

Purton *Magazine*

April 2016



Bee Hotel: *Photo by Christine Nicholson*

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: Beth Farnham	
	<i>bethaney23@icloud.com</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	Richard Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane	<i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>	
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

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

METHODIST CHURCHES

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

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

From The Editors

When it shines, the sun is definitely feeling warmer and, with the clocks springing forward on 27 March, we can be sure that spring is on the way. Local sounds have recently included lawn mowers in action - or at least a few choice words when a garden machine fails to respond to increasingly impassioned efforts for it to start after its own winter hibernation.

While many gardeners will already have made early inroads to whatever the winter might have left behind for them, at the moment it sadly seems that there are not enough potential participants to make the regular Purton Open Gardens a viable scheme this year - more details are on page 40. It may not be too late if you act - the proposed dates are 4 and 5 June.

When gardening matters become front of mind, many readers turn to our local Gardeners' Guild piece for ideas and guidance. Yet again, on pages 47 and 48 they will not be disappointed. Where else, for example, would you be encouraged to give the Bishop of Llandaff a whirl, particularly if you want to attract butterflies? The article also highlights an unintended consequence arising from the growing number of garden centre chains because their buyers tend to purchase the same plants for each of their outlets and thus effectively limiting the range of plants available.

Most gardeners should be very encouraged by the competition to be held at the next Gardeners' Guild meeting - "A bunch of weeds." In addition to things horticultural, readers will also be able to learn how the term 'journeyman' came into our language.

When defining a journeyman, several current dictionaries include the word "reliable" and that is surely one of the key attributes being sought on page 5. Readers will find that the Parish Council are seeking like-minded people to help with the creation of an Emergency Plan for Purton. People wanting to help in an emergency, either as a first point of contact and/or to provide an immediate valuable resource are now being sought.

Both Purton Tennis Club (on page 55) and Purton Cricket Club (page 54) are gearing up for their outdoor seasons. This year will be the cricket club's 196th season and already a few older hands are marking out their longer run ups to the Club's bicentenary celebrations in 2020 - for which scurrilous and appropriate anecdotes are now being collected.

7 May

is the date for
the Village Open Day
and face painters are
wanted
- see pages 5, 6 & 18

440

bottles of nail varnish
have now been
donated by
readers
- see page 22

£2000.01

raised at the
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Your Magazine delivered free!

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

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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 4 April 2016, 7.30 pm at Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting is a public meeting and an opportunity for residents to raise and discuss any issues that affect the Parish and residents. The meeting is hosted by Purton Parish Council who will inform residents about work they have undertaken in the previous year and plans for the forthcoming one. All residents are encouraged to attend and discuss with their elected representatives the kinds of services, or improvements to existing ones, they would like to see implemented.

Village Centre Open Day - Saturday 7 May 2016 - 11 am to 4 pm

Only a month away until our Village Centre Open Day – come along and meet the local community groups and chat about what they can offer you and your family along with a fun-filled day of family entertainment. Small mini funfair attractions, ice-creams, food outlets, meet the Council ...

Come along and enjoy the sunshine (pre-ordered) and celebrate the best Purton has to offer. Still time to register if you are a local community group or business and would like to be involved - please contact Debbie Lawrence on 771066 email: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

Face painters, wanted for Village Centre Open Day – Free space.

Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council has the option to co-opt a Councillor to fill the current vacancy. If you are interested in your community and how the Parish Council forms its decisions and provides the services, please contact the Clerk on 01793 771066 or email for more information clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

Planning

Listed below are the permitted and refused applications since our last edition.

Permission Granted with Conditions:

- N15/11556/FUL 12 Witts Lane. Single storey front extension to provide integral porch and extend lounge.
- N15/12141/FUL Longcroft, 6 Station Road. Proposed extension and alterations to existing dwelling.
- N15/12147/FUL 46 The Hyde. Rear first floor extension and ground floor extension.

Refused applications:

- N15/11121/FUL Land Adjacent Hyde View House. Erection of four bed detached dwelling with double garage (Resubmission of 15/08165/FUL)

Volunteers Required

Purton Parish Council is in the process of creating an Emergency Plan for Purton. At this stage we are seeking like-minded people who would wish to help in an emergency by either being a “first point” contact, (Cascade contact list), or could

advise and help the vulnerable in Purton; or being a valuable resource such as a 4x4 driver, tractor driver, nurse, doctor, chain saw owner etc. Please contact our offices with offers of help. More information on this plan will follow.

April Meeting Dates (All Mondays)

Annual Parish Meeting	4 April	Play Area meeting	13 April
Council meeting	11 April	Planning meeting	18 April
Village Centre and Play Close Charity			25 April

Village Open Day

Make a note in your diary for 7 May to support the Village Clubs in Purton. You may be surprised at how many there are.

The Parish Council have kindly let us use the Millennium Hall from 11 am to 4 pm to showcase our activities and give you a chance to speak to the organisers.

Fun for all the family too with sideshows, stalls and food. Admission Free.

PETER BERRY

Dumped Tyres

Dave and I regularly pick up rubbish on Collins Lane. On Thursday 25 February Dave met another gentleman from the village who was doing a massive clean-up. He had two large black bin liners full and came with his car to pick them up and also cleared up larger items left in the lane, cushions etc. He did a fantastic job and the lane looked a real treat especially as the hedges had been cut and the ditches cleared.

On Friday Dave walked down the Lane and saw 3 lots of tyres dumped along the Lane; he was very upset. We both went down Collins Lane on Sunday and discovered another dump of tyres, but it was one we had missed. So there are 4 dumps of tyres; 1 between Station Road and the crossing, and 3 between the crossing and the Pry (with a dustbin also dumped in the ditch), over 60 tyres.

We also picked up a full carrier bag of cans and bottles.

Someone must know something. Have you seen anyone with tyres on the back of a lorry? They must be fairly local to know Collins Lane. There is also a distinctive cutting through on some of the tyres, as if they had been cut to take out the metal for its scrap value. Please keep a watch out!

AVRIL



Purton & District Age Concern

I am pleased to inform you we have a new street warden for Braydon. Chris Herbert has agreed to take on the role. Braydon residents can contact Chris Herbert on 772737 or 07895 804206.



We thank Chris for joining Age Concern and hope he enjoys his time as one of our street wardens. Our grateful thanks go to Vicki Fowler who stepped in to help us out as street warden for Braydon when Miss Elizabeth Ward died. Vicki, we appreciate all the help you have given to Age Concern and we are pleased you will remain as street warden for your Battlelake Care Home residents, thank you.

Tony has had a phone call from the Co-operative Society to say it's almost certain the Co-op will take over the Best One shop but nothing has been signed yet. Once the Co-op takes over it will sign up for the Post Office. Hopefully this will go ahead fairly soon but there will be a delay before the Post Office re-opens.

I'm sorry to report the death of two Purton residents. Mr Frederick Park passed away in The Cedars where he had been living for a while with his wife Iris. I had the pleasure of meeting them both during the Songs of Praise Services held each month at The Cedars. Our thoughts are with Iris, her family and friends at this difficult time. We are very grateful to the family for money in lieu of flowers which is being shared between Age Concern and Prospect Hospice.

Mr Peter Osbourne has also passed away. I met Mr Osbourne several times after he joined the Luncheon Club at which he thoroughly enjoyed himself and appreciated the lovely meals. Our condolences go to Mr Osbourne's family and friends and we sincerely thank them for allowing money in lieu of flowers to come to Age Concern.

At our recent committee meeting we discussed the cost of all our outings for 2016. We have increased the cost of our mystery tours by 50p to £13.50 for pensioners in our area. Non-pensioners and pensioners from outside our area will pay an extra £1.50 per trip.

FUTURE EVENTS

3B's Evening on Friday 8 April at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall. (Not as stated last month.) The cost is £6.00 and includes a two-course supper - bring your own drinks and glasses. Bingo tickets will be available to buy separately. Admission tickets are selling fast. Remember there is no entry on the night without a ticket so, if you would like to attend, please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339.

Outing to Lechlade Garden centre – Wednesday 6 April with a 10 am start. The cost is £5.00 for pensioners and £6.50 for non-pensioners and those from outside our area (food is not included). If you would like to go, and in case you receive your Magazine early, please book your place with your street warden before Good Friday 25 March.

Afternoon Tea at The Maharajah Restaurant – This is being held courtesy of Khalique, Wendy and the team at the Maharajah on Bank Holiday Monday 2 May. All proceeds will be shared between Age Concern and a children's charity in India. For details see Purton Placard on page 29.

Mystery Tour – Wednesday 4 May with a 2 pm start. The cost is £13.50 for pensioners and £15.00 for non-pensioners and those outside our area. Tea is included. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 25 April.

Golf Day – the Golf Day that is being organised by two of our committee members. The date has been set for Wednesday 18 May at the Cricklade Country Club. The cost will be £10 and you will need to bring your own golf clubs. These are all the details I have at time of writing - more details will be available after the magazine is printed, so please phone me on 772558 for more information and book your place with your street warden before Monday 9 May.

. The Golf Day is open to regular players and those who haven't played for a while, so come along and give it a go. We are hoping to attract younger pensioners who don't attend any of our other events or functions. To book your place please contact your street warden before Monday 9 May.

Boat Trip – Due to popular demand I am organising another boat trip on "The Rose of Hungerford" along the Kennet & Avon canal on Friday 3 June. This will be a slightly longer trip, setting off from Hungerford in the opposite direction to last year. The boat trip, including coach travel and a fish and chip lunch will cost £20.00 per person. We will leave Purton at 9 am. If you are interested in going on the boat trip please book your place with your street warden before Friday 20 May.

PAST EVENTS

Jumble Sale – Our Jumble Sale was held in February. We had a very successful afternoon and raised £328.44. Our thanks go to all who donated jumble and those who helped out on the day. The next jumble sale will be in September, full details nearer the time.

Annual Auction – This was on Saturday 5 March. We were a little disappointed as we had fewer items booked in to sell and fewer people attended the sale, so we are sure our profit will be lower than in previous years. Maria and her team of helpers in the kitchen sold bacon rolls, teas, coffees and cakes; I've had great feedback about the bacon rolls! I haven't got the financial figures to report, but I will have them next month. Thanks go to everyone who helped on the day; your hard work is much appreciated and grateful thanks go to Roderick Wightman for presiding over the auction again this year.

INFORMATION

Fire Service & Bobby Van – If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 01225 756514 between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday. If you need the Bobby Van, please call them on 01225 794652.

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

Minibuses – Please contact Richard Woodbridge or minibus co-ordinator on 770862 to book the minibus.

If you are thinking of volunteering as a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on

the minibuses, please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at andywhitepadmb@gmail.com we can always do with more volunteers.

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

LOUISE TIDMAN

Historical Society Outing

Our Summer outing is on Saturday 18 June when we shall be visiting Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury. This amazing house was built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to house his outstanding collection of art treasures and to



entertain fashionable society. His choice of French-chateau style, typical of the Loire Valley surprised many in 1874! A magnificent collection of 18th century French decorative arts alongside Dutch Old Masters and fine English portraits housed in elegant surroundings plus the splendid, and one of the finest Victorian gardens should make this an enjoyable day, with the added bonus that “The Feast”, a celebration of food, drink, crafts and music will be taking place in the grounds and admission to this event is included in the price.

You do not have to be a Historical Society member to join us on this outing. The cost for those with National Trust membership will be £12 (please remember to bring your membership card with you on the day) and for those who are not NT members the cost will be £26.

For further information or any questions please contact Helen on 01793 770648. Booking forms will be available at society meetings, from In Touch Services or can be emailed to you if you contact Helen. They can also be found on the Purton Magazine website at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/phs-form.

Calling all ex pupils of Bradon Forest School

Were you 16 during the school year September 1965 to July 1966? If so, would you be interested in meeting up with your old school friends later in the year? If you are interested, please contact either:

Clive Rushen: cliverushen@btinternet.com or Barry Woolford: Woolford.I@sky.com

Parking

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said: “Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky.” A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said: “Never mind. I found one.”

Amy's London Marathon Challenge

Hi Everyone! My name is Amy Walton and I have been lucky enough to obtain a place in the London Marathon on 24 April 2016. I shall be running in aid of two charities; 50% of my sponsorship money will be given to the charity that gave me the place and made all of this possible, The Scientific Exploration Society, and 50% to a charity close to my heart, and which benefits my Mum greatly in her fight against MS, The Swindon Therapy Centre for Multiple Sclerosis.

As many of you will know, my Mum, Debbie Walton, has MS and has been suffering with it for over twelve years. She has been going to the Centre for the majority of this time, and it helps her in several ways; the social side in talking to like-minded people, and also the pure-oxygen therapy she receives 2-3 times a week to ease her symptoms. This would not be possible without the incredible volunteers that run the centre and the kind donations from people like you, that help fund it. So many people rely on the Swindon Therapy Centre for MS for help with Multiple Sclerosis and other neurological conditions.

The Scientific Exploration Society was set up by Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE, who also set up Raleigh International. This charity is also very close to my heart. Many of you will remember I went to Costa Rica and Nicaragua five years ago, volunteering with Raleigh International to help with projects that really benefit local and deprived communities in less developed countries. There are small things that we take for granted in the Western World, like clean water, sanitation and health care. The SES initiate a worldwide programme of scientific expeditions focussing on scientific, conservation, education and community aid projects.

If anyone can help with sponsorship for my run, I would be extremely grateful. You can sponsor me through Virgin Money Giving, which is a non-profit organisation and will claim Gift Aid on a charity's behalf, where the donor is eligible. My page is: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AmysLondonMarathon> Fundraiser: Amy Walton

I really appreciate all your support in advance, on the day and after the event - and I thank you for any donations. I hope to see as many of you as possible there on the day, 24 April 2016. I will need as much support as possible lining the streets of London to get me through! Lots of love and thanks in advance.

AMY WALTON

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

OFFERED: 1 old composter and a few metres worth of half log edging – both sound but bit tatty. Maybe someone would like them for their allotment. Contact Linda to arrange pick up on 01793 778014.

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

All past issues of Purton Magazine from January 2004 (but without advertisements) can be accessed through our on-line archive.

Please visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk.

Radiotherapy Appeal Rock night

If you didn't enjoy our rock night on 5 March, then you weren't there. What a great night. I haven't seen the Village Hall as packed in a long time. The Rock Choir started the entertainment off, and what a terrific way to start. Everybody loved them. I think their ranks might be swelled soon, as they went down so well. They were followed by Nick Viola and Frank Abrams on saxophones who also went down extremely well. The night finished with S-Hit 5 getting everyone up dancing.

In between the music, we had a brilliant raffle, auctions and various stalls to raise as much money as we could. We had hoped to raise at least £1000. At the final count we found we had raised the fantastic sum of £2000.01, after expenses. We were a few pounds short of the £2000 when we counted up next morning but friends, staying with us, made the money up and added the penny so we could legitimately claim to have raised over £2000.

As always, Sue and I couldn't have organised this event without the help of lots of people and, thankfully, friends and acquaintances have always been keen to help. So, huge thanks to all who helped on the night by manning stalls, door, kitchen, money and raffle. To the entertainers and those who helped clear up at the end. Thanks also to those who donated raffle prizes, auction items, cakes and money.



Of course, it wouldn't be much fun without anybody coming to the event so thanks to everyone who came along to support us, to spend money and make it a great night.

When we went up to Brighter Futures (the charity raising the money) on the following Monday, they told us that they had, so far, raised nearly £500,000. Still a long way to go, but it looks like it's proceeding

well. It's nice to know that Purton helped out with some of it.

TONY RICHARDSON

Alzheimer's Support

Age UK Wiltshire are organising a training session on dementia arranged with Alzheimers Support. The session available to volunteers as well as Age UK staff is on Tuesday 10 May from 10 am to 2.30 pm, at the Nursted Centre, Devizes, SN10 3AF. (An earlier session had already finished before the Magazine went to print.)

As we go to print, there are still a few spaces available to those who work and volunteer in Community Day Centres. If you or someone from your club would be interested in attending, please get in touch to book a place. Please provide the name(s), email address and role of those who wish to attend.

Contact: Ginnie Heads, Support Worker, Community Day Services, 01380 735513 (Wed-Fri), or by email to Ginnie.Heads@ageukwiltshire.org.uk or Susan.Sullivan@ageukwiltshire.org.uk

Purton and Green Gable Surgery Group for Patients - G4P

Diabetes Information Evening – Wednesday 9 March

At this very informative evening Sarah Fitzpatrick, Community Diabetes Specialist Nurse, spoke about the causes, prevention and treatment of diabetes and Norman Holland from Diabetes UK explained the work of the charity in supporting patients. The speakers answered many questions and the donations made by those present at the end of the evening will enable G4P to send a cheque to Diabetes UK to support its work.



Feedback from patients

Members of G4P have been spending time talking to patients in the surgeries to find out how they find the services. Rest assured, no one is asked any personal medical questions. The feedback from these sessions has been very positive.

Purton Village Centre Open Day – Saturday 7 May 11 am - 4 pm

We plan to have an information table at this event which is being held in the Millennium Hall and promises to be an interesting, informative day. Do come and have a chat and find out more about who we are and what we do.

Coffee Morning in the United Church, Cricklade, Tuesday 7 June, 10 am -12 noon

This is for all patients. We are inviting a number of health professionals to join us at this event so do drop in for a coffee and have an informal chat with them. There will be a small charge for coffee, biscuits and cake. Further details to follow.

Online appointments – The surgery is normally able to offer appointments within two working days, though patients may not be able to see their doctor of choice. Please note that Online appointments are separate from those made with receptionists who do not have access to online appointments.

Practice website - The website is full of useful information, do check it regularly - www.purtonsurgery.co.uk

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Pips Community Café

It is hard to believe that this article is appearing in the April magazine - where did the first three months of the year go?

We have been busy behind the scenes and we are delighted to tell you that with a combination of fundraising and agreed grant funding we have £24,000 in the kitty. We have had various quotations so we estimate that we need to raise a further £10,000. Using the word 'estimate' may sound a bit vague but it is because we are investigating how we may reduce the VAT bill and we may get more help from local trades people over and above the generous offers we have already received. Last, but not least, when we started this project you may recall that we carried out a survey and some people indicated that they would make a donation or a loan to PIPS so these are currently being followed up.

If you are able to help in any way please contact Mary or Dave Nettleton on 01793 772298 or email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Purton and the on-going Saga of the Nail Varnish!

I find it hard to believe that there are so many bottles of nail varnish in Purton!

In January I wrote a short message in this magazine, asking people to offer unwanted bottles of nail varnish, as a gift to women involved with The Harbour Trust in Swindon.

The Harbour Trust provides a 'hub', supporting asylum seekers as they wait for their papers to be checked. The women come from many different countries. In their own homeland, in times of peace, most of them had status, work, titles ... they were doctors, lawyers, teachers, parents, carers. They were respected by their titles. Now their only title is 'immigrant'.

The idea of the nail varnish was to give them something trivial, something flippant, that might brighten their day and give them back a touch of the dignity that they have lost.

They were SO grateful to everyone in Purton, for the donation of over 200 bottles, of all colours, that were donated in February.

And now I am delighted to say that I have another 240 bottles to pass on. I have never seen so many bottles of nail varnish!

I have also been given scarves, sewing machines, fabric, skin creams, nail creams, make-up bags; all sorts of little luxuries that we take for granted. I can assure you that these ladies take nothing for granted now, as they have so little.

So, thank you Purton, once again, for your amazing generosity. I reckon 440 bottles of nail varnish will be enough for now! But I know that I can guarantee receiving a huge smile of gratitude when I take them to the Harbour Trust today.

Thank you.

LIBBIE, 771018

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

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



After 8

Our February meeting was the very late Christmas meal, this year held at 'The Bell Inn' in Purton Stoke. Although the group is known as After 8, we decided to meet up at 7.15 pm to make the most of the evening. About fifteen of us were able to make it and proceeded directly to the bar to order our drinks before moving into the 'Outback', the appropriately named restaurant area to the rear of the pub.



As with our August meeting, we were seated at a long line of tables in a very relaxed atmosphere, where we were able to catch up on news and swap stories.

There was a great selection of starters, light bites, mains (with vegetarian options) and of course the not-to-be-forgotten desserts. All prepared in house.

Before we knew it, the evening was over and we headed for home having enjoyed each other's company along with a lovely meal.

YVONNE REDFERN

Following the article in the March 2006 magazine about the history of Purton's Industrial Estate in general and the

Purton brickworks in particular, the piece in the April 2006 magazine was about the then rules that govern how the landfill operation is managed. Under the control of the Environment Agency, the landfill is authorised only for the disposal of hazardous and inert waste while the list of rules made for interesting reading.

Planning issues are often reported in these pages and it is interesting to see what planning issues were being considered 10 years ago. The first matter concerned the planning application for the development of 200 houses on land at Moredon Bridge in the Parish of Purton. Now in 2016 there are already many more than 200 houses at the site now called Mouldon View while many of the 700 new houses at Ridgeway Farm have been built and already occupied.

The other planning matter from 10 years ago was a very different matter. A meeting was being held in Wootton Bassett (before it was Royal) with the title "Do You Want the Tunnel under the M4 near Junction 16? Is there a better alternative?" There were major concerns about the levels of traffic that would be generated by the then proposed Croft Road to Hay Lane link, the congestion at the motorway junction and the implications for roads to the south and west of Swindon. The issue was resolved without the need for the tunnel.

Transport of a much more gentle, if physical nature was included in the April 2006 magazine with an article about recycling bicycles to the Gambia. A magazine reader had noticed an item on the television news about a charity that collected unused bicycles in England; refurbished them and then dispatched them to children in the Gambia to help them get to and from school. At the time there was no other means of transport and children living up to 10 kilometres from their school simply had to walk. Further research uncovered the fact that the nearest contact for the charity lived in South Cerney.

Looking at the web site (www.jolerider.org) reveals that it is a Cotswold initiative now based in Tetbury and that they have recently loaded their 13,000th bike for Africa. There are two programmes – one delivering bikes to schools making the journey to education possible for thousands of children and the other, equally important, is a training programme enabling people of all ages in Africa to acquire or enhance their bicycle engineering skills. All very interesting information brought to our attention by a reader sending in an article.

Also in the April 2006 issue there was a letter from an "old" Purtonian (circa 1919) living in the USA. He wrote to us having found the magazine's web site (www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) because he was writing an autobiography for his grandchildren and had found an appreciation of his cousin, Harold Durnford, in the January 2006 magazine. His letter included several very interesting references to his friends and relations from his days in the village.

Perhaps we should start a "where are they now" section for the many sons and daughters of Purton who have moved to the far-flung corners of the world – their recollections of life in our village could bring back many memories and may even help to put people in touch again; a sort of Purton Reunited?

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



World Thinking Day is celebrated on 22 February every year and is when we focus on the international aspect of guiding. Brownies, Guides and Rangers from Purton joined with other members from the local area, including Minety, Cricklade and Lydiard Millicent to celebrate World Thinking Day. On an American theme, girls made truffles from Oreo cookies, made scrap models of famous landmarks, compared British and American vocabulary and tasted different flavoured popcorn. World Thinking Day itself fell on 2nd Purton Brownies' meeting day so they did activities from around the world and renewed their Promise at the end.

Guides made gifts for Mothers' Day as did 2nd Purton Brownies. The Brownies' gifts of paper flowers came complete with promises on their stalks: doing the washing up and making a cup of tea were two popular promises and we hope the mums enjoyed cashing in on the promises. Some Brownies helped make the posies for the Mothering Sunday service at St Mary's Church which were then given out by Guides and Brownies on the day.

1st Purton Brownies have started on the 'Number Fun' badge which the girls had chosen to do as unit. They have looked at currency from around the world and done some coin rubbing, planned and costed a simple menu, designed bedrooms to a budget and devised surveys to look at data.

Guides have worked in their Patrols on a 'Dollar Market', buying different challenge activities to see who could make the most money on successful completion of the challenges. Well done to the Bumble Bee patrol who made a beautiful newspaper dress and excellent paper aeroplanes.

The Rangers went to Freedog with Royal Wootton Bassett and Lyneham Rangers and had a great time trampolining in an extreme way! They've also made a nebula in a bottle, with mixed results!

Congratulations go to Rainbow Leader Alix and her husband Tim on the safe arrival of baby Charlie. The sad news for the Rainbow unit is that Janet Saunders (aka 'Jay' to the Rainbows) has decided to step down as a Leader with the unit at the end of the summer term. This means that we're looking for a volunteer (or two) to join the unit leadership team as soon as possible after Easter.

Could you be the volunteer we're looking for? No previous experience is necessary, just the desire to give girls aged 5-7 the opportunity to develop through fun and friendship. Full training and support is provided for all volunteers and we're a very friendly and supportive bunch of leaders in Purton. If you'd like to find out more about this opportunity, 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



Life Style

I believe that every human has a finite number of heart-beats. I don't intend to waste any of mine running around doing exercises. *Buzz Aldrin (1930 -)*

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.



■ AUDREY WILLIAMS

On behalf of the family of the late Audrey Williams, I would like to thank all the people who attended Mum's funeral on 16 February, for the generous donations to Prospect Hospice and Purton Age Concern, and for all the cards and letters of condolence.

A big thank-you also to Judith Wells for providing a really lovely service.

Not many people would have known my Mum, although she lived in the village for the past eight years, first at the Cedars and then at Ashgrove House. Mum had got to know Purton long before. After I married Mike, and came to live in the village, she was a regular visitor. She often looked after her grandson, James, and over the years became a keen supporter of Purton Cricket Club and enjoyed watching James and Mike play.

The last few years were not kind to her as her health deteriorated, but she received the best care I could have wished for at Ashgrove House Nursing Home. I thank Keith Trowbridge and his wonderful team of nurses and carers for looking after her so well. I'd also like to thank Dr McKemey for his kindness, particularly during the last few days of Mum's life.

Sue Crouch

■ VIC HISCOCK

Liz, Paul and Alison would like to say thank you for the many cards and kind messages and condolences from family, friends and neighbours following Vic passing in January.

It was lovely to think that so many

people remembered Vic and attended the service at Kingsdown Crematorium

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Motor Neurone Disease charity in Vic's name.

Liz Hiscock and family

■ DEAR LITTER PICKER(S) IN HOGGS LANE

You may think you are being heroic in gathering litter in the lane as you do your walk but stuffing your collection into our black recycling box is plain anti-social. So PLEASE STOP IT. We have to re-pack your waste and put into the proper black wheelie bin, and then clean out the black box for the recycling.

*Hoggs Lane Resident
(name and address supplied)*

■ DEAR DOG WALKER(S) IN HOGGS LANE

You may think you are being good by picking up your dog's mess but stuffing it into our blue cardboard recycling bin is plain anti-social. So PLEASE STOP IT. We have to clean out your dog's waste and then clean out the wheelie bin for the cardboard recycling.

*Hoggs Lane Resident
(name and address supplied)*

■ KNEE OPERATION

Thank you to all my lovely family and friends for all the cards and flowers, and Meals on Wheels after my knee op.

With love,

Karen Gough

Purton Carnival

Following on from the Children's Easter Egg Hunt at the Red House on Easter Sunday at 2 pm, and the Carnival BINGO on Wednesday 30 March at the Silver Threads Hall 7.30 pm, we now have April's events:

**PURTON
CARNIVAL**



The St George's Day meal at the Royal George Saturday 23 April tables are available as early as 6.30 pm onwards. Menu is 2 courses and dishes on offer are; Giant Yorkshire pudding with sausage mash and gravy, Fish pie with salad and crusty roll, Steak 'n' kidney pudding with mash garden peas and gravy, Spotted dick served with custard, Vanilla rice pudding or Strawberry cheesecake. Music is 60s 70s and 80s following meal, £20 a head, please pre-order in advance.

Purton Carnival's Rock 'n' Roll Night: last year we hosted a barn dance, this year we present to you a Rock 'n' Roll Night with 5-piece live band. We hope you come and support us again at, what should be a great evening. Licensed bar and food available Saturday 30 April at Purton village hall from 7.30 pm. Ticket-only event with tickets available from The Carnival Committee and the Royal George pub £7.50 each.



If you have any suggestions of a theme night you would like to see the Carnival host please get in touch with the committee.

The New Defibrillator is now installed on the outside of the Royal George Pub, and is accessible 24 hours a day, every day, please familiarize yourself with its location. We hope you never have to use it, but if you are unfortunate enough to require it we hope it helps

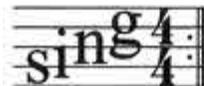
We are pleased to welcome Donna Webb and Lesley Ann Holme to the carnival committee, we hope they will enjoy being part of the team and might persuade more people to join.

Dates for the Diary: Pig Roast and BBQ with Live music (New date and New Venue) Saturday 4 June at Play Close from 4 pm, and Carnival Day is Saturday 2 July

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Sing 4/4 Coffee Morning

Please come and join us at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 2 April at the Jenner Hall, Cricklade, from 10 am to 12 for teas, coffees and cake, and including a cake sale, raffle and craft stall. Proceeds in aid of the Choir's Sheet Music Fund. All welcome!



Just a Thought

An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture and not think of The Lone Ranger.

Dan Rather (1931 -)

PURTON PLACARD

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



Tandoori & Balti
Restaurant

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

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



With thanks to Khalique
all Proceeds to ...



Book to avoid disappointment

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

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

Purton Methodist Church
Coffee Morning

On Saturday 9 April
10 am to 12 pm

In aid of the

GWH Brighter Futures
Radiotherapy Unit Appeal
at 35 High Street

Cake stall, bric-a-brac, books,
raffle

£1 entry to include tea/coffee
and biscuits

Chedworth Silver Band with
Purton Peartree Pealers
Concert

on 7 May, 7.30 pm
at Purton Village Hall
proceeds to Prospect
Hospice & Purton Age
Concern

For more information contact
Brian Broad 771667 or
Alan Woodward 771572

Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society with
LYPCS Youth Community Choir and Orchestra
Concert

Saturday 16 April, 7.30 pm

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church,
Royal Wootton Bassett

Free entry, refreshments, retiring collection
Music will include: Gloria - Vivaldi, Hallelujah
Chorus – Handel, Bach, Rutter and Laurisdén

Sing 4/4 Community Choir
Coffee Morning.

Please come and join us on
Saturday 2 April
at the Jenner Hall, Cricklade,
from 10 am -12 for teas,
coffees and cake
Cake sale, raffle and craft
stall.

Proceeds in aid of the Choir's
Sheet Music Fund. All
welcome!

PURTON AGE CONCERN

**Outing to Lechlade
Garden Centre**

Wednesday 6 April

Coach leaves at 10 am

Cost; £5.00 (food not included)

Book your place with your
street warden

**Bank Holiday Tea Party
Charity Event**

Let's do it again!

Monday 2 May : 12 noon to 4 pm

at The Maharajah

Free tea, coffee, homemade scones and
cake

Freshly made to order Indian sweets
and savouries

All donations to both Charities:

*Special Needs Hostel, Udaipur, India
& Purton Age Concern*

**Phone Khalique Ali 01793 770998
or Wendy Johnson 01793 771749**

RWB Arts Festival 2016

**June Music, Singing and
Instrumental Festival**

Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 June
at St Bartholomew's &
WB Memorial Hall

Total Piano

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 June
at RWB Academy

Closing date for entries

Saturday 23 April

(no late ones please)

St Mary's Church
will be holding a

Murder Mystery Evening

On Friday 22 April : 7 pm

in conjunction with PADS

in Silver Threads Hall

Max 6 to a team

Tickets £10 each

to include a two-course meal

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila 770970,

Val 771201, Jane 772422

PURTON AGE CONCERN

3B's Evening

Friday 8 April at 7.30 pm

at Silver Threads Hall

Cost £6.00 and includes supper

For tickets please contact

Jenny Barnes on 770339

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Mystery Tour

Wednesday 4 May

Coach leaves at 2 pm

Cost £13.50 (includes meal)

Book your place with your
street warden.

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Postal deliveries cost £18 per year. For further information contact Avril Ainscough, 01793 771542 or email avrilainscough@yahoo.co.uk.

Purton Diary - April 2016

2	Sa	10.00am	to 12 noon: Sing 4/4 Coffee Morning, Jenner Hall, Cricklade
		10.00am	to 4pm: Easter Egg Hunt at Purton Farm Shop, Church End
3	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Village Hall - all welcome
6	W	10.00am	Age Concern Outing to Lechlade Garden Centre
		10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
7	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
8	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Age Concern 3B's evening at the Silver Threads Hall
9	Sa	10.00am	Coffee morning for Radiotherapy appeal, 35 High Street
10	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
11	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
12	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House - <i>Signature Tunes</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Purton Silver Threads AGM at Silver Threads Hall
13	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church: Liz Osborne - <i>Salvation Army Recycle Project</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
16	Sa	7.30pm	RWB Choral Society concert, Sacred Heart, RWB
17	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
18	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Marilyn Beale - <i>Wild Life and Plants of Seven Fields Nature Reserve</i>
19	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: Purton's Pubs led by Avril (venue TBC)
20	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Purton Village Hall
22	F	7.00pm	Murder Mystery at Silver Threads Hall (<i>St Mary's Church</i>)

23	Sa		St George's Day Last date for entries to RWB Arts Festival June syllabus Wessex Male Choir concert, Immanuel Church SN3 1DH
		7.00pm	
24	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	<i>approx:</i> Amy Walton running in London Marathon
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
26	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House - <i>AGM</i>
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Sing 4/4 Community Choir</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Roger Umpelby - <i>An alternative look at weeds</i>
27	W	7.30pm	<i>until 30 April:</i> Phoenix Players: <i>Prescription for Murder</i> , at Swindon Arts Centre
28	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Village Hall: John Sameways - History of Cricklade
29	F	9.00am	<i>to 11am:</i> Cricklade Country Market, The Club at Cricklade

May

2	M		Early May Bank Holiday <i>to 4pm:</i> Afternoon Tea at The Maharajah
		12noon	
4	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour

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
	2.20pm	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

● 7 April
● 14 April
○ 22 April
● 30 April

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Great War Project

Part 33: April 1916

Mesopotamia

The British garrison at Kut-al-Amara, in Basra province of Mesopotamia (now Iraq), had been besieged by a Turkish army since the beginning of the year. Several attempts to relieve the garrison had failed before British forces on the River Tigris tried again to break the Turkish lines. On 1 April the British Relief Force attacked at Fallahiyeh, Sannaiyat and Bait Aissa.

On 5 April, the Force seized Hanna and Fallahiyeh, and the first attack on Sannaiyat began on 6 April, with a second on 9 April.

Percy Edward Dash was born in Purton in 1897. When he enlisted in May 1915 he declared his age as unknown but he was in fact only 17 years old. With the 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, he had survived Gallipoli. The 5th Wilts were evacuated to Egypt then redeployed in February 1916 to Basra province. On 9 April 1916, the Battalion was in contact with the Turks at Sannaiyat. 5/Wilts advanced in darkness at 4.20 am. They lost their direction after machine gun, sniper fire and star shells, and dug in about 650 yards from the Turks. Many wounded crawled back or were collected. Those collecting the wounded displayed conspicuous gallantry and some were recommended for the DCM.

Percy, by then 18, was among those killed in 5/Wilts (2 officers, 21 other ranks). He is buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq (*pictured*), and is listed on the War Memorial in Ashton Keynes. Fred Selwood, also of Purton, was wounded during this action.

The Relief Force took Bait Aissa on 9 April but were overwhelmed by Turkish forces on 18 April and withdrew. A third British attack on Sannaiyat was repulsed by the Turks on 22 April.

On 23 April, a naval relief attempt was made up the navigable River Tigris but HMS Julnar, manned by volunteers, failed to break the Kut blockade and was grounded on the 24th with the crew captured by the Turks. Posthumous VCs were awarded to the 2 officers killed.

The Siege of Kut ended on 29 April when General Charles Townshend surrendered the British and Indian garrison to the Ottoman Empire. Not only a major blow to British prestige, it was a death warrant for the men. The Turks led them on a death march to Anatolia in May. 30,000 British and Indian troops had been killed or wounded during the siege and in

*The memorial wall at
Amara War Cemetery, Iraq*



the relief attempts. Of the captured garrison of 13,000 men, 70% of the British and 50% of the Indian troops died of disease or at the hands of their Ottoman guards. The Relief Force withdrew.

Amara War Cemetery contains 4,621 burials of the First World War, more than 3,000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. In 1933, all of the headstones were removed from this cemetery when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. Instead a screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon it (*as pictured*).

Purton men mobilised in April 1916

To France:

Arthur James Tidmarsh: Army Service Corps (Motor Transport driver, 2nd New Army)

Ireland

The Government of Ireland Act 1914 ("The Home Rule Act") had been passed in Westminster in early summer 1914 and was due for Royal Assent in September 1914. The outbreak of war in August that year had resulted in Assent being postponed and the Act was never implemented, to the fury of the nationalist cause in Ireland.

Rebellion in Ireland was in Germany's interest if it diverted British efforts from the Western Front. So while nationalists were trying to organise an Uprising, Germany was willing to help with the supply of arms.

On 9 April, SS Libau set out from Germany with a cargo of 20,000 rifles and ammunition to assist Irish republicans in staging what would become the 1916 Rising aimed at overthrowing British rule in Ireland. The ship's captain, Karl Spindler, changed the name of the vessel to the Aud to avoid British detection. A few days later, on the 12th, the Irish nationalist activist, Ulster Protestant and poet Sir Roger Casement boarded submarine U-19 at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, bound for a rendezvous with the Aud at Tralee. Casement landed from the submarine at Tralee Bay on the 20th but, suffering from a recurrence of malaria, was discovered close by at McKenna's Fort the next day and was arrested by the Royal Irish Constabulary.

A team from the Volunteers didn't arrive in time to unload the Aud's rifles. The ship was intercepted by the Royal Navy on 21 April and the captain forced to sail towards Cork Harbour. Spindler scuttled the Aud on the 22nd near Daunt Rock, off Cork, to prevent the cargo of rifles falling into British hands.

Meanwhile, on 19 April, Alderman Kelly read the "Castle Order" to a meeting of Dublin Corporation. This forged document supposedly from the British authorities at Dublin Castle, suggested that the British government would make mass arrests of Irish Volunteers to prevent "trouble".

Eventually realising the Castle Order was a fraud to force his hand, and without the cargo of rifles or German Army support, the Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers Eóin MacNeill issued an order in Dublin, on 22 April, to postpone the Rising from Easter Sunday by 24 hours. The rebellion broke out in Dublin on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916. Members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood proclaimed an Irish Republic and the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army occupied the General Post Office and other buildings in Dublin. The British government proclaimed martial law

in Dublin on the 27th and renewed their assault on the Irish Volunteer position in Mount Street with artillery shells causing fires and massive damage to buildings.

The republicans abandoned the post office on the 29th and surrendered to the British Army unconditionally, marking the end of the Easter Rising*.

France

1 April is nominally considered the date when German aircraft lost their mastery of the air on the Western front. Battles continued up and down the front with the Germans taking, then losing Bois de Caillette, Verdun; a major German offensive against the village of Le Mort Homme also near Verdun failed to capture it; and attacks from Fort Douaumont, the largest and highest fort on the ring of 19 large defensive forts protecting the city of Verdun. (Douaumont had been taken in February by a small German force.)

Then on 27 April, further north, the Germans launched one of the most heavily concentrated gas attacks of the war at Hulluch, near Loos in France. The 47th Brigade, 16th (Irish) Division was decimated in the attack, among a British list of 1,260 gas casualties and 338 killed. However, due to changing wind direction and leaky gas containers, the Germans are estimated to have lost up to 1,500 gas casualties in the operation.

Politics

On 6 April, the German parliament ratified unrestricted submarine warfare. US Secretary of State Robert Lansing warned Germany that the USA might break diplomatic relations unless torpedo attacks on unarmed ships stopped.

On the 26th, an agreement was signed in Berlin for repatriation of sick and wounded British and German POWs to Switzerland. This was also signed in London on 13 May.

On 29 April, the "Havre Declaration" was signed by France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia guaranteeing the integrity of Belgian Congo.

On a happier note, on 8 April, Norway approved active and passive female suffrage - active being the right to vote, and passive the right to run for office.

RICK DIXON

* Easter Sunday this year (27 March 2016) is early; the earliest it could be in any year is 22 March. Meanwhile Easter Sunday 1916 (25 April) was almost as late as it could possibly be (23 April).

OUR FAMILY'S WAR: We have already received a number of contributions for this feature, 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.

Obituaries

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

Purton Historical Society



Purton Historical Society Bulletin No. 5 dated April 1971:

Extract from an interview with Mrs. A. E. Garrett of 123 Reids Piece:

(Mrs. Garrett was born in 1883 and was the daughter of Mr & Mrs Saunders who became tenants of the Purton Institute but we are not informed of the date of their occupation. A directory of the time states that the Institute housed a Reading Room and a Library also a Workman's Institute and a Coffee Tavern).

'When the Saunders family moved into the Institute the Reading Room had been closed down but the coffee catering continued. This was probably due to the London papers now being on sale in the village but some newspapers were still available. At 11 a.m. in the morning, several of the older gentlemen of the village would call in to read the papers and return home.' (Presumably using the coffee tavern.)

'The Institute was a happy village centre with dancing and concerts of various kinds. Mrs Garrett learnt to shoot in the rifle range in the large upper room. A Mr Williams ran choral classes and Mr Harper ran a string band.'

This extract gives us a glimpse of how well used the Institute building was before the days of having our own village halls! The Institute was built by local benefactor Mr James Sadler in 1879. Mr Sadler actually lived in the village of Lydiard Millicent but was very much involved in the affairs of our village as well.

JAN WALKER

Thursday 25 February 2016

Prior to Paul Booy's presentation on World War 1, Mr Frank Strange a PHS member, shared his boyhood memories of World War 2 with us. Frank heard the announcement of war on the Vicar's battery-operated radio. After leaving school at 14 in 1942 Frank worked in the station booking office at Cricklade. From there he had a full view of Blakehill where they were training paratroopers to participate in the operation that flew gliders to France as part of the D-Day invasion. Injured troops were brought back to Blakehill and housed in Nissan Huts and Purton boys helped to supply food and drink. Later Frank helped out at Down Ampney where again injured men were sent. Frank remembers some of the men being very badly injured and he helped out with stretcher duties.

Thank you to Frank for sharing your memories with us.

World War One – The War at Sea – Mr Paul Booy

Paul started his talk by explaining that prior to the outbreak of war, Germany attempted to build a battleship fleet to match that of the United Kingdom which was the dominant naval power of the early 20th century. German leaders desired a navy in proportion to their military and economic strength that could free their overseas trade and colonial empire from dependence on Britain's good will.

The North Sea was the main theatre for the war at sea. Britain's larger fleet could maintain a blockade of Germany, cutting it off from overseas trade and resources. The German fleet remained mostly in harbour behind their screen of mines, occasionally attempting to lure the British Fleet into battle. One such attempt was the bombardment of Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Other battles included Dogger Bank and Jutland. Britain was able to maintain the blockade

although the German Fleet remained a threat that kept the vast majority of Britain's ships in the North Sea.

After the Battle of Jutland, German naval strategy refocused on underwater operations with U boat attacks on merchant vessels, hoping to disrupt Allied trade and weaken Britain. The result was a great loss of life in the Merchant Navy and a shortage of British ships. Neutral ships and passenger liners were also attacked.

The Allied response was a series of convoys whereby warships escorted merchant and passenger vessels, protecting them from U-boat attack. This was a largely successful strategy.

Although the main focus of the naval war was in the North Sea, some British and German ships were engaged in conflict elsewhere. The Battle of the Falklands Islands was a notable British victory and other actions took place in Asian waters and the Pacific Ocean. The seas were largely cleared of threat to British trade.

The blockade of the German fleet was maintained and ultimately starved the German people and German industries and contributed to Germany seeking the Armistice in 1918.

Thanks to Paul for a very interesting and informative presentation.

Future Meetings / Events

Thursday 28 April, 7.30 pm, in Purton Village Hall

The History of Cricklade – John Samways

John writes: As you approach Cricklade today the signs announce that you are entering the "First Town on the Thames" and a "9th Century Saxon Town". This talk will take you through the development of Cricklade from the earliest settlement, its establishment as a strategic defensive position on the Thames, the manorial and ecclesiastical changes through the middle ages, and ending with the abolition of the parliamentary constituency of Cricklade in 1885.

Thursday 26 May: Longitude and John Harrison's Clocks – Ron Poole

Saturday 18 June: Coach outing to Waddesdon Manor - see page 13 for details.

TONY & JAN NEATE

E mail: tjneate57@gmail.com Tel: 01793 770117

Purton Open Gardens – 4 & 5 June 2016

Thank you to those of you who have agreed to open your garden this year, but as it stands we do not have enough gardens to make it viable. We have two options, finding more gardens or postponing until next year!

Clearly it would be preferable to go ahead with the event as various organisations within the village have benefited greatly from our efforts over the years. Your garden (or allotment) can be large or small or even a window box; it doesn't have to be pristine and weed free (if that was the case it would rule out most of us!); it can be quirky or more conventional and you don't have to open both days. Also, if you have a garden that you feel is attractive and can be viewed from the pavement without accessing your property please let us know as we can mention it in the programme as it will add interest as people wander around the village.

Please ring Nick on 01793 770552 if you would like more information or want to open your garden.

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com



By the time you read this our AGM will have taken place and we will have a new committee in place. Our new programme for 2016/17 looks varied and interesting – everything from fruit farming in Spain to the motor trade from 1950 to 1980. Our motor trade themed evening has already set me busy, looking for a photograph of my old car for the monthly competition; it's the first one I had, and it looks like a toy. How things have changed!

Our 20 April meeting sees us discussing our Resolutions, as one of the important roles of WI is as a lobbying group and beware any government that fails to listen to us. Some of you may remember when we hit the news headlines in 2000 when the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair was a speaker at our WI conference and the attendees aired their displeasure at his speech with slow handclapping.

The short listed resolutions this year are as follows:

1. The WI calls on all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste, thereby passing surplus food on to charities thus helping to address the issue of increasing food poverty in the UK.
2. We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital.

We will debate the issues and all WIs get one vote for each resolution. Unusually this year we can vote for or against each resolution. If there is support for both then the National Federation of WIs will campaign on both issues!

The February meeting was so varied that I haven't room to tell you much about it. We welcomed three very talented ladies who demonstrated their skills and we were welcome to try. Decorative painting as used on canal barges were lovely to study (and buy if you wished). Thick red paint oozed from the brushes and some members produced their own pictures skilfully. At another table, felted flowers were demonstrated, and at a third, quilting, etc. A perfect excuse to nod, knowingly! But, of course, an approving audience is always welcome, isn't it? Even Shakespeare needed one.

Interesting discussion going on in the WI as, only this week, we saw on a local TV programme that a country group had firmly resolved not to close and join with a city group. All may be well on a summer's evening, but not at all pleasant if you have to fight for a parking place, or struggle home afterwards in the wet and cold. We are so lucky to have convenient village halls in the Purton area.

There is a venture which might interest those of you who are unable to get to regular WI meetings and other activities: The NWF I Associate Package member pays a £40 subscription fee and receives all our literature, the annual review, invitations to WI events and the opportunity to participate in competitions and campaigns as well as an on-line forum. You can go to WI meetings* and it goes without saying that you would be most welcome at Purton Evening WI on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm. See you soon!

CONSTANCE REED, tel. 771571

**There may be a nominal visitor's fee*

Purton & District Probus Club



On 9 February, RAF Veteran 'Wincó' **Paul Morris** gave us the second leg of the Air Campaign in the battle for the Falklands. Code named "Black Buck", the aim of the operation was to deny to the Argentines the use of the runway at Port Stanley, and to discourage them from basing their fighters there. It would be necessary to convert Vulcan bombers to a conventional bombing role and fly them 4000 miles to the target from Ascension Island and 4000 miles back. The logistics of doing this were extremely risky. 11 Victor aircraft would be needed to refuel the bombers on the outward journey and two more refuellings during the return. Victors had to refuel Victors to accompany the Vulcan for subsequent refuelling as it flew further south.

Flying a Vulcan behind the much bigger Victor to take on fuel had only been practiced in the two-week run-up to the operation. Noise and turbulence made it an uncomfortable experience. No one was sure that it would go without a hitch, particularly in bad weather or poor light. Incredibly, the first bomb released by the Vulcan hit the runway, which was enough to dissuade the Argentines from bringing in their fighter aircraft.

Six more missions were flown to knock out the radar and other installations before the arrival of the Naval Task Force. Paul himself flew to Ascension in a Nimrod early in the operation. Nimrods, used for surveillance and intelligence gathering, were very necessary for co-operation with the task force, but also needed in-flight refuelling to get near to the Falklands. Unlike the criticism of the contemporary Press, Paul was very proud of the achievements of operation Black Buck.

On 23 February, **Bill King** introduced us to the "Upper Thames Patrol" a water-borne arm of the Home Guard, instituted during the war (1939-45), as a defensive force to guard the river over its length from the height of navigation at Lechlade down to Teddington Lock. Soon after the declaration of war in September 1939, the 'Local Defence Volunteers' was formed, but when invasion threatened this grew into the voluntary "Dad's Army" of the Home Guard.

Dunkirk (May 1940) repatriated over 338,000 men, but the BEF abandoned nearly all its tanks, vehicles and heavy armaments. England was vulnerable and the Thames, recognised even in the days when Alfred fought the Danes (c.870AD), would be the first line of defence should the Germans manage to get a foothold and have plans to encircle London. Consequently, measures to strengthen and protect this line needed to be put in place. Organised as part of this, the UTP was established in 7 sections starting at Lechlade, with hand-overs at Radcot, Oxford, Streetly, Sonning, Henley and at the final stretch from Eton to Teddington.

The UTP guarded 1.5 miles of territory either side of the river and pill-box emplacements were set up along this boundary, many of which are still there today. The Thames has 46 locks, 44 road bridges and 4 rail bridges and it would have been essential to have these crossing points well defended or destroyed if necessary. There were about 6000 members in the UTP consisting of Thames watermen and recruited civilians some of whose boats were recruited as well. Their duties included patrolling the banks and looking for anything suspicious which might indicate sabotage. This was no exaggerated threat. There were German spies dropped in

the area in WW2 who were captured and shot. He showed the defence plan for Radcot bridge, which through history has always been a strategic crossing point of the Thames, and images of the UTP in action, - a very interesting presentation. Bill had uncles who served in the UTP and he still attends a "Small Boat Rally" held after Henley Regatta which includes some survivors of the Dunkirk small ships.

Purton Probus meets in the Red House lounge at 10 am. 12 April: "Signature Tunes". 26 April: AGM.

BOB STEVENS

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Despite the gloomy February weather, spirits are lifted as days are lengthening, and thoughts begin to spread to the start of the new gardening year. So what better reason for Don Everitt to join us as our February speaker, to whet our appetites, with his talk entitled 'Why not grow something different'.



We learned from Don that his knowledge of all things horticultural was gained as a student at Wisley. He went on to teach and it was from that point that he diversified, becoming a speaker at garden clubs and societies where he could share his vast horticultural knowledge.

In the pursuit of this, he has covered every county in mainland England, notching up 4500 talks along the way with 400 already programmed for this year alone. An avid talker and so he proved to be on this occasion!

Don sees it as a great privilege to have been involved with gardens. He explained that the first gardens ever developed were herb gardens that served a medicinal purpose. Next in line were the big gardens attached to large houses employing 200 or more gardeners learning their trade from the bottom up until they could reach the position of 'journeyman'. This was the name given to those gardeners that journeyed from one garden to another to acquire new skills, until returning, often to their first employment ably qualified to take on the mantle of 'head gardener'.

Garden styles changed as different plants came into fashion and as a result others fell out of favour. Originally only hardy plants were grown until the introduction of heated structures allowed for the cultivation of tender plants and the resulting change of fortunes for hardy plants that tended to be overlooked.

The growing number of garden centre chains, produces a similar effect, as their buyers purchase the same plants for each of the garden centre in the chain, and so the range of available plants becomes limited. So some of the onus falls to us to experiment by introducing more unusual plants to our gardens.

The English herbaceous borders, planned to flower from mid-July to September are renowned worldwide. These are the easiest form of gardening as the plants, in most cases, are hardy. With his colourful slides as a backdrop, Don's talk led us through the herbaceous border, whilst extolling the virtues of plants he considers we should try to introduce in our gardens. 'Lysimachia Alexander', for example, a very easy to grow plant with its profusion of yellow flowers both in its green or variegated form. 'Scarlet Bergamot' is another favourite. Every part of the plant, even down to get roots, is scented.

Don strongly recommends that we give the dahlia, 'Bishop of Llandaff' a whirl. With its dark stems and profusion of semi-double red blooms that attract butterflies, he believes it's a hard one to beat.

He explained that if we lose plants in cultivation it may be impossible to go back to source to replace them as their original environment may well have changed and plants become extinct. His favourite annual is 'Cleome', with its foliage resembling that of cannabis, but without the effect, or so he tells us! As one of the longest flowering half hardy plants it's a flower arranger's dream providing cut flowers for 4-5 months of the year. Definitely one to try.

Another fascinating plant that Don recommended is the 'Peruvian Daffodil', also known as the 'Spider Daffodil', whose daffodil-like flower cups are encircled by six long spidery fingers. Pop over to Kuala Lumpur, where Don's daughter lives, and he informs us that these can be seen growing along the roadside for mile upon mile.

On a 4-5 day garden tour in Ireland some years ago Don explained how he got into conversation with one of the garden owners. She gave him the opportunity of taking a cutting of any plant in her garden and after some deliberation he chose 'Blue Mallow'. On returning to England he divided the plant and offered a cutting to a friend. His own didn't survive the winter but his friend's did.

So the moral of the story is to pass your plants around as you never know when you may need them back, and try something different, as Don believes this only serves to make gardening more interesting.

Diana Thombs offered a vote of thanks for Don's non-stop, colourful and informative talk.

Congratulations to the winners of the evening's competition, 'A vase of Snowdrops': 1st Mary Read, 2nd Margaret Goodall and 3rd Janice Simpkins.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 April at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall, when Roger Umpelby will be our speaker. His talk is entitled 'Useful, beautiful but unloved – an alternative look at weeds'. The competition will be 'A bunch of weeds'.

I suspect we may need an extra table for the number of entries on this occasion! A reminder that our outing to Wisley will be on Thursday, 8 September. As an RHS-affiliated society, entrance to our members is free. The coach cost is £10 each.

This promises to be a floral extravaganza featuring 60 nurseries and trade stands, the National Dahlia Society show, and all with the backdrop of the stunning late-summer colour throughout this world-class garden. So book early.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary) & MOIRA WHITE (Chair)

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.

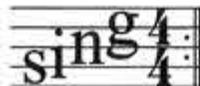
To make the best use of available space, we ask that contributions are written concisely and reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements.

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

WHAT'S ON?

A Unique Musical Experience for Cricklade and Purton!

A concert with a difference is being organised by the Sing 4/4 Community Choir for Saturday 14 May 2016. For the first time they have invited a second choir, the Voices in Harmony (VIH) mixed voice choir from Cradley Heath, Birmingham, to unite with them in a joint concert of 120 voices to be staged in St Sampson's Church at 7 pm. This exciting new venture, in which the two choirs will perform both individually as well as together, will also include two instrumental interludes by Helen Pysanczyn (clarinet/saxophone).



Due to the numbers of choir members involved, audience seating will be fairly limited making it advisable to book early. Tickets at £8 each, which include complimentary light refreshments, are now available from Mary New (tel: 01793 770630) or Sing 4/4 choir members. Funds from the concert will be donated to local charities. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Phoenix Players present ...

'Prescription for Murder' by Norman Robbins at Swindon Arts Centre, SN1 4BJ
Performance Dates - Wednesday 27 April to Saturday 30 April at 7.30 pm

There is never a dull moment for Dr Richard Forth. He has a hectic work schedule, visits from his ex-girlfriend and his wife, Barbara, is constantly and mysteriously ill. Then a stranger arrives looking for Richard's previous fiancée - who Richard claims never existed. Barbara's health worsens and she isn't the only one. With bad luck spreading almost as quickly as bad news, it seems somebody is out to kill Barbara, and anyone else who gets in their way.

Ticket Prices: £10 (£9 concessions)

Group Bookings: 1 ticket FREE for every 10 tickets booked.

To book tickets please call Pauline on 07517 698083

or email bookings@phoenix-players.com.

For payment by credit / debit card, please go to www.wegottickets.com and search 'The Phoenix Players' or go to the Swindon Theatres website:

www.swindontheatres.co.uk

All details are listed on our website www.phoenix-players.com

Stage Struck

After the huge success of their first show in September 2015, the Cast of Stage Struck are chugging their way back to the Arts Centre with their second variety show "The Express Train to Rio".



Featuring an array of music, dance and comedy, audiences are promised a carnival atmosphere that's full of colour, sparkle and Rio rhythm. And given 2016 is an historic year for Swindon's railway heritage – we'll be supporting the Swindon 175 programme of events with a little bit of locomotion!

You can catch "The Express Train to Rio" at the Arts Centre Theatre from Thursday 19 to Saturday 21 May. Tickets are priced at £11 (£9 concessions).

Contact us by email thecastofstagestruck@gmail.com or by phone 07596 151 051. You can also check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/thecastofstagestruck

MICHELLE MacCLAY

Wessex Male Choir

The Choir's next concert is on Saturday 23 April at Immanuel Church, Upham Road, Swindon, SN3 1DH in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. The concert starts at 7 pm. There is an interval of 15 minutes and a raffle at the end



Tickets are on sale at £10 per adult (£3 for a child) available from the promoter, Andy Hamer, on 01793 881702, or 07769 648421 or on the door. Why not come along and support this fantastic charity?

Right here in Swindon with members in Purton, Lydiards, Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett, Wessex is one of the UK's top non-professional choirs. They won in their Male Choir and Show Choir classes at the Mid-Somerset Festival at Bath in March.

The choir is also recruiting men now - all voice types and ages (18 and over). Check out the website for more information: www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk. The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings at Abbeymeads, 7.30 to 9.30 pm.

A recent new member said, "I never dreamed I could be part of this amazing choir, but one of the choristers spoke to me after a concert and encouraged me to go along to one of their rehearsals. I haven't looked back and just wish I had joined years ago."

Chedworth Band Charity Concert

There will be a Charity Concert by Chedworth Silver Band on Saturday 7 May at Purton Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm with Purton Peartree Pealers handbell group. Tickets are priced at £6, which includes light refreshments and a glass of wine. The concert is being sponsored by the Hills Group with proceeds going to The Prospect Hospice and Purton Age Concern.

ALAN WOODWARD

Gaffer's Tales

Spring is on its way, at last. The birds are singing, grass is growing (lawn mowing!) and it should be getting warmer.

One day I got a rush of blood to the head, and went out and bought two Highland cattle. They were in calf, and came from a certain TV presenter's father on the Cotswolds. They were lovely animals, fearsome looking with their mighty curly horns. They looked fierce, but really were very docile and friendly. I was able to put my arms around their necks, pat them and even stroke their foreheads.

I left them in a field that I had recently bought (with a loan from my mother) for £1000 an acre. Nowadays it would be probably ten times that. (How anyone can pay so much for land beats me.)

Highland cattle are very hardy, and can cope with all weathers, but do not like the rain too much. I took pity on them once and let them in a shed to keep them dry. They did not like that at all, and they let me know. Much bellowing went on and they were wet with sweat, so after 24 hours they were out in the field again. Many a time I carried a bale of hay across a wet field to feed them when snow was on the ground. They would toss the hay about with their horns before eating it, and gape at me through the curtains of hair that covered their eyes. This hair is called a dosson - oh yes they can see you alright.

Then at last the two cows gave birth to a calf each, and what fluffy little things they were, so cute and cuddly. Calves need to be ear tagged and have their navels sprayed with antibiotic. This needs to be done as soon as possible, as these little chaps can run a darn sight faster than you can!

So this was done and in all the time I had Highlands, there was never any problem calving, and the cows were good mothers. They were, however, very protective of their offspring, so one has to be very careful handling the calves.

This first lot of calves soon presented another problem, as the calves grew and got to the weaning stage, the question arose 'where do I get a bull?' The answer lay in the Cattle Breeders Association. I found one for sale near Cheltenham. I set



off with a horse box behind my car and found Hamish, a young white bull. After a bit of haggling, I bought him and loaded him into the horse box. Two or three miles up the road, a car stopped in front of me, the driver jumped out and called out 'I don't know what you've got in that box, but it's trying to get out!' Rushing to take a look I found Hamish had both front legs over the tail gate and his big head and thick straight horns wagging

about. I smacked his nose and told him to behave. He retreated and I motored on, rather anxious about the possibility of having a bull roaming through the countryside. Stopping at traffic lights, the car was shuddering a bit with the movement of Hamish. But I did get him home and, lowered the tail board and he didn't want to come out! Banging the side of the box, he emerged, and seeing my two cows, went to have a look at his first loves. There's more to tell you about Highland cows. Perhaps next time ...

GAFFER

Cricklade Country Market



Stock up for the Bank Holiday weekend with pickles and preserves; pies, cookies and cakes; original presents and cards; seasonal plants, fruit and vegetables. Everything is hand crafted, homemade or home grown by us just for you.

Find us at "The Club at Cricklade" On Friday 29 April, 9 to 11 am. Coffee, tea and cakes available too.

Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market. We look forward to meeting you.

Also open on Friday 27 May.

Members of Cricklade Country Market are all local people. We can provide you with freshly baked pies, cakes and savouries as well as supply you with jams, marmalades, chutneys, and pickles. All of our produce is grown or made in and around Cricklade – so no air miles are involved!

We are a co-operative that is governed by the National Country Markets organisation. Our regular monthly market is held in the function room of The Club at Cricklade on the final Friday of each month from 9 to 11 am.

If you are interested in coming along, please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Moira on 01793 771656. We look forward to providing you with delicious delicacies! There are masses of beautiful handmade craft items and plenty of seasonal plants available too!

Do you have the time to cook, preserve and bake yourself? No? Then how would you like freshly baked food delivered to you? Members of Cricklade Country Market are all local people who are able to provide you with freshly baked pies, cakes and savouries as well as supply you with jams, marmalades, chutneys and pickles. All of our produce is grown or made in and around Cricklade – so no air miles are involved!

If you are unable to come along we would be delighted to take your order for delivery to you in the Cricklade area. If you are interested, please call Enid 01793 752536 or Joy 01793 750076.

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 Richard Woodbridge, tel. 770862.

Purton Cricket Club *purton.play-cricket.com*



The recent wet and frosty weather is making preparations for cricket difficult and we need some dry weather in order to work on the square and outfield.

April Fixtures at Purton (weather permitting)

Sat 9 th	Purton XI v Potterne	12.30 pm
Sun 17 th	Purton XI v Wiltshire U17	12.30 pm
Sat 23 rd	Purton XI v Lechlade	12.30 pm

The Pavilion Fund is accumulating well and the club thanks all those who have donated to this venture including PADS whose recent gift is much appreciated.

The Cricket Easter Camp takes place from Monday 4 April to Friday 8 April between 10 am and 1 pm. It is for girls and boys between the ages of 8 and 13 and the camp will include cricket skills, fun competitions and games. Please bring warm, weatherproof clothing, drink and a snack.

From the Archives

July 1996 – The ladies' section of the club has been successfully launched and three of the first five games have been won. Sharon Ayres, South West of England cricket coach, has worked hard in the coaching sessions and the results of her efforts have been seen in good team individual performances.

JOE GARDNER

White Horse Cricket Club

... Proudly presents their Summer Ball 2016, supporting Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group and White Horse Cricket Club on Saturday 25 June - reception from 7.00 to 7.30 pm - at The Cricket Ground, Manor Farm, Broad Hinton, Wilts, SN4 9PL.

Champagne Reception, Dinner, Live Band, Auction & Raffle.

Black Tie. Tickets at £60 each person - Tables of 10.

Pre-order of wine and bar tab available. Dietary requirements catered for.

For more information and to reserve tickets, please contact Chris Ladd on 07525 104290 or 01793 739291 or chrisladd@hotmail.com

The Purton & District Darts League

This story of the league so far is the Club at Cricklade. To say they have dominated the league is an understatement. With two matches to go and forty-four points to play for, their 64 points lead at the top of the table means they can't be touched.



Their worst performances coming from four 14-7 wins against Purton Club West, Charrins A, Purton Club A and Red House B. If this was the movie *Escape to Victory*, I'd be getting out at half time! So lads, next season it won't be a case of winning this one, it'll be damage limitation and trying to lose 13-8.

It's now between Charrins A and Purton Club West for second place. Six points separate them in the league and only one in the singles, so it's all to play for.

Both teams face similar sides in the run-out so Charrins must be slightly favourite to take it.

The Peter Leatherbarrow Mix Triples Tournament was won by ... yes you guessed it, the Cricklade Club with two teams in the final. Won by Lee Evans, Clive Read and Kelly. Runners-up Paul Boulton, Joe Peare and Trudy.

The key to darts is confidence and the Cricklade Club have this in abundance at the moment. None more so than Lee Evans who is producing some amazing results against the world's best on the PDC system. We wish him well with that.

We have had 3 nine-dart legs of 401 scored by Tony Moulden (Club at Cricklade), Lee Evans and Neal Wood (Red House B). Two 170 starts this seasons from Jim McDonald (Charrins A) and Adam Woolford (Red House B).

There have been seventy-five x 180s so far and the highest checkout was Tony Moulden with 161.

MARTIN RICHELL (Secretary)

Email: secretary@purtondarts.com, Tel: (07802) 266417

Purton Tennis Club

The Wiltshire Winter League has finished and our teams were mostly very successful. The A team were runners-up in Division One followed in third place by our B team! The C team were runners-up in Division Three and will be promoted to Division Two for the 2016/17 season. Our D team finished 7th and will be relegated from Division Four.

The Saturday morning sessions run by Nicola Gardner for junior club members will re-commence on 16 April and run right through the summer until 27 August. If you are not already a member but are interested in joining this group please come along and see if you enjoy it! The 10 o'clock session is for 7 - 11 year olds and the 11 o'clock session for 12 - 16 year olds.

Just a reminder that the Bingo night takes place on Saturday 2 April and the club would like to invite you all to join them at the Red House for 'eyes down' at 7.30 pm.

We would also like to invite anyone interested in maybe joining the club to come to a 'Social Morning' on Sunday 24 April 10 am until 1 pm. As well as tennis, tea and cakes will be on sale!

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Walking Group



On a recent walk round Chedworth, a burst water pipe in the lane provided us with a Post walk boot clean!

Christian Aid Week



This year Christian Aid Week starts on Sunday 15 May. So far, plans include:

Sunday 15: Breakfast in St Mary's Church for EVERYONE to enjoy. Please come along and join in the fun

Tuesday 17: Curry Night at the Maharajah ... with a choice of different flavours to suit all preferences - see Purton Placard, page 28.

Saturday 21: (*morning*) Plants and Cakes etc at the Top Shops

Sunday 22: A special United Service at the Methodist Church, Play Close, to learn more about the work of Christian Aid.

Several other activities are in the pipe-line ... as well as the usual challenging Quiz!

We shall also be distributing and collecting up the little red envelopes during the week.

Purton's generosity is legendary! Please support us again this year! And let us know if you would like to help at any of these events and activities.

More details in the next magazine. Any questions please contact Libbie: 771018 or Mary: 770505

Church Floodlighting

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



27 March St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate **Easter Day**
Alleluia. Happy Easter to all in Purton.

3 April St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Norman Mills**
on his birthday.
Always in our hearts and thoughts,
Love Karen, Garry, Amy, Jay, Martin, Harry and Lydia

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 it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a couple of weeks before the chosen night.

An announcement can also be put in this magazine for no extra charge if requested.

Prayer for Purton

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

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Rev. David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

We Record ...

Wedding at St Mary's Church

12 February 2016 Benjamin Alexander Cooper and
Phillippa Jacqueline Margaret Chick



Funerals at St Mary's Church:

1 March 2016 Ruth Alma Sandford (76)

Cremations at Kingsdown Crematorium:

16 February Audrey Gwendoline Wheeler (94)

9 March Frederick Philip Park (Phil) (94)

10 March Peter William Osborne (78)

In Memoriam:

9 April 1916 Percy Dash (18), 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action at Sannaiyat, Mesopotamia. Buried at Amara War Cemetery, Iraq.

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 ...

Easter Flowers for St Mary's Church

If you would like to bring some flower to St Mary's for Easter, we would be delighted to welcome you and the flowers.

People will be decorating the Church from 10 am on Saturday 26 March. Do come and join us ... or leave the flowers with us and we'll use them in the decorations. For more details, please phone Libbie: 771018.

Purton remembers the First World War

In September 2014, as part of Purton's World War I commemorations, PADS Travelling Theatre presented a number of playlets which were performed throughout the village, culminating with a sing song and displays at the Village Hall. This was to commemorate the centenary of World War I and was based around an imaginary recruitment drive. This year on Sunday 11 September we will be again putting on a similar event, this will be based around imaginary events back at the home front here in Purton. It will also involve Purton's Remount Depot whose purpose was to train troublesome horses for the army's use. There will be no admission charge for this event.

Once again we shall end up in the Village Hall car park (weather permitting). There will be music, displays and the museum will be open. As with 2014 we shall be encouraging people to dress in appropriate costume. More details will follow nearer the time.

TONY RICHARDSON



Allotments

Allotment to let at the Quarry, Church Path. Ring 770696.