Scamp for another walk up to Ringsbury camp. As they approached the place where they had met Doris the day before, a sparkling shower of dark green fairy dust came tumbling down, and the smell of sweet mown grass met filled the air. "Thank you so much, girls," piped a small, happy voice, "I don't smell of poo anymore, and can return to fairyland. Will you come with me?"

Kirsty and Rachel were very excited about the idea of going back to see their friends in Fairyland, so Doris waved her wand, and the girls and Scamp shrank to the size of fairies, and wings grew from their backs. Scamp barked in excitement. "Off we go" trilled Doris, and they flew up into the clouds.

A long flight later, they came back down, but Fairyland wasn't quite as Rachel and Kirsty remembered. Just as Doris had, the air smelt bad. "Right", said Kirsty determinedly, "we shall have to make Jack Frost clean up after his dog". "But how?" asked Rachel.

"I suppose we should start by asking him", said Kirsty. "We tried that," said Doris, "but he has a very big dog, and every time we get close, the dog snarls at us and tries to bite. Jack Frost threatened to let the dog off his chain and chase us if we didn't go away".

"I've got an idea", said Rachel, a wicked gleam in her eye. "Have you any dog poo bags in Fairyland?"

So, for the second time in two days, Rachel and Kirsty went round picking up dog poo, this time helped by a group of Fairies. Once all the poo was collected, Doris asked "What do we do now?" "Everyone grab a bag and follow me" shouted Rachel, and taking a bag, she flew up into the air, followed by Kirsty and all the fairies.

As they flew high over Jack Frost's castle, Rachel cried "Let go now!" and 20 bags of dog poo fell through the air and splatted all over Jack Frost and his Goblin guards, who ran from the falling bags with screams of rage. "We would never have dreamed of doing anything that nasty", giggled Doris, "but I think Jack Frost will have learned his lesson, and will clear up after his dog now."

Rachel, Kirsty and the fairies all cleaned themselves up, and then they and Scamp were guests of honour at a party in the beautiful Fairyland palace.

Rachel, Kirsty and Scamp flew back to Purton, where they returned to full size. "It was all very well doing that to Jack Frost," said Kirsty, "but we can't fly over the village dropping dog poo on owners' heads!" Rachel replied "No, we can't. All we can do is hope that people will start to realize how nasty it is and clear up after their own dogs."

(With apologies to Daisy Meadows and the Rainbow Fairies)

Cricklade Country Market

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

Bus Stop Arrives at The Cedars

After a miserable morning the sun came out for our unveiling of the new bus stop. The bus stop was kindly donated by Thamesdown Transport and officially opened by their Commercial Director Deric Pemberton. The reasoning behind bus stops being put into our homes is that they can provide a sense of security, reassurance, familiarity and also help with communication for our residents living with dementia.



Our photography competition was well subscribed with lots of different photographs entered and the winners were Miss Zoe Hibberd and Mrs Sally Rose. National Care Home Open Day on Friday, 19 June was celebrated in the home with a Wild West Afternoon and BBQ which went off with a “yeehaa”. A “Behind the Scenes” talk given by Keith Walker gave us a true insight into “theatreland” and what really goes on without our knowledge.

We will be celebrating our 15th anniversary in July with a party for all the local residents of Purton and watch out for your invitations.

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

BEVERLEY WILSON

Charity Tea Party

Thank You, once again to the people of Purton for supporting our annual Tea Party in aid of Age UK and the Handicapped Children Hostel in Udaipur, India on 25 May. We had a very successful day, thanks to the generosity of Khalique and his wonderful staff at The Maharajah for the use of his



premises. Also the delicious Indian savoury snacks cooked by Basanti Garg and Shrin Ali. The money raised was divided equally between the two charities.

Finally, thanks to all those who helped to make the event a success by baking cakes, scones etc, and in particular to Lisa for stepping in at the last minute.

ASHISH, TINA & WENDY

Knit-A-Square (KAS)

The squares keep rolling in – thank you to all who knit or crochet for KAS. I'm waiting until October or November when I will have about 3000 squares before sending the next shipment to South Africa as sending them in bulk is the most cost effective way.

Also, if anyone has any yarn (4-ply, DK, Aran, Chunky etc) they would like to donate I will be extremely grateful, including any navy blue yarn for a project the charity are undertaking at the moment. Please contact me on 772558 for details.

Thank you.

LOUISE TIDMAN

PURTON POSTBAG

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



■ RON HARRIS

Heather and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and letters received in memory of Ron Harris. I don't think even Ron realised how well liked and respected he was in the village. His heart was definitely in the village and the countryside around us. He was indeed a very special man. May he now rest in peace.

Heather

■ BENCHES

The Red House Club has recently installed 3 benches outside the main entrance door on the grassed area to enhance trade in what is a family friendly club in a safe environment with fantastic new play area facilities. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!?! The Parish Council has asked us to remove them although we had a meeting with a couple of trustees who implied they could not see a problem and what a help it would be for our trade which always needs a boost as any licensed premises tenant will tell you!

The reason given was the Red House club does not hold an Off Licence and is not allowed to provide alcohol consumption outside the premises. I wonder if all Licensed premises with a garden or benches have this Licence. I would welcome comments on this either via my email address of terry.crumbie@gmail.com or if you are a member of the Red House maybe over a pint or two!

Terry Crumbie

■ PROPER TRADITIONAL GARDEN PARTY

What a delight it was to attend the Garden Party at Church Path, organised by the friends of Pauline Hall.

Pauline was much loved in Purton and this was very much in evidence by the huge numbers of people who came to the fundraising event held in her memory.

All the funds were going to Prospect ... and people flocked in. It was a typical English event, bright sunshine, brilliant brass band, delicious cream teas, books, plants and cakes for sale and lots of lovely people.

Thank you to all the organisers. I have no doubt that Pauline would have loved it too ... although she would have been so busy serving the teas she wouldn't have had time to comment on the sunshine!

Libbie Sheppard

■ KINDNESS & CONCERN

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and concern shown when I fell over at Pavenhill shops on 20 May. Special thanks for making sure I arrived home safely.

Thank you all.

Barbara Little

Jubilee Gardens Project Celebrates Year of Charity Partnership with Sainsbury's Stratton!

A year of fundraising reached its climax on Saturday 23 May when the Jubilee Gardens Project received a cheque for £7,793.91 at the start of their hugely successful Open Day. The donation was presented by Sainsbury's Stratton Store Manager Val Atwill, who was quick to praise the efforts and generosity of colleagues and customers of the shop.



"We have some extremely hard working staff at our store," she enthused, "and when you put all that effort and focus alongside the kindness of our wonderful customers it is amazing what you can achieve." She went on to thank the project for the huge part they played in the partnership. "From day one they have been a pleasure to work with – always willing to attend our fundraisers and in-store events, and always taking time to explain their operation to customers."

For Jubilee Gardens, Company Secretary John Crawford was equally complimentary about Sainsbury's Stratton, thanking them for all their hard work during the year and going on to expound the project's aims and successes. "We started operations in 1978 with the aim of helping people with learning difficulties to expand their horizons and, through learning horticulture, to also hone their personal life-skills. We are proud to have been able to help an average of 25 students per year over the last 30 years."

With previous monies presented throughout the year the final total raised for Jubilee Gardens came to over £8,000 and while Sainsbury's Stratton are currently in the process of selecting a new partner for adoption as their Charity of the Year for 2015 one thing is for sure. As Val Atwill put it, "We will never forget our year's partnership with Jubilee Gardens and we wish them every success for the future."

BARRIE MATTHEWS

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

OFFERED: Cambridge Sound Works, PC Multispeaker system.

Dave: 01793 772350.

OFFERED: two Microsoft PC joysticks. Dave: 01793 772350.

OFFERED: 26 giant's footprint stepping stones. Have all or some of them.

Lynne: 778165

OFFERED: Pine 6 panel interior door. Non standard size: 1925x680mm.

Lynne: 778165

OFFERED: Workmate and various tools. Eve Collett: 770155

OFFERED: Electric Radiator. Eve Collett: 770155

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

PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

In Aid of Jubilee Gardens Presents

A Murder Mystery Evening

"Murder at Home Farm"

At the Silver Threads Hall on
Saturday 18 July
At 7.30 pm

All proceeds will go to
The Jubilee Gardens Project
Tickets: £10 per person to include a
Ploughman's Supper.
Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Book your Tickets by telephone on
01793 770818 (Barbara Compton)
or 01793 770160 (Barbara Page)
or through Jubilee Gardens
on 01793 771539

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

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

Village outing to Weston-super-Mare

for all ages

on Wednesday 5 August.

Coach leaves at 9.30 am

Returning from Weston at 6.30pm

Cost - £13 for children/OAP's

£15 for others

(food not included)

Book with your street warden

Join us for a fun day out!

Pips
Community
Café



Cream Teas

at College Farm House, High Street

Sunday 12 July

3 - 5 pm

Live Music by Breeze

Adults £5, Children (3-10) £1.50

Under-3s free

Tickets available from
Mary Nettleton (772298),
Heather Ponting-Bather (771469),
Libbie Sheppard (771018)
and In Touch Services at
115 Pavenhill,
and on the door.

**Wroughton Support Group
Barn Dances**
in aid of Prospect Hospice
in Wroughton.

We have held 6 Barn Dances and raised over £3,800.

18 July Marlborough Football Club
£9 a ticket.

**10 October Ridgeway School,
Wroughton : £8 a ticket.**

Both will have live bands, bar, raffle. The dances are for everyone, all ages and all abilities and have proved very successful with families.

For tickets or more information please contact Hilary on 01793 813069 or hilaryfleming@live.com

**St Mary's Church
Summer Barbecue**

Saturday 18 July : 6.30 pm
at The Buthaye

4 Church End, Purton
Quiz (optional), Raffle
Please bring your own
drinks and glasses

Tickets: £8,
Children £4 (11 and under)
Tel: Sandra 770157, Val 771201,
Sheila 770970

**Coffee & Stalls
Morning**

Saturday 18 July
10 am to Noon
at Silver Threads Hall
Admission £1

**PURTON AGE CONCERN
Coffee Morning**

Saturday 4 July
10 am - 12 noon
Admission £1
At the home of Dick & Jackie Scott
Bentham Farm. Bentham Lane

Thanks to Khalique, enjoy a great curry in good company whilst raising funds for:

STOP BREAST CANCER FOR GOOD

**BREAST THROUGH
BREAKTHROUGH**

TICKETS **£15 each** with 2 sittings on
Tuesday 7 July
6.30 pm and 8.00 pm

For Reservations please contact:
Eunice on 07947 068 159 or email
eunice.salmon@btinternet.com
PLEASE BOOK to avoid disappointment
Venue: The Maharajah, 6 High Steet, Purton

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

By July the cricket season is usually in full swing and in the magazine 10 years ago, Purton Cricket Club was celebrating the fact that the club's encouragement of young players even back then was paying dividends with several boys being selected to play for Wiltshire. Several names were mentioned and are still enjoying the game while one, Craig Miles, continues to ply his trade as a professional cricketer with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club in 2015. It is known that quite a few in the village follow his achievements day by day through the pages of national newspapers.

More physical activity was reported in Purton Magazine 10 years ago as members of the Purton Twinning Association – both participants and supporters – were en route to Héric to participate “in all aspects” of that year's 24 Hour Tandem Race. The event attracted entrants from all over France and the theme in 2005 was French History and readers were treated to a picture of the Purton tandem, depicting the Bayeux Tapestry.

Finally, we were assured in Purton Magazine 10 years ago that 2005 was then a “bumper year” for tadpoles which begs the question – how is that known? The thought of counting tadpoles must surely be more soporific than counting sheep, especially for research purposes, but maybe there was a more general combination of environmental conditions that spawned (sorry!) such a statement.

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

Purton Library - inspiring children to read this summer

There are 1,435 steps to the world's highest library in Shanghai, China but no steps to climb to visit your local library, so why not come along to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge, “Record Breakers”, and break your own personal record for the number of books you can read over the holidays. Find out amazing facts such as the number of cans a parrot can open in one minute or the dimensions of the largest pizza. As you discover weird, wonderful and wacky records from around the world read just 6 library books or more and collect stickers, rewards, plus a medal and certificate for all those completing the challenge. Open to children aged 4-11 years, the challenge starts on 11 July and is absolutely free. On days you can't get to the library, there is a fantastic Record Breakers website: recordbreakers.org.uk, where children can keep a record of their Challenge, recommend books and decide what to read next using the Book Sorter.



So children why not break your own personal record this summer, we look forward to seeing you at Purton Library. For more information Tel 01793 770870 or visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries

Get your Bike ready for Summer

CycleCare is offering a **free bicycle safety check** for children's bikes on Thursday 9 July. Phone 01793 778123 for further information. No appointment necessary.

Wessex Male Choir Summer Concert



At 7.30 pm 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.

Choirs receive standing ovation

On Saturday 23 May 2015, Wessex Male Choir hosted a concert in the performing arts location known as St John the Evangelist, Iffley Road, Oxford. The performance was in aid of Parkinson's UK and their guests were the Rutgers University Choir from New Jersey, USA. The programme included Estonian songs, classics and show stoppers but the *piece de resistance* came when both choirs, numbering 134 male choristers, sang Biebl's *Ave Maria*, which brought the house down and raised a standing ovation.

Jenni Howells, from Parkinson's UK, said "We received many lovely compliments from the audience saying what a wonderful concert it was, with a really varied programme and of course how good the choirs were. I would like to say a big thank-you to both choirs for helping us to raise awareness of Parkinson's and for such a brilliant performance. The standing ovation was certainly well deserved."



Wessex Male Choir finishing rehearsals at SJE-ARTS Iffley Road, Oxford before giving a concert with the Rutgers University Choir from New Jersey, USA.

Photo courtesy of Shellon Islip.

The choirs returned to the Carswell Golf and Country Club near Faringdon to enjoy an afterglow of music making and a well-earned drink. The Rutgers University choir were performing several more concerts in England before flying to the Netherlands in their European tour.

Wessex Male Choir performed with the Os Vocalis Ladies Choir from Norway in Taunton on 13 June

If you fancy joining the choir why not come to one of their practices in the Abbey Meads Church, north-east Swindon. Practice takes place every Tuesday at 7.30 pm and details are on the choir's website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk

TIM YEOMAN, press@wessexmalechoir.co.uk

Purton Diary - July 2015

1	W	10.00am	Age Concern Day trip to Stratford-on-Avon
		10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		5.00pm	to <i>Friday</i> : Village Hall Car Park closed for resurfacing
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
2	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Carnival Crib at The Angel
3	F	12 noon	Carnival Lunch at the Royal George
4	Sa	10.00am	Purton Age Concern: Coffee Morning at Dick & Jackie Scott's, Bentham Lane
		11.00am	to <i>4pm</i> : Summer Garden Party at 89 Pavenhill
		12 noon	to <i>6pm</i> : Carnival Fete at Purton House Farm
		1.00pm	Carnival Procession starting at Ringsbury Close
		1.00pm	to <i>3pm</i> : High Street closed for Carnival Procession
<hr/>			
5	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Family Service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
7	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads: <i>Dorcan Choir at Silver Threads Hall</i>
		6.30pm	and <i>8pm</i> : Charity Curry Evening at The Maharajah (two sittings)
8	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
9	Th	9.00am	<i>onwards</i> : Free children's bikes safety check at CycleCare
		10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
<hr/>			
12	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		3.00pm	to <i>5pm</i> : Pips Community Café Cream Teas at College Farm House
13	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
14	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: Paul Booy - <i>Admirals in Collision</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
15	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: John Hughes - <i>My Experiences in the Metropolitan Police</i>
18	Sa	9.30am	Historical Society: Lacock Village Ramble (meet in College Road layby)
		10.00am	to <i>12 noon</i> : Coffee & Stalls Morning at Silver Threads Hall
		6.30pm	Barbeque at The Buthaye, 4 Church End
		7.30pm	PADS Murder Mystery at Silver Threads Hall
<hr/>			
19	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church

		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		2.00pm	Great War Walk & Talk at St Mary's Church
20	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Social Evening
21	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads: Louise Tidman talks about <i>Knit a Square</i> at Silver Threads Hall
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
25	Sa	7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir summer concert at Steam, Swindon
26	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
27	M	11.30am	Communion at The Cedars
28	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at Red House: Bernard Tidmarsh - <i>My Life as a Farmer</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Dawn Collins - <i>A Path to Paradise through Stourhead Landscape</i>
		8.00pm	After 8: Summer Social at Helen's

August

5 W 9.30am Purton Age Concern: Village outing to Weston-super-Mare

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 July ● 8 July ● 16 July ○ 24 July
○ 31 July

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, let us know:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

Purton Silver Threads

The Silver Threads is quite possibly one of the longest serving organizations in the village. Meetings were first held in the upstairs room of the Institute where the museum is now, the late Miss Elizabeth Ward being the founder member. Numerous activities were organised and an excellent choir sang at many village occasions – some of our grandparents have performed!

A World War One building from Chiseldon Camp was purchased and erected in 1950 at a cost of £100. This was first used by the Purton Athletic Club as a Recreation Room. Silver Threads meetings were transferred from the Institute to the hall in 1957 and continued until 1987, when the old 'hut' was demolished. A rebuilding fund was set up, the total cost being £74,000. The village magnificently supported the fund raising to one third of the cost, £27,000, the remainder was provided by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, whose national president Dame Barbara Shenfield performed the opening ceremony in 1988. In 2000 the W.R.V.S. handed over the deeds to the Silver Threads and the hall is now managed by appointed trustees.

The club has continued to flourish and recently held their AGM. For many years Pauline Ward has been a stoic worker for the club and we do thank her for her dedication and commitment. She was invited to become president with Lucy Webb, another long serving member, as vice president. Brenda Cook was elected treasurer and will continue to take bookings for the hall. Joan Garlick will become secretary and minutes secretary, with Bernice Seviour organising entertainment for the fortnightly meetings. She has managed to secure some excellent speakers and good choirs. Other committee members will take on various roles and we sincerely thank all for their support.

We hope the club continues to provide friendship and social activities for the over 60s in Purton and district, and we look forward to welcoming new members.

Why not come along to our coffee morning on Saturday 18 July, 10 am to 12 noon, and meet with some of our members. For further information, contact Jenny on 770339.

JENNY BARNES, 770339

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

Make Sure You Choose the Right NHS Service

NHS 111

Call 111 if:

- You need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency.
- You think you may need to go to A&E or need another NHS urgent care service.
- You need health information or reassurance about what to do next.

NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobiles – dial 111.

GP

Visit your GP when:

- Illnesses aren't responding to self-care or advice from your pharmacists.
- When you're suffering from a persistent illness.
- When you have a "flare up" of a long standing illness.
- When you're in need of any vaccinations.

Minor Injury Unit/Walk In

- No appointments needed.
- Can treat a variety of injuries such as sprains, strains, minor cuts and fractures.

Walk In Centre, Carfax Street, Swindon
Tel: 01793 428524

Minor Injuries Unit, Chippenham
Tel: 01793 456403

NOTE: Minor injury units cannot treat problems such as chest pains, breathing difficulties, pregnancy problems and allergic reactions.

Sexual Health Clinics

Carfax Street, Swindon
Monday – 15:00 – 17:00
Tuesday – 16:30 – 18:30
Drop in Only, No Appointments.

The Great Western Hospital, Swindon
Appointment Required.
Tel: 01793 604038

Health Centre, West Swindon
Tel: 01793 877233
Wednesday - 18:00 - 20:00
Friday - 14:00 - 16:00

Community Hospital, Chippenham
Mondays – 18:00 – 20:30 (01225 831593)
Wednesdays – 16:00 – 19:30 (appointment only) (call 01249 456502 between 1pm - 3pm for an appointment)

Self-Care

Self-Care

- The best choice for minor illnesses.
- Try the online symptom checker:
www.nhs.uk/symptomchecker
- Keep a well-stocked medicine cabinet, guidance can be found at:
www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Pharmacy
- Visit www.patient.co.uk which is an online resource loaded with tips and advice on the different self-care options and how to go about treating your minor ailments.

NHS 111

Pharmacists

Pharmacists

- Talk in confidence, without appointments.
- They offer expert advice on minor ailments such as coughs and colds, earache, skin rashes and sore throats.
- They can provide services such as Chlamydia testing, emergency contraception and stop smoking services.
- Purton Lloyds – 01793 770294
- Cricklade Boots – 01793 750226

GP

Minor Injury Unit/Walk In

A&E/999

A&E/999

Visit A&E or call the 999 ambulance service for emergencies that are critical or life threatening. Such as:

- Loss of consciousness.
- Persistent severe chest pain.
- Acute confused state.
- Fits that are not stopping.
- Severe bleeding that cannot be stopped.

Purton Historical Society



Past Meetings and Events

The Remount Depot at Purton – Bob Lloyd

Many of us were unaware of the existence of The Remount Depot until Bob gave brief details during a previous presentation on World War One. Bob has completed detailed research on the depot and his talk on 28 May added greatly to our knowledge and understanding.

At the start of the war, horses and mules could be purchased on a compulsory basis on behalf of the Government. An enormous amount of horses were needed for war work, both on the front and helping with transportation of supplies etc. A Remount Depot to 'house' the horses and ensure that they were fit for 'war work' was established at Manor Hill Purton which was run by William Robson and his sons. By 1915 there were 42 depots established in the United Kingdom. Horses and mules were sent to Purton by train and were walked through the village to the Manor Hill Depot which was just past the Pear Tree Hotel on the road to Lydiard.

The Depot was subject to regular inspections both from the Government and the Military Authorities and strict paperwork procedures regarding the horses were followed. Paperwork has survived from the depot and was shown at the meeting. As the war progressed the depot developed expertise in 'breaking in' problematic horses and mules and became known as a 'breaker's yard'. Some common traits mentioned were 'dangerous', impossible to handle, kicker and vicious – work was often dangerous for Mr Robson's staff. Mr Robson's valuable work continued for the duration of the war in what was very often difficult circumstances. The work was officially recognised by the Government as 'war work' but shortage of suitable staff was a problem that Mr Robson had to face and overcome.

By the end of the war over 300,000 horses had died. 500,000 horses, their 'war work' completed, were re-sold at auction, many of which were held in France and Belgium to save the cost of transporting the horses back to the UK.

Future Dates

Saturday 18 July - £2.00 per person

There is still time to book on the walking tour of Lacock which has been arranged in conjunction with Lacock History Group.

- Assemble at 9.30 am in the Purton lay-by at the bottom of College Road. Transport is by car and everyone will be included in car share arrangements
- Please contact Tony and Janet Neate on tel: 01793 770117 email: tjneate57@gmail.com if you would like to attend and to discuss car share arrangements.
- Depart 9.40 am
- Ramble (inclusive of visit to church) takes one and a half hours and there is an option to enjoy a pub lunch or refreshments after the walk.

Sunday 19 July at 2.00 pm – Purton and The Great War Walk and Talk at St Mary's Church, Purton – 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

Purton & District Artists: two valued committee members retire

Purton Artists started in a small way in 1979. In 1981 membership was opened up to all artists and craftsmen living in the village. Among the founder members was artist Nelson Woolford, and his wife, Barbara became Treasurer. The group met at the George and used the old gallery in the library to put on a two week show before moving in its current format to our Village Hall.

Nelson passed away in 2000 but Barbara remained a member and never failed to support an exhibition helping the association to grow as our boundaries were extended, never failing to help steward a show. After becoming a life member in 2003 Barbara went on to become President in 2006 and remained so until this year's AGM when for personal reasons she resigned. Purton Artists is indebted to Barbara and she will be greatly missed.

Also missed will be Avril Ainscough who specialised in beautify crafted cards sold for charity. Avril has decided to give up her craft work and to directly support her charity and so also stood down as Membership Secretary.

We are grateful for the support they have given us

BRIAN COE, Chair

Purton Horticultural Show; Saturday 29 August

Purton Village Hall, public viewing from 2 - 6 pm

In conjunction with Purton Gardeners Guild and affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society.

Due to the great success of last year's show, Purton Horticultural Show will this year be held in Purton village hall to enable us to have more space for entries and visitors. All proceeds from the show go to The Royal British Legion.

Everyone is welcome – free parking and entry. Tea and cake will be available.

There are classes for showing vegetables/flowers, flower arranging, fruit, children's classes, photography, baking, handicrafts, preserves and more ...

A raffle and auction are held at the end of the day where you can bid for anything from a giant onion to a delicious pot of jam!

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors Lydiard Turkeys, Toomers Garden Centre and Hills Ltd.

For a schedule please see our new website www.purtonshow.wordpress.com, email purtonshow@outlook.com, call Mr David Herbert on 01793 770002 or pick one up at Toomers, Stone lane, Lydiard Millicent.



Great War Project

Part 24: July 1915

Tom Martin (*pictured*) was born in Purton in 1886 and enlisted in England in 1911 with the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers. He was stationed in Cairo at the outbreak of war, and later moved to the frontier station at Risalpur with the rank of Lance Corporal. (The most famous engagement of the 21st had been at the Battle of Omdurman, Sudan in 1898, where Winston Churchill, then an officer of the 4th Hussars, rode with the unit.)



Risalpur today is a city in Nowshera District, in modern day Pakistan, some 45 km from Peshawar. It is located in a depression some 1014 feet above sea level. The famous Khyber Pass lies 90 km to the north.



Tom died of sunstroke on 30 July 1915. He was buried in Nowshera Military Cemetery, N.15 (India) and is remembered on the Delhi Memorial (India Gate) - *pictured*. Of the 13,300 Commonwealth servicemen commemorated by name on the memorial, just over 1,000 lie in cemeteries to the west of the River Indus, where maintenance was not possible, Nowshera being one such place. Tom is listed on Swindon's Roll of Honour.

Tom's Brother Dan also served with the 21st Lancers; he survived the War and later emigrated to Canada.

The following men with Purton connections were mobilised:

Gallipoli:

- Alfred W Matthews, 5th (Service) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
- Herbert Stanley Woolford, Wiltshire Regiment
- Bertie William Curtis, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.
- Arthur Ockwell, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.
- Sidney Rowland Smith, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.
- Albert Canning, 1/7th Battalion Manchester Regiment

France:

- Edward John Bunce, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
- Louis Walter Gough, Royal Field Artillery, Royal Horse Artillery

Egypt:

- Edwin E Saunders, 54th Brigade, Ammunition Column Royal Field Artillery

In Britain the Munitions of War Act became law creating the Ministry of Munitions (2 July) and the National Registration Act came into force on 15 July.

On the **Eastern Front** a series of battles on the Russian borders with Germany and Austria-Hungary resulted in the Russian "Great Retreat" as their forces pulled back

from Poland (which was part of Russia), taking machinery and equipment with them.

The Hooge Mine:

Towards the tail end of the 2nd Battle of Ypres, the Belgian village of Hooge in the Ypres salient was completely destroyed. Both sides had exploded mines beneath the front line trenches there however the largest crater was created by a mine detonated at Hooge by the 175th Tunnelling Company of the Royal Engineers on 19 July 1915. The explosion created a crater that had a lip 15 feet above ground level, 120 feet wide and 20 feet deep. It has since been filled in, but several other large mine craters in the course of the fighting can still be seen.

In Africa, Union of South Africa forces under General Botha took the surrender of German South-West Africa with assistance from Canada, Britain, Portugal and Portuguese Angola. South Africa occupied South-West Africa until March 1990 when it became independent as Namibia.

In the **Ottoman theatre**, on 5 July Turkish forces took control of Lahej in South Arabia (modern-day Yemen) where Saudi Arabia is fighting Yemeni factions at the time of writing. And Anglo-Indian forces captured Nasiriyah in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) on 25 July. A few days later, on 29 July, British and Russian forces co-operated to form the East Persia Cordon to prevent Turkish and German infiltration from Persia into Afghanistan and therefore protect British India just to the east.

On 14 July, Hussein bin Ali, Sharif of Mecca in the Hejaz, opened direct negotiations with British Government for co-operation against the Turks. This set the scene for the eventual posting of T.E. Lawrence to the Hejaz in October 1916.

The **Central Powers** (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey) signed a Treaty of Alliance with Bulgaria on 17 July. Albania would be ceded to Bulgaria in return for Bulgarian participation in war. Bulgaria declared war on Serbia in October 1915.

On 28 July 1915, Pope Benedict XV published an appeal for peace, commemorating the first anniversary of the outbreak of the war, asking warring sides to lay down their weapons and begin negotiations. His appeal went unheard as the conflict grew and worsened. Benedict later focused his efforts on humanitarian assistance and above all on helping the victims of the greatest atrocity of the war: the Armenian Genocide in which the Ottoman authorities massacred some 1.5 million people between April 1915 and 1918.

RICK DIXON

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.

Our Family's War

Our thanks to Jan Walker who has provided us with this story:

Purton Remount Depot

My Grandfather, Frank Shailes, was born at Clardon in Purton in approximately 1890 and I believe worked in the paintshop at the Great Western factory until his retirement. There was, however, a time when he was a very young man when he helped at the Remount Depot at Manor Hill in Purton. His name does not appear on any list of permanent staff but his brother Donald does. It is possible that he went along with his brother to help with the horses on an informal basis. This theory is rather contradicted by the fact that he accompanied the horses to the docks at Felixstowe and I remember my father taking him on a trip to the East Coast so he could relive some memories of that time.

As a young child the details of the trip rather went over my head but there was considerable excitement at the time as it was a long trip for an Austin A30 or A40 which was the family car at that time.

It was only when Bob Lloyd began his research into Purton's World War One history that I recalled this story and now wish that I had asked more questions of my grandfather.

In the tradition of village lads having nicknames, my Grandad was known as 'Bumper'. I have no idea why!

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.

What is a safe place?

Imagine the scenario – you are out shopping and your keys and purse have been misplaced; you are visiting a friend in one of our lovely villages and you have missed the last bus or the car has broken down. PANIC! Where do you go for help?

There is a national scheme called Safe Places which is gradually spreading and is now being set up in Wiltshire. You may have noticed this logo in shops, restaurants or other business windows. Wherever you see this sign, you can be assured of sensible, practical assistance in time of need. The establishments displaying this sign have volunteered to take part in this scheme and have agreed to be true "good neighbours". They will offer a safe place for you to wait and support you to sort out the problem.

If you have any questions about this, or if I can help in any other way through the Good Neighbour role, give me a call on: 07557 110414.



ELLEN BLACKER

Purton & District Probus Club



On 12 May Tim Mowat of Minchinhampton gave a talk entitled "Revolution in Communications". Tim's introduction pointed up the speed of evolution: Smart phones, tablets, Home computer centres, Skype and Smart TV's. See, send, listen, watch, consult and research, all from data available from the Internet or Cloud services. Today many children have mobile phones and peer-pressure demands that they have screens and often cameras. Historically, written communication for the masses started in the Middle Ages although cuneiform and hieroglyphics are almost 5000 years old.

The 19th and 20th centuries saw development in electrical and electronic transmissions. In 1989 the World Wide Web was launched. Wi-Fi, the latest network revolution was first established in 1997 but not widely distributed until 2012. Today Wi-Fi hotspots for wireless transmission to the world wide web are readily available. Coffee shops, libraries, airports etc offer free access, and the latest private hubs, via a password, accept Wi-Fi connections. Reported in Purton Magazine in January 2014, there is a free communication hub, housed in the Institute red phone box, courtesy of local Braydon Company, Lde Digital Services.

Our speaker reported that his own particular group "Hampton Probus" had established an investment club, noting that all the big names on the internet: Google, Apple, BT, ARM Holdings etc had shown excellent yields over recent years. A Dutch company, City Fibre Infrastructure Holdings, is presently concentrated on installation of ultrafast pure fibre networks to benefit communities throughout the country. These are the circuits that connect the routers or hubs to the servers. Ofcom has suggested that BT should commission enough spare circuits (Dark Fibre) to cater for projected new businesses. The Apple Watch seems to point the way to the future, claiming new interactions and technologies capable of monitoring all aspects of health, wellbeing and needs.

In discussion, one of our members reported that his latest Pacemaker sends automatic data regularly to the hospital cardiac unit without the need for an annual visit. A recent "Telegraph" feature reports that a Canadian doctor, working from Bali, runs a medical clinic which serves patients in the remotest parts of Canada, advising local treatments for minor complaints, thus avoiding unnecessary journeys. When questioned about crime via the internet, our Speaker was confident that universal communication is for the general good and that favourable influences, in the long term, will prevail.

On 26 May, Dennis Cartwright, a local Historian from Tetbury related the famous story of "The Mutiny on the Bounty" which took place amongst the Island-Paradise of the South Seas. The colourful characters involved included the tyrannical Captain Bligh, the aristocratic Fletcher Christian, numerous uninhibited Tahitian women, and a pack of sailors made up of cockney orphans and ruffian adventurers. The Bounty left England on 23 December 1787, and reached Tahiti in October 1788. She was sent to collect a cargo of breadfruit saplings, which was to be transported to Jamaica where the breadfruit would serve as food for slaves working on the plantations. After 27,000 miles and 10 months at sea, the crew spent a

hedonistic idyll on Tahiti, where they revelled in the subtropical climate, lush surroundings and warm hospitality of the Tahitians. A contemporary observer reported that “Tahitians knew no other god but love” and the ship’s reserve of copper nails reduced at an alarming rate! Many of the men found Tahitian partners and Fletcher Christian loved, and later married, Mauatua. On 4 April 1789, the *Bounty* embarked on the second leg of its journey with a cargo of a thousand breadfruit saplings aboard. A little more than 3 weeks later, near the island of Tofua, the crew, led by first mate Fletcher Christian staged a mutiny against Bligh, under whom they claimed to have suffered inhumane treatment. The Captain and eighteen loyal sailors were set adrift in a 23-foot open boat. After losing the Quartermaster in a skirmish with the natives, miraculously, Bligh and his loyalists survived a seven-week 3600-mile journey, finally reaching the island of Timor. The *Bounty* sailed back to Tahiti where 16 of the 25 men decided to remain for good. Christian, along with eight others, their women and a handful of Tahitian men, sailed 1350 miles southeast to a small miss-charted island, Pitcairn. A 3-month search failed to find the mutineers, but those who had remained on Tahiti were not so lucky. They were swiftly captured and brought to trial in England, where seven were exonerated and three were hanged. Landing on Pitcairn Island in 1790, the mutineers and Tahitians remained invisible to the world for 18 years but life was far from utopian. When an American whaler discovered the island in 1808, murder and suicide had left eight of the nine mutineers dead. However, Pitcairn flourished under the leadership of the lone survivor John Adams who emphasized the importance of religion and education to the *Bounty*’s second generation, which included Fletcher Christian’s son, Thursday October Christian, the first child to be born on the island. In 1825, a British ship arrived and formally granted Adams amnesty. Later the island joined the British Empire. Presently there are about 50 inhabitants, almost all descendants of the mutineers. The speaker delivered a very entertaining account.

BOB STEVENS

Purton Probus meets at 10am. every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month in the Red House lounge. Next meeting: 14 July, “*Admirals in Collision*” By Paul Booy.

Front Covers

This month sees the last of our current series of front cover illustrations kindly supplied by Purton Artists’ Society and the Magazine Committee would like to thank everyone for their valued contributions over the last year.

The black and white photographs have looked wonderful on our magazine front covers, especially effective on the white card background. Well done to all the artists concerned and for keeping their themes in line with the month or the season and for the quality of the work. Some were especially witty, notably the sheep on the March edition “We come in fleece”.

While we do hope to be able to reproduce further front cover illustrations from members of Purton Artists’ Society in the future, we would also be pleased to receive artwork from others in the village – our contact details are on Page 4.

Have You Ever Wanted to Throw Things at The Vicar?

Any person leading any sort of organisation has inevitably provoked a similar thought at some point amongst some of those they seek to serve. Ian, our vicar, is a good sport and at the recent All Age Family Service he invited the congregation to come to the front and do it. They were given a sock in the form of a sling and a compressed paper ball – roughly the size of a Cricket ball.

The context of all this – not because the vicar had offended everyone, but because the theme of this service was the story of David and Goliath – Fighting with Giants. We all know Goliath was big – but how big? It transpired that our vicar standing on a box in the pulpit wearing a philistine helmet mask just made the required six cubits and a span. But our vicar is also quite wise! He had done this before and knew a hit was far more difficult than generally imagined. However an enthusiastic queue from the pews formed – children, teenagers, and adults, including his own staff. Bar one that landed a 'stone' on the chest all missed their target by some distance.

This was just one of the fun learning experiences that happen at Family Services – held on the first Sunday of most months at St Mary's. Twice a year, July and December, they are held at the Methodist church where we are able to also enjoy the Welsh wit and keen humour of our local minister, David Perkins.

Another group at St Mary's led by the vicar is presently looking at developing another service that incorporates a service of communion and features some of the illustrative elements that have made monthly Family Services popular. The aim of both is to help make church worship accessible to the growing number of people young and old who do not share a church background. Hopefully along with the successfully launched Messy Church held at St Mary's School, and the termly evening services led by young people for us all, these approaches to worship might form an effective bridge whereby many more can also enjoy the more traditional services that continue to be held on the other Sundays in the month.

Can the active, the fun, and the sort of thing we all watch on TV by way of drama or games show work easily alongside the reverent, the reflective and the touching of those areas that lie deep in our spirits? Perhaps this might be illustrated by what our vicar invited people to throw at him later in the service.

Here the congregation were invited to bring out cards on which they had written the names of the giants they themselves face today. As a guitar gently finger plucked the tune of The Lord's my Shepherd these were prayed over. The giants of worry over ill health, job insecurity, forthcoming exams, job reorganisation, bullying its many forms, the scars left by disappointments, bereavement past hurts, and the fear of stepping out into new areas were but a few of those brought out and discreetly (and anonymously) faced together.

And drawn from David and Goliath? It seems not for the first time we are all handed on a challenging story by the Bible writers which involves small things being taken and used in an amazing way to slay large giants. We may only wish to throw things physically at the vicar occasionally but regularly, in different forms, our church, its staff and its members, seek to provide ways in which we can throw in to the pot the big the small and the sometimes overlooked issues of life. And

perhaps that which helped David overcome all the odds against Goliath can sometimes work in similarly surprising ways for us today.

DAVID MARTIN, *St Mary's Family Service Group*

Christian Aid Week

Total So Far in Purton

Once again Purton has shone out, as a village of generosity. Our target during Christian Aid Week was to try and collect £1 per person in the village ... approximately £4,000. But already we have counted over £5,500, so we are absolutely delighted by such a result. The money has come in from so many different events, including a cake stall at St Mary's School, run by the children in years 5/6; a curry night at the Maharajah; a Lunch at the Methodist Church and stalls at the Top Shops.

Everyone has been so very generous, especially those donating cakes ... and more cakes ... and food for the Lunch and Big Breakfast. We have so many wonderful volunteers who are prepared to go out, evening after evening, distributing and collecting up the little red Christian Aid envelopes. This year we were supported by the Guides who delivered many hundreds of the envelopes, for which we were extremely grateful.

And what is particularly gratifying is for us to be told that the people who receive support from Christian Aid are truly amazed, that families in villages such as Purton are prepared to put money into these little envelopes simply as a gift, which is then collected up and used to help those in greatest need around the world. This year the special focus was on women in Ethiopia, and it is hoped to use the money to buy cows for them; ask the children in St Mary's School to explain ... they know all about it! We know that the money is very much appreciated and we have already received messages of sincere thanks.

If you did not receive a Christian Aid envelope, or it was not collected up, and you would like to give, please contact Libbie: 771018.

For further information about Christian Aid please contact Libbie, Mary, Brian and the team – and thank you SO much for your generosity.

Climbing the Cuillins for Christian Aid!

You may know me ... I live in Waitemeads and last year I abseiled down the inside of Cricklade Church Tower for Christian Aid ... but then, so did my sons AND my mother-in-law!

This summer, hopefully in July, I want to attempt a traverse of The Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye, Scotland, when the weather allows, as part of Christian Aid's 70 Munros challenge.

Christian Aid is hoping to raise £1,000 from each 'Munro summit' achieved, in their 70th birthday year ... £10,000 in total!

The Ridge is known as Munro 11 and about 10km in length and ranges from approx 800m to 960m in height with sheer drops off either side all along its length. The total trek is around 20km with 4km of ascent and descent. Add in several rock climbs, knife edge scrambles and abseils while carrying all food, water and equipment needed including an overnight bivvy then I hope you will appreciate the

scale of the challenge!

As this is a very mountainous climb I have decided, with my climbing partner Tim, to raise money for the Christian Aid Nepalese Earthquake fund.

Nepal is a desperately poor country and needs significant support to rebuild homes, schools and other infrastructure along with livelihoods and businesses.

We have a *justgiving* page with £600 already pledged and our employer will match up to £100 each. www.justgiving.com/CuillinRidge

Please do contact me if you would like further details

RICH HARRIS

Church Floodlighting

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

1 July St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of my loving husband **David Ernest Arthur Chamberlain**, who fell asleep 23 years ago. Forever in our thoughts. Iris, Roslyne, Lesley and the Grandchildren and Great grandchildren.

If you would like the church floodlit, for a special date, occasion, memorial, please contact Libbie: 771018. The cost is £17 for one evening and an announcement can also be put in this magazine for no extra cost.



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.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Hillside, Station Road, Willowbrook, Bamford Close, Shaftesbury Close, Smiths Court, Widham, Clardon Lane and New Road.*

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.

Messy Church

Messy Church on 28 June at 4 pm has been moved! It will now be at St Mary's School school, not at St Mary's Church.

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.

If you encounter WI ladies rushing around the countryside, trying to find a knife strong enough to cut the cake along with the Queen, do sympathise with them as they have already had one stint, to raise money to send their delegate to Buck House for tea. Our representative was Trish Baker, invariably the best-dressed in the room (except for her Maj in this instance, I suppose.)

We are sure the ever-optimist Trish had a marvellous time and there will have been a good tale to tell at our forthcoming June meeting. We do know that the weather had been – what should we say? Clement? Did you know that on one recent occasion two well-deserving ladies from Lydiard Millicent went to a Royal tea party and we were all so excited for them? But as the Queen walked on to the terrace, down came *torrential* rain. The cucumber sandwiches were completely washed away, the Queen hastened indoors and the visitors all went home! Fortunately we hear on the grape vine that Trish had a wonderful time, praise be. Oh, dear, such a gamble is life ...

At the meeting of 20 May, our speaker Mr John Clark was as absorbed as we were on the subject of treasures that he had found on beaches, all over the world. Not only is he accomplished at seeking out treasure but he had a table crammed with jewellery that he had found, particularly silver. We actually handled those, too. So imagine the ladies at a table full of jewellery of rarity and value, and materials (some of it exquisitely designed) brooches, rings, bracelets, coins, etc. We handled the equipment he used underwater and we enjoyed his book full of explanations – but it was dark down there and we were quite content to spend our time on the surface, handling those valuable items that he had found, and polished. In fact, you might well have heard him on the radio this week, talking about his search for a bather's missing false teeth, and the chaos involved at first dawn when he found and returned them and the man's dance which went from joy to fury when it turned out that they actually were not his teeth! (The correct ones were found later, praise be!) There were so many such incidents and his lecturing hour flew quickly by.

Mr Clark isn't the only one with Treasure because that was also the subject of the competition. Half a dozen members had fallen in with the spirit of the evening and brought along their own treasures – not necessarily valuable items, but possessions full of love and happy memories; the winner was with an old-fashioned sweetie jar full of pieces of glass that had been salvaged from – well, just about everywhere. Each competing member gave a short talk on their treasure – and don't I always nag about it, that absolutely everyone has an interesting tale to tell?

A group of Purton WI ladies had an excellent day out this week, at Marston, near Devizes. Our Hostess, Pam Lewis, was not only an excellent cook and enthusiastic gardener, but also a flower arranger. Ham and salad for lunch and a choice of puddings, as much tea/coffee as you could want – and a glorious garden. And, unbelievably, the sun shone the whole day. We enjoyed a lesson in flower arranging, more and more tea and featherweight cakes, a generous raffle with the flowers as prizes. Everything presented with goodwill and affection and I haven't had such a good time since the last "WI do"!

The 15 July speaker will be John Hughes, on “My Experiences in the Metropolitan Police”. The competition should be great fun – the subject is “Amusing Homemade Handcuffs” and I suspect many of us will have tried this before, though possibly not at the WI. Our clever ladies with inventive minds can create quite a display and my imagination is already at full pelt (orange peel is a good medium for handcuffs) ... Social Time is entitled “Extended Coffee and Chat”.

Orders now being taken for 2016 calendars and diaries – where does the year go? And please don't forget the bottles for the Carnival on 4 July. Setting up from 11 am, and help on the stall from 12 - 3 pm would be appreciated. Pray for sunshine, and I'll see you all there – especially prospective new members – welcome!

CONSTANCE REED, tel:771571

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.



Tickets: adult £5; children 3-10 £1.50; and under 3 free, are available from Mary Nettleton (772298), Heather Ponting-Bather (771469), Libbie Sheppard (771018) and In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill, and also on the door.

Pauline Hall Memorial Garden Party

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for the support you all gave us at our garden party to raise money for Prospect in memory of Pauline. It was a real ‘one off’ affair because it would be impossible to repeat this with the same atmosphere. The weather was just right and Chedworth Band were excellent – it was a brilliant village scene – dare I say – like old times.

This is a generous village but we have never experienced anything quite like the kindness and generosity people showed us. It just shows what fondness people had for Pauline and, of course, how everyone appreciates what comfort and care the Prospect Hospice gives people.

We are not going to mention names or organisations who helped make it such a successful day but, once again, many thanks to you all and very many thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets and who came along on the day and helped raise the grand total of £2,814.

Thank you,

NICKI HALL and SHEILA & TONY PRICE

Rajan the Magic Man ...

... is coming to Marlborough – be dazzled by him whilst enjoying a delicious 2-course summer buffet lunch at Marlborough College Marquee on Sunday 26 July from 12 - 3 pm. Check out Rajan on his website www.themagicman.co.uk

Tickets including lunch and welcome drink are £38 for a Family (2A/2C), £10 16 & under, £15 Merchant's House Friends, £18 Adults, obtainable from The Merchant's House Shop. Bar & raffle available on the day.

After 8

Desert Island Discs was the subject of the May meeting. Members were asked to select a piece of music that meant something to them, a luxury item and something special. The eclectic mix included: Streets of London, Swinging Safari and Baker Street, all reminding people of places where they once lived. Choices such as: English Country Garden, Lark Ascending and Spring by Vivaldi reminded people of home. Some members wanted to remember their children, so chose pieces such as: Bohemian Rhapsody and a CD of a church choir.



The luxury items proved that we like our creature comforts, such as: a bed, tea, coffee, toothpaste, moisturiser, hair products, portaloos, walking boots, a barrel of beer and someone who actually wanted to improve themselves chose a saxophone to learn!

The special items were generally of sentimental significance and included: photographs, a pendant from Salzburg, poetry, a mother's mirror, a VC 10 miniature aeroplane, one member had a small booklet containing handwritten accounts by POWs as to how and where they were captured carried by her father on The Long March from a prison camp in Silesia (now Poland) into Germany during the winter of 1944/45. The atlas, bird table and binoculars were obviously chosen by castaways who wanted to pursue hobbies!

Books weren't included but someone felt that they might actually find the time to read War and Peace.

MARY & DIANE

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28 July and is the Summer Social at Helen's.

We Record ...

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 25 April | Jonathon Peter Andrew Dunbar & Kersty Louise Bletso at St Mary's Church |
| 29 May 2015 | Harold Thomas Rowley & Susan Ruth Tolhurst at St Mary's Church |

Funerals:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 22 May | Ronald Harris at St Mary's Church |
| 26 May | Brian Charles Freegard at St Mary's Church |
| 1 June | Eileen Louisa Jane Higgins at St Mary's Church |
| 4 June | Nesta Kathleen Maskrey at St Mary's Church |
| 11 June | Bruce D'Arcy-Masters at St Mary's Church |

In Memoriam:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 30 July 1915 | Tom Martin (aged 29) died of sunstroke serving with 21 st Lancers at Risalpur. Buried at Nowshera Military Cemetery, N.15 (India) and remembered on the India Gate Memorial, Delhi |
|--------------|---|

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



Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Rainbows have made fairy gardens in old butter pots, marshmallow princesses and coloured in crowns. They've said goodbye to Rachel, Evie, Ellie and Scarlett who are looking forward to Brownies and welcomed three new Rainbows, Tilly, Tallulah and Lillie.

1st Purton Brownies are continuing the City Hop challenge: they have tasted cheese in Holland (Leedammer was the favourite), tasted chocolate in Belgium (the supermarket budget brand scored higher than the premium brand) and made furniture in Sweden from natural materials (think IKEA). A promise celebration was also held for Jade, Georgie, Ava, Mollie and Maddie. Several Brownies and two Guides helped at the garden party held as a fundraiser for Prospect Hospice in memory of Pauline Hall, formerly Leader of the unit.

2nd Purton Brownies have now completed the Cookafun badge by tasting different types of bread and making their own fizzy drinks. Two of their members took part in the County final of the pizza making competition which they both enjoyed. The unit has also enjoyed a couple of evenings outdoors with a treasure hunt and scavenger hunt.

May half term saw the two Brownie units join forces for a Peter Pan themed Brownie holiday at Thirtover Place near Thatcham. Blessed with good weather they enjoyed low ropes, traverse wall, tepee building, outdoor games, crafts galore and even fitted in some sleep!

The Guides were blessed with sunshine too – for their canoeing session at Coate Water and for playing rounders. The weather also held for delivering donation envelopes around Purton during Christian Aid Week in order to raise funds to support those leading incredibly tough lives around the world.

Continuing with the City Hop badge, Guides hosted a Eurovision Song Contest with food and games from Italy, Greece and Switzerland as well as performances of songs they had written themselves. Another evening was dedicated to Lego: the Guides were set challenges to create a coach, boat, train and aeroplane, with impressive results. There were bonus rounds and forfeits, thought up by some mean Guide Leaders!

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



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For further information contact Francis Sheppard, 771018, or francis@sheppard.org.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



"Trug making by a miserable trugger, or I think that's what the wife calls me" was the intriguing topic of the talk presented by Carl Sadler at our May meeting. A trugger he may be but miserable he was not, as he chatted, gossiped and name dropped amusingly (just don't mention Monty Don) whilst demonstrating with ease his art of trug making. Proof that men can multi-task! His words not mine.

We learned that Thomas Smith invented the trug and that the first written record of trugs goes back to the 4th century, with the name deriving from the Anglo Saxon word 'trog' meaning 'boat shaped vessel'. Further reference to boats comes from; the bottom of the trug, known as the keel, the sides called the inners, and the overlapping slats that resemble the 'clinker bit' on boats. A trug has come to mean a light but strong basket made from willow and sweet chestnut. As they can be formed in various shapes and sizes, oval, square or round, they can be used for a variety of purposes; for gathering cut flowers, for carrying logs etc. The 'tricks of the trade' are usually handed down from one generation to another, Carl having learned his skills from his father and likewise his own son from himself. He was very proud to say that he now has a "hands on" young grandson who is already avidly absorbing many of the skills.

He had arrived with his tools of the trade in tow, including a milk churn of hot water laced with aspirin and tannin leached from the willow slats soaking within. He jokingly suggested that truggers were highly unlikely to suffer heart attacks due to the equivalent of ½ aspirin a day they can ingest from chewing on the willow whilst working. He went on to describe how he had once explained to a cricket fan that he used willow to make his trugs because he couldn't think of any other use for it. When the man suggested it could be used for making cricket bats, Carl replied 'not for the England team as they're never in long enough for them to wear out!'

By this point of the talk, we had seen the pieces of sweet chestnut, made pliable from steaming, bent around a wooden former, and then pinned into position by Carl to form the framework and handle of the trug. He now began to nail in the slats around the sides, the process of bending the slats made all the easier from their hot water soaking, and the process finished off by trimming the edges.

He explained that each trug maker has his own style with the amount of slats used varying from 4-7 in number depending on the trugger. He forms a higher side to his trugs and this has become his trademark.

A keen eyed Ernie Pace remarked on the missing feet and Carl proceeded to demonstrate their application with good humour.

He explained that the completed trug will lose about half its weight on the way home as it dries out and will then be ready to have its edges smoothed off and a coat of linseed oil applied. This can be repeated every five years during which time the trug acquires a golden colour much like a cricket bat.

As a modern day trugger, he is in demand for garden shows where he can make as many as 30 trugs a day whilst chatting away to visitors, much as he did to us. He has also been in demand for making props for film sets, Robin Hood, Warhorse and Clash of the Titans amongst others.

Leon Slee proposed a vote of thanks for a most entertaining talk.

Carl kindly judged our competition "A single spray of blossom" and congratulations go to the winners: 1st Janice Simpkins, 2nd Mary Read and 3rd Mary Jones.

If you are new to the area or just visiting you are welcome to join us. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28 July at 7.30 pm when our speaker will be Dawn Collins. The title of Dawn's talk is "The Path to Paradise: A journey through the Stourhead Landscape". The competition will be "A Photo of a Landscape".

MOIRA WHITE (Chair) & MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary)

Purton Luncheon Club

Volunteers are needed at the Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall, Purton.



Have you got time to spare to help us at the Luncheon Club?

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. Once a fortnight or monthly?

It's a nice way to make friends and meet new people. It's a lovely atmosphere up there, and you go home feeling that you have done something worthwhile and rewarding.

For more information please contact Pat Suddaby 01793 771331.

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

Results for all the teams have been mixed so far this season with the 1st XI experiencing problems owing to the non-availability of players. Several young players have performed valiantly in helping out and it is to their credit that they have done so. Purton CC needs more villagers to play and support as currently we have only one senior player who lives in the village. If you are hiding your cricket light under a bushel please make yourself known as we urgently need your help.



July Fixtures at Purton

4 th	1 st XI v Great Bedwyn	1.00pm	12 th	U13 v Chippenham	2.00pm
5 th	U11 v Swindon	10.30am	18 th	1 st v Westbury	1.00pm
5 th	U13 v Goatacre	2.00pm	19 th	U15 v Swindon	2.00pm
11 th	2 nd XI v Marshfield	1.30pm	25 th	2 nd v Lechlade	1.30pm
12 th	U15 v Devizes	10.30am			

From The Archives

Reported in the Swindon Evening Advertiser 10 May 1858. Extract from article reads:

'CRICKET CLUB – The first meeting of the Purton cricket club took place of Wednesday last. It was of a very interesting character, not only as being the first gathering of the forces, but also because a demonstration was to be made by the members club to prove to Mr Brown, the kind-hearted occupier of the cricket field, that his liberality is duly appreciated by those who for so many years had the free and gratuitous use of it; and certainly a more picturesque or excellent cricket ground cannot easily be met with ...'

JOE GARDNER



With the Swindon and District League having reached the halfway stage several of the Purton teams are riding high; Men A are 1st in Division 1, Men D are 2nd in Division 6, Ladies A are 2nd in Division 1, Ladies C are 1st in Division 3, Mixed A are 1st in Division 1 and Mixed C are 1st in Division 4. The weather has still not improved and most of the matches have been played in windy and cool conditions. Let's hope the second half of the season improves!

The 16U Boys team have completed another 3 matches and although they have yet to record a win there are signs of improvement. A 3-0 defeat to both Ramsbury and Marshfield was followed by a 2-1 defeat to Wootton Bassett which saw Oli Madsen record his first singles victory against a boy who had beaten him fairly comfortably over the last two seasons. Oli and Tom are now hopeful of recording a win in their last match against Malmesbury. I hope to be able to bring good news next month.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Bowls Club

Our green was selected for the Ladies' County Triples quarter finals and semi finals on 6 June, and with a fine day, and plenty of cakes and rolls for the competitors supplied by the Club members, went ahead with a healthy crowd of followers from the representative clubs and plenty of willing helpers from our membership. The green was in excellent condition, we were proud to be able to offer the best conditions for the ladies to play on. A great day was had by all.



The ladies section is doing extremely well at the moment with Alison Fail in the last eight of the County Two Wood competition, Sue Crouch and Maureen Marsh through to the second round of the County Ladies Pairs competition, and so far this season the ladies have only lost one league game, so well done to them.

The men are not doing so well in the league matches, and hopefully that will change, but we do have two teams through to the quarter finals of the County Two Fours competition, so well done to them as well.

We have now started to play the Club competitions, most of the first round matches have been completed, as they have to be played by a certain date, and the next rounds will have to be played this month, culminating in the finals on the weekend of the 19 and 20 September.

We will be involved in the Carnival Day when we will walk in the Carnival procession with our banner and try to encourage people to get involved in bowls, and this year as the procession will be passing the Red House we will invite everybody to try bowling for themselves, we have plenty of equipment and trained coaches to help you understand the game, so come along and have a go.

I would just like to include a tribute to Ron Harris, who died recently, both on a personal note, as he was a good friend of mine, and on behalf of the Bowls Club as he supported us from a Parish Council perspective. He was a member for many years and would come along to the 'roll ups' which he enjoyed very much. He will be greatly missed by me and all the members.

PETER BERRY

Purton F.C.



A new season starts on 8 August with Justin Miller again managing the first team in the Hellenic League Div 1 West and a new manager Lee Ashby who will be running a Reserve side in the Hellenic League Div 2 West.

Friendly games for both sides will be taking place in July and August before the season starts at home and away and details will appear on the club's new website which is www.pitchero/clubs/com/purtonfc/.

Games arranged already are:

Sat 11 th July	Reserves	Away	Easington Sports	3pm
Sat 18 th July	Firsts	Home	Highworth Town	3pm
Sat 25 th July	Reserves	Away	Faringdon Town	3pm
Tue 28 th July	Firsts	Away	Wroughton	6.30pm
Sat 1 st August	Reserves	Away	Longlevens	3pm
Sat 1 st August	Firsts	Home	Wantage Town	3pm

The club are still looking for sponsors for the forthcoming season. Anyone interested can contact Alan Eastwood on 729844 or email alan.eastwood83@ntlworld.com, who would welcome any newcomers.

The club are looking for an Hon. Sec. who can take over from President/Chairman Alan Eastwood. Full training for the post will be given before takeover. Anyone locally from the Purton area would be welcomed and can contact Alan as above.

The club looks forward to seeing as many local supporters at the forthcoming 2015/6 season; your support is greatly appreciated by management and players.

ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman/Hon Sec

The Purton & District Darts League

2014/2015 Season



The season started with the Cricklade at Club and the Charrins Bar A taking an early lead, which pretty much turned into a two horse race. It was tightly fought, neck and neck all the way, ultimately ending with the Cricklade Club winning the league on 501 points with Charrins A only 7 points behind. The message to the other teams is "You have to beat every team 17-4, twice, if you want to win this league!"

The singles league followed the same trend with Charrins A finishing second, just 2 points behind Cricklade on 264 points.

Special mention must go to Lee Evans (x11), Tony Moulden (x7), Joe Peare (x5) of the Cricklade Club and Jim McDonald (x8), Clive Taylor (x5) & Shaun Higginson (x4) of Charrins A, who between them scored forty 180's in this epic battle.

Congratulations must also go to the Purton West Club who finished third. Although they finished 80 points behind second place and with no prize money, they can take solace in the fact they are the most improved team this season and still beat everyone else.

The Peter Leatherbarrow Mixed Triples (2 Men & 1 Lady) – The Title Went to Charrins Bar – Jim McDonald, Widgy McDonald & Mark Northall beating Martin

Richell, Stephanie Richell and Mike Forty.

The Christmas Pairs Knockout was won by Martin Richell & Mike Forty; runners-up Wayne Franklin & Stephen Monk. Their winnings were (with a friendly crowbar) kindly donated back, contributing to the amount raised. £180 was donated to the well deserved Prospect Foundation.

Bevan Pairs Competition (1 Pair from each team) was won by Lee Evans & Joe Peare beating Peter Knight and Danny Sullivan from Purton Club West.

The Finals Night was played on Friday 22 May.

The achievement award went to Paul Lewis from the Red House C for hitting an eight dart 401 in the Singles back in September. With an average of 50.12 per dart, only a 180, 171, Bullseye could have beaten that.

There was 10 x 160 Starts – That's double Top – Sixty – Sixty. If only someone brave enough had hit a 170 start it could have saved the league a fortune in trophies. Maybe next season – does anyone feel lucky?

In total there was an impressive 101 x 180s hit with 41 Men scoring x 99 and two ladies, Lisa Martin & Nicky Pickett, scoring one each. The ladies received a nice trophy and the men each received the "Goblet of Boast'eth" coffee mug.

The highest finish went to Tony Moulden for 161, Ladies Highest Finish: Nicky Pickett for 81.

A surprising but nevertheless deserving Men's Singles title went to Clive Taylor from Charrins, who beat the very much in form Lee Evans in the final.

The Pairs title and the most celebrated victory went to Adam Woolford & Neal Wood from the Red House Club, beating hot favourites Tony Moulden and Joe Peare in the Finals. Methinks they may very well still be celebrating to this day.

The Four-A-Side Team Knockout also went to the Club at Cricklade who completed the team triple by beating the Red House A.

Nicky Pickett took the Ladies Singles title for the third time only just beating Stephanie Richell in a very tight final where both players had darts at the double to win the match. Nicky's experience paid off and saw her over the winning line.

The Collier Cup is for a play off competition for the 4 teams who find themselves at the wrong end of the league where they get a chance to battle it out for a bit of Glory. This was won by the Royal George taking the title from the Bell Inn.

The Arthur Ricketts Cup (Landlords) went to Dave Loder from the Club at Cricklade beating Matt Carruthers from the Purton Club and in a strange turnaround the Zeppy Simpkins Cup (Landladies) went to Louisa Davis from the Purton Club beating Sue Loder from the at Cricklade Club.

For more info checkout our website – www.purtondarts.com

Dates for the Diary ...

The AGM will be at the Angel Inn, Purton on 13 August starting at 8.30 pm.

The 2015/2016 Season will commence on 3 September.

MARTIN RICHELL, Secretary

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@live.com
