

Purton Magazine

July 2016



Photo: Gaffer. See you inside on page 28

50p

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Purton Magazine

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From The Editors

As we go to press we don't know the answer ... but you will already know by the time you get your Magazine. That of course is whether we're still in Europe or not.

The EU Referendum date occurs halfway through the magazine's printing schedule. You will notice a difference in the format of the magazine, starting with this issue. Now that In Touch Services has moved from Pavenhill, the typesetting process is the same as before but the printing is now done by H&W Print in Royal Wootton Bassett. They use a different printing process and it means that we have a glossier style to the product and the ability to have colour on the covers, inside and out. We will be looking at further ways of enhancing colour over the coming months.

The Purton Contacts list has moved from the inside cover to page 34.

Of course 'in or out' to some may refer to the Euro 2016 Football going on in France. As I write, England have only played one match and secured a draw against Russia. Again we won't know if England, Wales or Northern Ireland will make it through the Group Stages into the next round until the magazine is well into production.

If you thought that the actions of fans in Marseilles seemed like warfare, then bear in mind that in the 1st Battle of the Somme, one hundred years ago, there were 57,470 British casualties on the first day alone. When you think of the figure of over 1,400,000 casualties in the whole Somme campaign, the mind tends to swim. The stories of the 4 Purton men who died on the Somme in July 1916 are told on page 19.

On a happier note, July marks the time of Carnival (page 18), the start of the school summer holidays and several open garden events - though sadly not in Purton: please have a think about whether you would be able to open your garden next year. Pristine doesn't matter - I call large areas of mine a wildlife habitat!

As I write, it doesn't feel like summer and perhaps the 'cold weather' disclaimer in Warm and Safe Wiltshire's article on page 32 isn't so out of place.

We hear of July outings such as the Age Concern trip to Gloucester Docks on page 7 as well as their Annual Coffee Morning at Bentham. We wish all these events good summer weather.

There was much rejoicing and good feeling over the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations at St Paul's, the Trooping of the Colour, and the street party in the Mall. That's not to forget the celebration events around the country including those in Purton. But again we shall have to wait until August's issue to hear how these local events fared.

2 July

Purton Carnival
Procession and Fete
highlight Carnival with
more events to follow
- see page 18

£5,500

raised so far
this year by
Christian Aid events
in Purton
- see page 31

£33,669

raised by Pips to towards
their Community Cafe
financial target allows
construction work to start
- see page 11

Parish Council News



Purton Parish Council Needs You!

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.

July Meeting Dates - All are Mondays:

11 July	Council meeting	18 July	Informal Rights of Way followed by Planning Meeting
13 July	Play Area Meeting	25 July	Village Hall Charity

Updated "Walks of Purton" Booklet

The Volunteer Footpath Team has begun work on this project and would welcome help from anyone interested in walks/maps etc with a bit of time to spare. Help is needed in many areas - e.g. selecting and checking out walks; designing and illustrating route maps; composing directions and descriptions of interesting features/historical notes. If you would like to contribute to this village project in any way, please contact Paul Dempsey on 07796 378136 (paul.dempsey@live.co.uk) or the Clerk on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Planning and Highways

Approved Applications – with conditions:

- N1601199/FUL** 4 The Fox, Purton. Removal of existing garage and replacement with garage/summerhouse building.
- N16/01775/FUL** 13 Jubilee Estate, Purton. Proposed side extension.
- N16/026360/FUL** 13 The Hyde, Purton. Proposed side and rear extension.
- N16/02867/TPO** Live and Let Live, Upper Pavenhill, Purton. 20% crown reduction and crown lift to 3.5 metres to 1 hornbeam tree.

Appeals:

APP/Y3940/D/16/3147405

Longcroft, 6 Station Road, Purton. Extension and alterations to existing dwelling.

Road Closures:

Wiltshire Council: Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Closure of: C67 (Part) Eighty Acres, Charlton and Purton (Ref: TTRO 4348)

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic:

C67 (Part) Eighty Acres, Charlton and Purton; from its junction with C76 Ravenscroft Road to its junction with Queen Street / C67 Pink Lane.

To enable: Wiltshire Council to carry out surface dressing and adjustment to ironworks.

Alternative route: Queen Street – C76 and vice versa.

The closure and diversion will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

This Order will come into operation on 20 July 2016 and it is anticipated that the closure will be required for two days between the hours of 07.00 and 18.00. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months.

For further information, please contact Eurovia on 01249 468582 (office hours) or 07900715776 (outside of office hours).

Sustainable Transport Group, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Wiltshire Council: Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Temporary Closure of: C67 Eighty Acres (Part), Purton (Ref: TTRO 4267)

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic:

C67 Eighty Acres (Part), Purton; for a distance of approximately 500m between No Parish Farm and Highbarn Farm. To enable: Thames Water to carry out water supply works.

Alternative route: Via C67 Eighty Acres, Purton (unaffected length) – C76 Ravensroost Road – C91 The Common / Mile Straight – C67 Eighty Acres, Purton (unaffected length) and vice versa.

The closure will be clearly indicated by traffic signs and access will be maintained for residents throughout the works period.

This Order will come into operation on 6 June 2016 and it is anticipated that the closure will be required for three days. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months.

For further information, please contact Ihsan Ahmed Farid (Clancy Docwa/Thames Water) on 0203 577 8328. Sustainable Transport Group, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066,

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

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

Purton & District Age Concern



Can I start with a warning to everyone? A pensioner in Purton recently had a message left on her telephone from a woman claiming to be from HMRC. The woman left her name and telephone number and said the pensioner must call her back as failure to do so would result in prosecution. The pensioner returned the call but got no reply so became suspicious and contacted her Income Tax Office. She was advised the call was a scam. The Tax Office said they would never leave such a telephone message and would always write to the person if there was a problem with their Income Tax. Please be aware if you have a similar telephone call or message left on your phone and contact the Police on 101 if you are concerned about any suspicious telephone calls you receive.

A few days ago we held our AGM. It is always good to reflect on what has happened over the course of the year. There have been a few changes, a couple of street wardens have retired and new volunteers have come forward to take their places. The minibus crew now have Hazel Woodbridge as their co-ordinator and we have continued with our successful line up of events, activities and outings. We have sadly lost a few people, including two people who over the years helped to make Purton Age Concern the successful organisation it is today – Alan Webb and Jean Miles.

The whole committee agreed to stand for re-election with the exception of Mick Hull who decided to step down from our committee. Mick has been with Age Concern for many years and has served as vice chair in the past, has been a stalwart of the T'ai Chi group and was part of the fundraising committee who came up with two of our very successful fundraising events – Burns night and 3B's. It is sad to lose such a dedicated committee member. We are extremely grateful to Mick for all his hard work and to Mick and Shirley for their friendship over the years. Mick, thank you for everything, best wishes to you and Shirley. I'm sure we'll keep in touch.

Hopefully by now you will have received your £5 travel voucher to be used on any of our remaining outings this year. If you haven't been on an outing with us, this is an ideal time to give it a try. Just contact your street warden to book your place and remember to fill in your name on the voucher before you hand it in with your payment.

This month the Silver Threads Hall will be closed for a few days while a new kitchen floor is laid. All groups who use the hall have been informed. The Friendship Club will be going out for lunch on Friday 17 June so the next Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall will be on Friday 15 July from 2 to 4 pm.

Finally, I would like to say congratulations to two couples who recently celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversaries – Joyce & Eric Ball and Rose & John Stump. I hope both couples enjoyed their anniversary celebrations. Joyce and Eric had a garden party and BBQ for 70 friends and family members; Rose & John returned to stay at their honeymoon destination followed by a lovely meal with family and friends. Sixty years of marriage is a wonderful achievement, congratulations to you all.

FUTURE EVENTS

Outing to Gloucester Docks – Wednesday 6 July with a 10 am start. Food is not included in this trip. The cost is £8 for pensioners and £9.50 for non-pensioners and others from outside our area. Please contact your street warden to book your place if it's not already sold out!

Annual Coffee Morning – This will be on Saturday 9 July from 10 am to 12 noon at the home of Dick & Jackie Scott, Bentham House Farm, Bentham Lane. Admission will be £1 and includes tea/coffee/biscuit. There will be plants for sale, bric-a-brac, books, tombola, cake stall and a raffle. To book the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Donations of cakes, bric-a-brac, books, raffle and tombola prizes will be much appreciated - thank you.

Golf Day – Due to wet weather the golf day scheduled for 18 May was postponed. It will now take place on Wednesday 27 July at 10 am at Cricklade Country Club. The cost is £10. Please contact Charlotte Griffin for more information and to book your place on 770665 or email her at charlotte.griffin1@btinternet.com

Outing to Bournemouth - Our annual village outing is to Bournemouth for a change this year. The trip is for all ages and takes place on Wednesday 3 August. The coach will leave Purton at 8.30 am. The cost will be the same as last year at £13 for pensioners/children and £15 for others. Let's hope the weather will be kind and all will enjoy a lovely day at the seaside! The coach will leave Bournemouth at 4 pm. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 25 July.

Jumble Sale – Our next Jumble Sale is on Saturday 3 September at 2 pm in the Village Hall.

PAST EVENTS

Boat Trip – This took place on Friday 3 June. 44 people set off from the village at 9 am and cast off on the Rose of Hungerford at 10.30 am. We all enjoyed the fish & chip lunch that was delivered to the boat, and several people enjoyed drinks from the bar or a cup of tea or coffee. The crew are all volunteers and they do a grand job, the trip was very well organised.

LOUISE TIDMAN

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

OFFERED: Honda petrol driven self-propelled lawn mower. Tel 770702.

OFFERED: Brother HL-2135W laser printer (black print) in working order. Works on Windows 7, never tried on Windows 10. Drivers downloadable on-line. Tel. 770648.

WANTED: The loan of a bugle - in any condition- to be used as a prop in a show, so it won't actually be played. Can be returned in time for Christmas! Libbie: 771018.

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

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Please contact me if you think I can help or support you with transport, home or personal safety, feeling lonely or finance.

I am also able to point you in the direction of a huge range of local activities, events and projects. One of these is setting up a Men's Shed in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade community area; please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

In addition, elderly and vulnerable people who fall ill or become disorientated on a trip to Royal Wootton Bassett High Street can now pop in to a nearby shop for assistance.

A Safe Places scheme has been launched officially by Royal Wootton Bassett's Caring about Dementia group, taking the town a step closer towards its goal of becoming dementia friendly.

Backed by businesses in the town centre such as Boots, the scheme offers help to those who need it somewhere close by in an emergency and it is not just aimed at the elderly. Children who are being bullied on the way home from school can also call in where they see the special orange sticker.

Linda Frost, chairman of the Caring About Dementia group said: "This is what we need for people who have dementia, but at the same time it is also a facility that is going to be useful to anybody."

*ELLEN BLACKER Tel: 07557 922020
or email ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk*

Footpath 161

On Sunday 29 May a small party was held in Hoggs Lane to christen the new official footpath number 161; and the new kissing gates at each end of the path across the field at the top of Hoggs Lane.

It was a special occasion: people have been walking across the field for more than 40 years and, with others, Pat Vincent of Pavenhill wrote to the Purton Parish Council in 2001 to ask if the walk 'across the field' could be recognised as a footpath, after being used for several generations.

To cut a very long story short, there were several approaches to both Parish and County Councils. Then there was a formal Public Inquiry with a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Eventually permission was granted and the gates were fitted recently. This called for our little local celebration.

So, although it has already been well used, everyone can enjoy using this wonderful and now official new footpath with the stunning views northwards from Purton. Thank you to all Purtonians who wrote letters, attended meetings, spoke at the enquiries and persevered in making sure that this well-used footpath became officially recognised at last.

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always willing 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 2 of the Magazine. We can crop or resize photos supplied.



Students 'fiercely proud' of their GOOD School

Bradon Forest School, has been on a remarkable journey over the last two years. This has been reflected in the recent Ofsted inspection on



19 and 20 April 2016 where the school has achieved 'Good' in all areas.

The pace of improvement since the last inspection has been rapid, mainly due to the diligence of the Headteacher, Leadership Team and Governance actively shaping a culture that nurtures ambition and aspiration.

Headteacher, Dr Andrew Morrison said, "We are delighted that inspectors highlighted the

'rapid progress' that has led us to being one of the 100 most improved non-selective state schools over the last two years."

The report highlighted that, 'Bradon Forest students are fiercely proud of their school and its recent journey of improvement. They are well looked after and feel safe in school. An example of this pride is the delight students take in their new uniform, which they helped to devise.

'Students across different year groups and subjects achieve well. They are confident, happy and articulate, keen to talk in an animated way about their school.'

Inspectors commented on, 'the warm relationship that exists between teachers and students, a reflection of mutual trust and respect. The students at Bradon Forest are known as individuals and cared for by staff who value the relationships they share with them. These positive relationships reflect a warm, welcoming school where they are all respected regardless of background or circumstance.'

The report recognised that the well-thought-out curriculum ensures that students are well prepared for life beyond school. It was also noted that they leave the school with high levels of attainment. In 2015, students' results for both English and Maths were significantly higher than the national average for the second year running.

"While the report is extremely positive we continue on our journey of improvement. The staff at Bradon Forest School and I look forward to working with our students and their parents over the next few years to make our school an even more special place to learn,"

Dr Andrew Morrison.

Nationwide Speaker motivates able Year 8 Students

On Monday 6 June, the term started with guest speaker Sara Bennison, Chief Marketing Officer at Nationwide, presenting to our 'able' Year 8 students. They listened intently as Sara described her background and the path she had taken to

become Nationwide's Chief Marketing Officer, working for a London Agency and other global brands along the way. She emphasized how important school is as it gives students the building blocks to the career that they really want.

Students were also given a taste of what a career in Advertising or Marketing would be like, what sort of person it would suit and the qualifications needed.

A big thanks to Sara for such an inspiring talk and giving our students such insight into the wider world of marketing and advertising.

Sara Bennison from Nationwide was booked through an independent education charity www.speakers4schools.org that provides state schools with free talks from the UK's leading figures to inspire and empower the next generation.

The Subatomic Bradons – Regional Bright Ideas Champions!

Three Year 8 students, Jessica Lomas, Charlotte Martin and Ben Silvester, make up the **Subatomic Bradons**, the 2016 Regional Winners for the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge competition!

Speaking to Rebecca Rooney on BBC Radio Wiltshire this morning, Jessica said: "The challenge was to imagine our world in 2050 and work out how we would solve the energy crisis. Our idea was to find large areas of unused land, such as the Sahara Desert, and harness enough solar energy to power other countries."



Ben added: "We would have 'fibre optic hubs' in all the continents and transport energy around the world. The proposal included research in to eco-friendly ways of transporting the energy for minimal impact on the environment."

Head of Science, Mr Vizor, said of the winning students: "The team produced some very mature writing for 12 and 13 year olds and were worthy of winning any competition. Competitions like these are important as they take science out of the classroom and encourage students to consider the wider world."

The winning school for each region for the 2016 Bright Ideas Challenge have won £1,500 to super-size their STEM teaching. Students in the winning teams will also receive their own tablet computer and an invitation to join Shell at Make the Future London. The four-day festival of ideas and innovation takes place at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Friday 1 July. The festival will host The Bright Ideas Challenge national final, where we'll find out who will be crowned national champion, receiving a total of £5,000 for their school!

The team would like to see the winnings spent on a wide range of large equipment to inspire a love of Science even younger students.

Open Events: Parents of pupils currently in Year 5 are warmly invited to come and visit our supportive and friendly school where every student matters.

Tuesday 5 July: 9.15 am to 10.30 am - please book your FREE ticket at <http://tinyurl.com/htdk5z7>

Thursday 7 July: 6 pm to 8 pm - no booking required for this evening event.

Pips Community Café building work to start

We are making excellent progress on fundraising to open Pips, Purton's Community Café, and now have sufficient funds to appoint a builder to construct the kitchen.



We were particularly pleased to receive the support of Purton Parish Council recently, who have agreed a grant of £500 for the project. This followed our success in applying for a grant for £5,000 from the Wiltshire Council Area Board towards equipping the kitchen, which is in addition to an earlier grant also for £5,000 which they have provided towards its construction.

Altogether we have now raised £33,669, plus donations of tradespeople's time, towards our target of £47,000. We are hoping we might be able to reduce this target figure a little by negotiating a good price for the build and using some second-hand appliances in the kitchen. For example, Siva from Best One donated the chilled display cabinet from his shop when it closed recently.

So keep your eyes open for new building work around the back of the Purton Club this summer. We hope that as villagers start to see our dream becoming a reality, many more will want to support us by making donations or offering us loans so that we can fit out the kitchen as soon as it is built and we can get Pips open this year. We also need to hear from you if you would like to volunteer to help us run the café.

Please contact us by ringing Dave and Mary on 772298 or email david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk. You can also keep up-to-date through our Facebook page: [facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe)

DAVE NETTLETON

Stop Press: We have just received a donation of £100 from 'Sing for Four' Community Choir for which we thank them very much!

After 8

'After 8' ladies went off greyhound racing
At Blunsdon hill, so the weather was bracing
The dogs looked so fine in their colourful coats
We all laid our bets on the one we liked most
Off the dogs ran so fast round the track
Their handlers dashed too, to bring them all back
Some of us lost, and some of us won
But we did all agree, it was so much fun
It was Sandra's Birthday, her cake was so yummy
No luck with her bets and she lost all her money
A big crowd of people were all gathered there
But the star of the show, was surely the Hare



written by Diane Williams, May 2016

The next meeting is the Summer Social at Helen's. (Members only.)

Purton Magazine 10 Years Ago ...

10 years ago there were many flags of St George furiously fluttering from house and car windows as the England football

team took part in the 2006 World Cup tournament in Germany. For those with short memories, Italy won the cup beating France in the final and England lost to Portugal in the quarter finals.

This year, different flags might be seen around the village – or at least passing through on car windows – as Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have also qualified alongside England for the 2016 Euro Football tournament in France.

In the magazine 10 years ago, Purton cricket club had reported a very successful start to the season with the 1st XI winning all their matches in May and sitting proudly at the top of the league. This year the cricket team have again won all their league matches in May and are only denied top spot by a mere 2 bonus points.

This year's 1st XI captain, Aaron Lee, was also celebrated in the magazine 10 years ago for his swimming exploits. In addition to an impressive string of competition wins and new records as a Year 10 student at Bradon Forest school – all carefully listed in the magazine – he was, at the time, only the 15th swimmer in the whole country to achieve a National Qualifying time in the 100m backstroke in a Long Course Pool.

10 years ago the Purton Historical Society held their annual walk on a brilliant sunny afternoon and the report in the magazine carried a map showing the 6½ mile route. After inspecting the remains of the War Defence Ditch (aka the Tank Trap) at the cricket field, the route stretched to the Eastern edge of the Parish boundary alongside the river Ray before returning through Widham and Pavenhill.

Wednesday 24 May 2006 was a red letter day for Purton Evening WI because their skittles team “forged through the Wiltshire Federation semi-finals, beat Sutton Benger in the finals and became the victorious winners of the entire contest.” The team were presented with engraved whisky tumblers.

Celebrating local, regional and occasionally national sporting achievements is always good news for our community, and your magazine looks forward to reporting many more successes in the future.

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

Cricklade Country Market

Locally made and grown pickles and preserves, pies, cookies and cakes, original presents and cards, seasonal plants, fruit and vegetables ... everything is handmade, home cooked or home grown by us, just for you.

Find us at “The Club at Cricklade” on Friday 29 July, 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. Future market dates for your diary: 26 August.



Scarecrow Trail 2016

Sat 17/Sun 18 Sept on the theme of "Musicals"

Please have your entries in by 31 July 2016

Any shops or businesses in the village could put a scarecrow in their window; "sponsor" a scarecrow on the trail, or offer a prize.

The dates for the trail are Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September.

If you would like to be involved or to ask for more details, please email us on info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk or contact Ali on 01793 772579 by 31 July. Please let us know your name, address, email address (if you have one), telephone number and postcode and we will be in touch to give you more information.

Please also tell us your 1st and 2nd choices for a musical: if they have already been taken we will ask you to choose another.

ALI



Wessex Male Choir

Winners Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival Gold Cup May 2016

The choir's Summer Concert is at the Concert Hall at Steam Museum in Swindon on Saturday 16 July. We shall be joined by *Jubilate* ladies choir.

Concert doors open at 7 pm for a concert start at 7.30 pm. Tickets priced £15 can be obtained from the Choir on (01285) 869955; from the Information Desk, in Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus, Swindon (01793) 466454; from STEAM Ticket Office, Fire Fly Ave., Kemble Drive, Swindon (in person); or online from tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk.

In Purton they are also available from Rick Dixon, 01793 770648.

Under-16s are free but still must have a ticket as seating numbers are limited.

Tickets allow entry to the Steam Museum from 6.30 pm and free parking at the Outlet Centre North Car Park - take a parking ticket at arrival but barriers are lifted after the show.



Wessex in jubilant mood on their way to the Alta Pusteria choir festival in northern Italy, June 2016



Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

*** **Myth-busting time!** ***

The Purton Rainbow unit is NOT closing – at least we certainly hope not!



Yes, one of the Leaders is stepping down at the end of the summer term but we are looking for others to join the leadership team and have some leads we are following up. If there is anyone else out there who is interested in volunteering, please do get in touch; many hands make light work as the saying goes.

The Rainbow unit had a great party celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday where they were joined by Rainbows from Lydiard Millicent. See the account at the end from Heidi, who tells it better than any adult can. This event also provided the ideal opportunity for a surprise presentation of a 40-year long service award to Shirley Lawrence. Hundreds of girls have benefitted from the years Shirley spent as Brown Owl of 2nd Purton Brownies and more recently as Robin with the Rainbow unit. From the very many comments and 'likes' of the award picture on our Division Facebook page it is clear that Shirley is extremely well thought of in the community. Thank you Shirley.

You may have seen some of our members out and about in the village last month: Guides delivered Christian Aid envelopes around Purton and 2nd Purton Brownies did a quiz trail down The Hyde. Well done to the Rabbits six who clinched the win with just a 1-point difference. 1st Purton Brownies went slightly further afield for their walk at Jubilee Lake. They did a 'doodle walk' involving stopping at certain points and then drawing something they could see. It was interesting to see the different things that had caught their eye and no two were the same.

The Guides chose to watch 'Hairspray' for a movie night and, joined by the Rangers, they sang along between eating popcorn! In the run up to Fathers' Day, the Guides have been making gifts for the special men in their lives

2nd Purton Brownies had a couple of evenings on owl-themed activities. They made light switch owls out of foam, air-dry clay owls, looked at owls from the British Isles and also dissected owl pellets - Janie, their Guide helper and Immy's dad had the best evening and it was surprising what bones etc they found!

1st Purton Brownies also had a themed evening but theirs was on jelly babies. They learnt about the history of jelly babies (did you know they were originally called Peace Babies?), then did quizzes and devised new jelly baby characters before pitching them to 'The Sweetie Company Executive Board' (aka the Brownie Leaders!). They finally got to open the bags of sweets for a competition in building the highest free-standing tower of jelly babies, held together by cocktail sticks. It was a great exercise in teamwork for the sixes.

For more information about the units in Purton, either for girls joining or for volunteering, please contact District Commissioner 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.

Find us on Facebook too:
www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision



On Sunday 22 May, Purton Rainbows had a party in the Millennium Hall to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. We also invited Rainbows from Lydiard Millicent.

First we played the wheels on the bus go round and round and then we split into different groups and did lots of activities - it was really fun!

At the end we had a tea party. My favourite crisps were the Pom Bear ones and we also had lovely Marshmallows.

We had a very busy day.

I hope the Queen had a lovely time at her house too.

Heidi Ponting (age 6)

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.wordpress.com

At our May meeting we welcomed Charlotte Popescue who talked to us about the chickens she keeps in her garden. She has been surrounded by chickens of all colours, shapes and sizes all her life.

She illustrated her very entertaining talk with some lovely full colour slides. Her chickens get everywhere in the garden, on the seats and fences, up in the trees and they even have a fox-proof ladder that enables them to roost in their very own tree house! Whilst she is used to the chickens being everywhere she was somewhat put out on one occasion when she discovered that a couple had taken up residence on her bed when she returned from holiday. Large numbers of chickens of course mean they produce a goodly number of eggs and she brought some along that we could buy, and like the chickens they come in different colours and sizes. I don't think many of us were tempted to try our hand at chicken rearing but it gave an interesting insight into a subject that, I for one, knew nothing about.

As I write this I am remembering the wonderful pageantry and colours of the Trooping of the Colour which I watched earlier today and which has been a British tradition since the 17th century, although its roots go much further back in history. So we are looking forward to a visit from Daphne Atkinson who will be telling us about UK customs at our next meeting on Wednesday 20 July at Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm. If anyone has a photo or picture of themselves or of others participating in one of the many, sometimes unusual, customs of the British Isles then they are invited to bring them along for our competition and in our social time we hope to have someone demonstrating or talking about some aspect of country dancing.

We look forward to seeing you.

HELEN DIXON, tel 770648

The Merchant's House, Marlborough

Join The Merchant's House at Marlborough College on 31 July, 12 - 3 pm, for a delicious two-course lunch plus coffee, and a complimentary drink on arrival. We will be hosting a family-friendly afternoon of entertainment. Discover the history of one of Britain's favourite pastimes - Punch and Judy - complete with a live performance and games for the children.

Tickets are priced at £25, £22 for Friends of The Merchant's House, £12 for under 12s and children under 5 go free. Buy direct from the house (132 High Street, Marlborough). Money raised will go towards The Merchant's House Appeal, to preserve this historic property, one of the oldest on Marlborough's High Street.

Purton Diary - July 2016

2	Sa	12 noon	<i>to 2pm:</i> High Street closed to traffic
		12 noon	Purton Carnival Procession from Ringsbury Close
		12 noon	<i>to 7pm:</i> Carnival Fete at Purton House Field
3	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United parade family service at Purton Methodist Church
		2.03pm	<i>to 5.30pm:</i> CreamTeas at Village Hall (Archie's Challenge)
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Music by Harry and Mel
6	W	10.00am	"Storytime" at library for pre-school children
		10.00am	Purton Age Concern outing to Gloucester Docks
7	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
8	F	9.30am	Purton Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
9	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Purton Age Concern Coffee Morning at Dick & Jackie Scott's, Bentham Lane.
		12 noon	<i>to 5pm:</i> Blunsdon Open Gardens: breakfasts from 10am
9	Sa	7.30pm	Summer Concert at St Bartholomew's Church , RWB. Page 52
10	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		12 noon	<i>to 5pm:</i> Blunsdon Open Gardens: breakfasts from 10am
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion and Baptisms at St Mary's Church
11	M	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome - other committees, see page 5
12	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>SS Great Britain</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
13	W	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Royal George
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
16	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (<i>by Silver Threads</i>)
		6.15pm	<i>from Silver Threads:</i> Historical Society: Walking Tour of Cricklade
		7.00pm	Thamesdown Choir at Methodist Church (event sold out)
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir concert at Steam Museum Concert Hall
17	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Tennis events at Red House courts, see page 36
		10.30am	Gift Day, 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: Social Evening and supper at home with Moira and Sylvia
19	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Bingo with Brenda and John
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
20	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Daphne Atkinson - <i>Customs from around the UK</i>
24	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
26	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>4 miles high in Africa</i>
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Peter Biggs - <i>Solving problems in the garden with plants</i>
		eve	After 8: Summer Social at Helen's
27	W	10.00am	Age Concern Golf Day at Cricklade Country Club
29	F	9.00am	<i>to 11am</i> : Cricklade Country Market at The Club in Cricklade
31	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		eve	Scarecrow Trail entries deadline, see page 22

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

● 4 July

◐ 12 July

○ 19 July

◑ 27 July

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

Purton Magazine Contacts

Magazine articles:

Please email articles to: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Handwritten or typed articles can be put through the letterbox at 20 Hoggs Lane (round the corner from Pavenhill) the house on the left just before the lane goes down the hill. or at Quarry House, 51 The Hyde, SN5 4EA - that's the thatched cottage on the right hand side, 2 houses before you get to Quarry Farm.

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

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Carnival Day is almost here!

We hope you have enjoyed all the events leading up to Carnival Day. And if you have any suggestions or requests for next year please let a member of the committee know.



There is still time to be a part of this year's carnival by entering a float, walking group or business vehicle into the procession.

Carnival Day Saturday 2 July

New Start Time 12 noon for the procession and for the fete.

The procession starts at Ringsbury Close it will then make its way down the High Street, up Church Street and around Church End to the Fete.

We hope you will line the streets and support your Carnival then follow behind the procession to the Carnival Fete at Purton House Organics field.

Purton High Street will be closed from 12 noon to 2 pm.

The Fete runs from 12 noon to 7 pm.

We hope this year's Carnival will be a successful one, providing entertainment for you and raising money for the village.

With that in mind please have a think what this year's money can be spent on and bring those ideas to the Carnival's 2016 AGM Open Meeting.

I would like to thank the committee, volunteers who work all year round to provide the village with a Carnival and their friends and family would get roped into helping out too.

Without them and you we would not have a carnival or the wonderful sense of community this village enjoys.

Still to come ...

Saturday 6 August: Family Quiz, 6.30 pm, Angel Pub

Wednesday 28 September: Bingo, 7.30 pm, Silver Threads Hall

Friday 25 November: Quiz, 7.30 pm, Royal George

Wednesday 7 December: Christmas Bingo, 7.30 pm, Silver Threads Hall

Thurs & Fri, 15-16 December: Santa Comes to Purton

Date for the diary: Carnival Day 2017 is Saturday 1 July

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

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

Great War Project

Part 36: July 1916

Purton men mobilised in July 1916

To France:

Edward Frank Curtis, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment - see below.

John Huntley, Royal Artillery.

Battle of the Somme

We're now about half-way in the Great War Project and it can't be a more relevant time to look at the horrors of war.

The 1st Battle of the Somme (1 July to 18 November 1916) was the bloodiest battle of the entire Great War. It caused over one million four hundred thousand casualties on both sides of which some 480,000 British were killed or wounded. On the first day alone, British Empire casualties were 57,470 of whom 19,240 were killed - the greatest ever losses of the British Army, before or since.

It is therefore not surprising that hardly a town or village in the UK got away unscathed. Purton was no exception.

The Somme is a major river in northwest France and the battle area was about 25 miles from Amiens in Picardy. It had been seen by the Allied command as a strategic point to make a breakthrough in the German trench lines and advance back into Belgium. Over a full week, in the preparation for the battle, Allied guns had fired over 1,700,000 shells at the German trenches, supply roads and barbed wire defences. And the allies had air supremacy: 386 fighter planes against the Germans' 129. So the Allied Command believed that the Germans would have been knocked out and the British troops could just walk in over no-mans-land and take the area. The reality was far from this.

The German defences had included deep bunkers which were almost immune from the bombardment. Also when, after a week of shelling, the shelling just stopped, it wasn't very difficult for the local commanders to realise they were about to be attacked.

In addition to the bombardment, British sappers had tunnelled under the German trench systems and exploded mines on 1 July. The mine at La-Boiselle (near Albert, Picardy) might have been effective but the Germans intercepted a British phone message detailing the time and date of the attack. The Germans moved and resited the machine guns at that position. 5,100 British troops were killed as they advanced towards the guns.

On 2 July, British troops advanced across 460m of no man's land at La-Boiselle in the afternoon and bombed into the German redoubt, then carried on to trenches beyond and consolidated a line about 910m wide. As a deception, the attack was preceded by a bombardment on nearby Ovillers at dawn under cover of a smoke screen. As a result the German artillery fired on Ovillers and not La-Boiselle, where a frontal attack was made by the 6th Wiltshires and the 9th Royal Welch Fusiliers. The attackers got across no man's land and captured the German front line trench with

few casualties while the 9th Cheshires attacked on the right. Although the German resistance increased, British forces bombed their underground shelters. The British infantry occupied the west end of the village by dusk and dug in.

Though the 6th Wiltshire's losses were comparatively light, 2 Purton men were killed. **Harry Robert Thomas Matthews** (mobilised 30 June 1915) was killed in action on 2 July 1916. **Edward Frank Curtis** was wounded somewhere between 2 and 4 July, and died of wounds 6 July 1916.

The Leipzig Salient (near Thiepval, Picardy) was a defensive position on the German front line which bulged forward around a quarry which had been fortified and enclosed by a major trench system (Hindenburg Trench). On 1 July, the Leipzig Salient was attacked by the 1/17th Highland Light Infantry who took the position but failed to advance further.

On 5 July, the British 25th Division attacked on a 460m front at the Leipzig Salient. The 1st Wiltshires gained a foothold on the Hindenburg Trench, surviving a major counter-attack. But on 7 July the Germans attacked the Leipzig Redoubt from the front and both flanks. The attack was defeated by the 1st Wiltshires and was then followed by German bombing attacks until 5.30 am. An attack by two companies of the 1st Wiltshire captured the German front line.

During this action, 2 more Purton men of the 1st Wiltshires were killed. **William John Tuck** (mobilised 1 June 1916) was killed in action 7 July. **Henry James Gibbs** (mobilised 14 August 1914) was reported missing in action on 7 July, and confirmed to have died on 8 July 1916.

Harry, William and Henry have no known grave and are remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. Edward is buried in a joint grave at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbé.

In an attempt to divert German attention from the Somme, British and Australian forces attacked German positions at the Battle of Fromelles, to the north of the Somme. Between 19 and 20 July, this battle was responsible for one of the greatest losses of Australian lives in a single day. Casualties were 5,533 Australian killed or wounded and 1,547 British. The losses amounted to about 90% of the Australian force and 50% of the British. As horrifying as these figures sound, the Australian losses were even higher at the Battle of Bullecourt in 1917.

David Lloyd George

Lord Kitchener had been killed at sea in June. On 7 July, David Lloyd George was appointed Secretary of State for War as his successor.

United States

The USA was carrying on with its so-called Banana Wars in North America. On 29 July, US marines landed in Haiti, in response to the assassination of Haiti's dictator President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam by a mob following political executions of his opposition, and growing instability in the region. The Americans didn't leave until 1934.

However German provocations against the US continued too. On 30 July, German agents carried out a sabotage attack on an ammunition depot at Black Tom, New Jersey, killing at least 7.

RICK DIXON

Purton Historical Society

Future Dates



Saturday 16 July: Walking Tour of Cricklade (with historical interest) commencing at 10 am. Depart Purton from College Road lay-by at 9.30 am for anyone requiring transport. Please could you let us know if you require transport to Cricklade so that we can ensure that sufficient cars are available – Tony and Janet Neate, 01793 770117.

Parking at Cricklade by the Rugby field at the dual carriageway end of Calcutt Street. Meet at the museum in Calcutt Street, at 10 am, which is when the museum opens. The Museum is in the old chapel, just off the road opposite Priory School.

We will have the opportunity to see St Mary's Church included on the walk, which will take about 1 hour 30 minutes. There will be £2 a head charge for Cricklade Historical Society funds.

Sunday 11 September from 3 pm: Purton's Commemoration of WW1, in conjunction with Purton Amateur Dramatic Society. Contact Lindsey 01793 771890 or Sue 01793 772581.

Thursday 22 September at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall
The Golden Age of Coaching – Martin Way

Tuesday, 27 September: Coach outing to Royal Hospital Chelsea - see page 35.

Thursday 27 October at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall
Tunnel Masters, Arsonist and the Great War – Martyn Gibson

New Members and visitors always welcome.

TONY & JANET NEATE, tjneate57@gmail.com Tel: 01793 770117

On the evening of 26 May about 30 members and visitors of the Purton History Society were entertained and informed with a presentation about Ashdown House, Oxfordshire – a National Trust property near Lambourn. Our very knowledgeable speaker was John Farrow, a National Trust guide at the house for some 9 years. He brought to life this unique 17th century hunting lodge nestling in a lovely spot on the Berkshire Downs. We were also informed by an excellent 30-minute audio-visual presentation.

The house was built in 1662 by the 1st Earl of Craven, a previous Lord Mayor of London, for the love of his life Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia (The Winter Queen). We heard the fascinating story of the Craven Family, who commissioned Captain William Winde, to build the house in the Dutch style as a hunting lodge and a shelter from the plague, which was raging in London. Capability Brown influenced the design of the surrounding deer park, which is open to the public. The house is built on the 4-square design of the compass and so the view from the roof stretches across 3 counties, including the deer park.

The Craven family bought up properties country-wide, especially in London. They originally owned the sites which became the US Embassy, Caversham Park on the outskirts of Reading, and most notably the grounds of Fulham Football Club at Craven Cottage. The condition of Ashdown House deteriorated when it was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence in World War 2. Cornelia, Duchess of

Craven, then gave the house to the National Trust in 1956. It has been most recently tenanted by Pete Townsend (of The Who) since 2010 and much renovation work has been done. There are guided tours of the house, the picture collection and the lovely grounds. There is an excellent National Trust shop and cafe. We all enjoyed a highly riveting evening with an excellent speaker, questions and refreshments followed. An enthusiastic vote of thanks was moved.

Good news for those of us who need a little help with hearing in public places. The Parish Council has installed a loop-system in the Village Hall, so Society members will be enjoying their meetings even more in the coming months.

JILL WATTS, teddington1940@gmail.com

PHS Coach Outings

Royal Hospital Chelsea: Tuesday 27 September

The Royal Hospital is Grade I and II listed and a beautiful legacy left to us by Charles II who had the vision of providing a home for veteran soldiers in the centre of London and which was brought to life by architect Sir Christopher Wren.

The Hospital has been providing a home to the Chelsea Pensioners for over 300 years; anyone who has served as a soldier in the British Army aged over 65 who is on their own is eligible and in more recent times that has included women.

We shall have a 2-hour tour led by a Chelsea Pensioner and some free time.

You do **not** have to be a member of the Historical Society to join us on this outing. The cost is £25.

For more information or any questions please contact Helen on 01793 770648. Booking forms will be available at Society meetings, the information stand at the Library or can be downloaded from the Purton Magazine website www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/phs-chelsea

Something to Think About

History is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind.

Edward Gibbon (1737 - 1794)

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.



■ DAVE SEVIOUR

Dave, Bernice, Penni, Elena and Joey would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, lifts and continued support given to us during Dave's illness. It is at times like this when you realise what living in a community like Purton is all about. Thank you, one and all, too numerous to mention by name.

■ BASIL MILLS

The family of Basil Mills would like to thank all who offered their condolences, sent cards, came to the funeral and gave money to Age Concern, following Basil's sudden death at home on 29 April.

*Hilary, Ross, Pauline, Sue,
Roy and Justin*

Our Family's War

Rick Dixon writes:

I have an early memory from my childhood in the late 1950s, in Glossop, Derbyshire. At the time, Mum, Dad, my sister and I lived in east London but visited grandparents in Glossop, by train, twice a year. On each visit we would call in on relatives there including several great-aunts ... Edith, Ella, and more, they all seemed to begin with 'E'.

Dad had been compiling a family tree by questioning his own grandparents, my great-grandparents, and he showed me the tree. It showed so many elderly maiden great-aunts and I asked why they had never married.

His answer was that most of the marriageable men of that generation had been killed in the Great War. The Somme was one of the major events that caused this.

The huge male population reduction in Britain at that time is often referred to as the Loss of a Generation.

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 2. The memory doesn't need to be Purton related.



Four teams currently lead their respective divisions in the Swindon and District League: Men A in Division 1, Men B in Division 2, Mixed A in Division 1 and Mixed C in Division 3.

As mentioned last month the club will be hosting a GBTW (Great British Tennis Weekend) event on Sunday 17 July to which everyone is invited to come along to the club to participate. Details of the schedule are as follows:

Mini Tennis: 10.00 - 10.45

For children between 3 and 10 years Mini Tennis offers the perfect introduction to tennis with smaller courts, nets and rackets and lower bouncing balls. Rackets can be borrowed.

Cardio Tennis: 10.45 - 11.30

Cardio Tennis is a fun, sociable group fitness class set on a tennis court and open to people of all ages and abilities. Supported by motivating music and qualified instructors, you will get to hit lots of tennis balls and have a great cardio workout at the same time.

Adult Coaching: 11.30 - 12.15

Try our adult coaching taster session. Ideal for people new to the sport or who haven't picked up a racket in a long time.

Family Time: 10.00 - 14.00

Get on court with your family and have some fun. Two courts will be allocated to this.

Places for all of the above can be booked by visiting the following website:- www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/PurtonTennisClub or simply turn up on the day.

We look forward to seeing you.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The early season start made by the senior teams was very encouraging with the 1st XI winning three out of four matches and the 2nd XI winning four out of four. Added to this the Friday night coaching sessions are resulting in young players improving their skills and techniques which is evidenced by good results in matches. Boys and girls are most welcome at the coaching sessions on Friday evenings: - U9 from 5 to 6 pm and U11, U13 and U15 groups from 6.30 to 8 pm. All coaches are qualified and the emphasis is on participation, enjoyment and striving to improve.

Matches in July

2 nd	1 st XI v Marshfield	1.00pm	16 th	2 nd XI v Marshfield	1.30pm
3 rd	U13 v Winsley	2.00pm	23 rd	1 st XI v Calne	1.00pm
9 th	1 st XI v Swindon	1.00pm	30 th	2 nd XI v Malmesbury	1.30pm
10 th	U11 v Wootton Bassett	10.00am	31 st	U13 v Chippenham	2.00pm

From The Archives

Evening Advertiser 26th May 1926.

Purton 52 R.lles 26 : Christ Church 33 R.lles 3 wickets, J.Staley 5 wickets

JOE GARDNER

Purton & District Probus Club



On 10 May, “the Golden Age of Mountaineering and Exploration” was presented by Martin Collisson. The talk began with the conquest of the Matterhorn by Whymper and Croz in 1865, the last great Alpine achievement, unfortunately marked by the death of four climbers during the descent. We then moved on to the Arctic, the Antarctic, the Eiger and finally Everest.

The Arctic has always been controversial – being at the mercy of ice flows. A Russian Ice Station, set up in May 1937, thirteen miles from the North Pole, by February 1938 had drifted almost 1800 miles to the coast of Greenland. Of Polar Expeditions, the Antarctic is of the most interest. Shackleton reached more than 88 degrees south in 1909, but the first team to reach the South Pole was that of Roald Amundsen in December 1911 beating the ill-fated Robert Falcon Scott by one month.

Shackleton is best remembered for his almost impossible 800-mile journey in an open boat to South Georgia by which he was able to save his crew, who were stranded on Elephant Island.

Martin now introduced us to the techniques of mountain climbing and the modern equipment used: cams, carabiners, chalk-bags, ropes and ice-axes. One photo shot showed him on Carreg Wastad, a vertical wall in the Llanberis Pass. He was obviously an active mountaineer.

Chris Bonnington is the hero of many British climbers. His list of conquests is extensive: 1962, A new route on the north face of the Eiger; 1970, Leader on Annapurna; 1975, Leader on the SW face of Everest; 1985 climbed to the summit of Everest at the age of 50. Martin included in his talk many of the great names in climbing, Eric Shipton, Mallory and Irvine, Hillary and Tensing Norgay. Reinhold

Messner, an Italian, has made a career of near impossible climbs, such as the Rupal face of Nanga Parbat and is considered to be the greatest. On 8 May 1978, he completed his ascent of Everest without supplemental oxygen, a feat thought to be impossible. An interesting talk, inspiring and Informative.

On 24 May, Ned Barham gave an amusing account of “The First 40 years of the Olympic Games”. When a German archaeologist unearthed the original stadium at Olympia about 1880, international sportsmen began to take an interest, and in 1884 Pierre Coubertin spoke at the Sorbonne to sports leaders from 9 nations proposing that the games be reborn on an international scale.

The Historical Games, which began in 776 BC as a religious enterprise to honour the gods had, after 1000 years, become corrupt with prize money and gambling and in 393 AD was banned by Theodosius as ‘Pagan’.

Returning to the modern games, Coubertin had already been influenced by a visit and correspondence with William Penny Brookes, the founder of the Much Wenlock Games first held in 1850. The Frenchman went on to found the International Olympic Committee based in Lausanne, Switzerland. The first President was Demetrios Vikelos, a Greek, who organised the initial Athens games in 1896.

Here the games were amateur and primitive. The 100 metre dash was won by Thomas Burke (USA) in 12 seconds, not being allowed a crouching start. Our speaker, in his youth, did it in 10.9 seconds. The Marathon, run over the historical course from the battlefield, was won by Spyridon Louis, who, on being asked by the king of Greece what reward he would like, asked for a donkey and cart for his water round. A young Hungarian (15 years old), who won the 1500 metres swim through the 12-foot waves of the Bay of Zea, said he swam to survive rather than to win. In the Paris Games of 1900, the swimming events took place in the Seine – not too healthy. The live Pigeon Shoot was won by the oldest competitor with 21 dead pigeons.

After Paris the Games were in crisis. They should have gone to Chicago but were transferred to St Louis where half the competitors came from within 50 miles of the city. The Marathon of 1904 was the most bizarre event. It was run over dusty roads in 90 degrees of heat. Fred Lorz crossed the finishing line first but was disqualified when he admitted having a lift for 10 miles. Thomas Hicks, born English but representing the USA, came first but had to have doses of brandy and strychnine sulphate to keep him going.

Two black Africans, who were visiting with a Boer-war exhibition, took part and came 9th and 12th, thus setting the scene for the famous Jesse Owens who, in 1936, took 4 gold medals in Berlin. An outstanding gymnast of the 1904 games, George Eyser, a German/American, won 3 golds, 2 silver medals and a bronze whilst sporting a prosthetic wooden leg. Ned’s talk was peppered with similar unexpected and amusing incidents.

The Probus Club provides regular meetings for retired professional and career persons who value, in their retirement, more social contact. We meet at 10 am in the Red House lounge every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. July programme: 12th “SS Great Britain”; 26th “Four miles high in Africa”. Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend.

BOB STEVENS

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



There was to be little opportunity for a sneaky '40 winks' at our May meeting when we welcomed Frank Hardy for a talk on 'Creating focal points in the garden'. Having entertained us on at least three previous occasions, long-standing members remember him well and, following the talk, those members new to Gardeners' Guild are unlikely to forget him.

His booming voice, probably honed during his years as a lecturer at Pershore College, soon made us sit up and listen.

We were advised that a well-designed garden will always draw a visitor's eye directly to a focal point, with the direction of the sun determining how that focal point is viewed. With the sun in front of you the focal point will be viewed as a silhouette, whilst with the sun behind you, the detail on the focal point will be highlighted.

Suggestions for focal points include statues, archways, pergolas, pots, seats, gazebos, pools and fountains amongst many others.

When creating a new border Frank advised us to:

- Decide on a focal point
- Use different shapes to create visual contrast
- Consider leaf texture and colour
- Consider flower colours and height
- Consider smaller specimens

Where a plant is to be used as the focal point it should be a striking specimen. By adding green plants to the background allows the specimen to stand out whilst additional planting will only serve to enhance it. We were reminded to always determine the maximum height of a specimen, the space available and the soil type before placing a plant as a focal point.

Other considerations are the life of the plant, the eventual size, the speed of growth, the spacing of plants, and the maintenance requirements. In Frank's opinion, evergreens should not be underrated whilst grey-leaved plants, such as *Achillea* 'Moonlight' with its grey leaves and yellow flowers should be incorporated in the planning with a ratio of 1 grey-leaved plant to every 15 plants.

At this point we were invited to work with Frank to design a small border using a specimen *Acer* as the focal point. This proved to be most entertaining as most of us were unable to see the work in progress as Frank marched from one side of the hall to the other, positioning the plants chosen by those who could see, whilst he endeavoured to complete the scheme.

An exclamation of 'I've had enough of you. I'm sure you've had enough of me' brought the talk to a swift end.

This was an informative talk made all the more entertaining by the amusing manner in which Frank presented the topic.

Congratulations to the winners of our competition 'Photo of a focal point' – 1st Doreen Freegard, 2nd Maureen Griffin, 3rd Marlene Slee.

We next meet at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 26 July in Silver Threads Hall when Peter Biggs from Wanborough Nursery will be joining us to present a talk entitled 'Solving problems in the garden with plants'. The competition will be 'A fragrant rose'

New members and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary: Tel 770906

Fighting Blindness

The Fund Raising Day for Fighting Blindness went very well. Thanks very much to those who supported us and for all donations made and thanks, Anne, for your kind support and help. £185 was raised and with so much going on in the village that day. It was more than expected, thanks again folks!

PAM STEVENS

Runner Up Spot for Wiltshire Sight at National Awards

Wiltshire Sight was nominated for an Innovation Award at this year's Vision Pioneer Awards on 12 June,. The event took place at London's Grange Tower Bridge Hotel. The nomination was for Looking Out For Sight, a new project delivered by Wiltshire Sight and funded by Thomas Pocklington Trust. This service will bring essential sight loss awareness training to care home staff across the South West.

Wiltshire Sight took the Runner Up spot in a highly competitive 2016 Innovation class. The award ceremony was attended by the charity's Chairman (Mike Weston), CEO (Leanne Hubbard) and Operations Manager (Maggie Hemmings) - *pictured*.



CEO, Leanne Hubbard said, "We are delighted that a piece of work pioneered in Wiltshire has been recognised nationally. I am particularly proud of the Looking Out For Sight team who have put lots of time and effort into the project. We look forward to taking the project forward and supporting more people with sight loss than ever before."

If you would like to know more about Looking Out For Sight or Wiltshire Sight you can call 01380 723682 or visit their website at wiltshiresight.org

About Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight is an independent charity supporting people living with sight loss in Wiltshire and Swindon. We assist more than 2,500 people of all ages, as well as their families and carers.

We offer information, advice and guidance, as well as giving people practical and emotional support to help them in their daily lives. We have a fully equipped resource centre at St Lucy's in Devizes, offering state-of-the-art assistive technology products and low vision aids.

As an independent charity Wiltshire Sight receives no core funding from statutory sources and we rely on the generosity of local people and businesses.

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.

BOB TINSON

Gaffer's Tales

Hi Folks, hope you are all well.

Not long after I got married, my wife said that she would like a donkey. So it was to be, and after a while we found some for sale not too far away, so off we went to have a look. There were two for sale, two female donkeys (Jennys). They were a lovely dark brown colour, deep brown eyes, with a twinkle in them. Their ears must have been at least twelve inches long, and they had a knack of moving about to listen to sounds all around them. Well of course we have to buy them both, as one on its own would get bored and probably pine for its mate.



'What are you going to do with them?' I asked my wife. 'Nothing' she replied, 'They are just pets'. And so that was the start of a long association with these gentle animals. We had an orchard to put them in, and a decent shed for shelter. Being in an orchard can be a bit of a problem when there are mounds of apples lying around. Donkeys love apples but, of course, too many can cause a bit of drunkenness! Also too much grass can cause laminitis, a serious complaint in their feet, leading to lameness, and can be fatal. There was a yard for them to lay in, with a little grass and water.

Over the years we lost some donkeys to old age, and got others in, some the same dark brown and some grey. We bought one donkey at the time of my wife's favourite donkey's near demise. Really we bought two, as about six months after her arrival, she had a foal. When we were down to that one donkey and her foal, we went out and bought a big grey donkey, whose name was Daffy (born when the daffodils were out, and had a winter-born called 'Frosty' - wonder why? What a splendid donkey he was.

Daffy was the first male donkey we had. After a while he developed sarcoids, which is like a big boil. These were very difficult to treat because of where on his body they were (close to his bits). We, between us, got him over the first ones, but later another appeared. As he was a big lad, and really quite hard to handle, we decided to let him go to a donkey sanctuary not far from Oxford. The proprietor of the sanctuary, John, came over with a groom to inspect Daffy and it was agreed to let him go. Now we had to load him onto the horse box. 'Easy' John said, 'never been beaten yet'. Ha!

The tail board was lowered down, and a halter put on Daffy. We said our farewells, and John led Daffy to the tail board. He stopped. He would not move, he dug his feet in, solid as a rock. No end of pushing, tempting with pony nuts, or another donkey led into the box. No movement. We tied a rope to his backside, pulling tighter. Nothing. My son had now come along to help. Nearly an hour passed. Try this, try that. No good. My son said 'I know the answer. I will be back in a minute'. No explanation, he was gone. Ten minutes later, he returned on a tractor and there was a large round bale of hay on the front end loader! Yes, he was going to push Daffy into the horse box. He did too. To John's horror, Daffy was

slowly and very carefully nudged up the ramp into the horse box. John was not too happy at the method used, but when Daffy was in, he could not believe it. He had never seen such a thing in his life. Meeting John years later, he still remembered that day, and has recounted it many a time.

So Daffy went to the sanctuary, where he is one of the favourites among the staff and visitors. Once when I went to see him, he strolled across the yard to the feed store, nudged the lock off, pulled the bolt back, opened the door, went in and helped himself to nuts. He has recovered from his sarcoids and is very happy ... and was on TV last week in 'Vet on the Hill'.

That's all for now.

GAFFER

The Guild of Wiltshire Artists

... are holding their Summer Exhibition at St Peter's Church, High Street, Marlborough SN8 1HQ from 1 pm on Sunday, 10 July, to 12 noon on Sunday, 17 July 2016. Opening times Monday to Saturday: 10 am - 4.30 pm.

Entry is free. More information from www.guildofwiltshireartists.com

The Warm and Safe Wiltshire Project

While it seems a long way away from the cold winter weather at the moment, the Warm & Safe project is a commitment from Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire & Dorset Fire & Rescue in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy. As part of this free service we are able to offer energy related advice and support to all Wiltshire residents along with extra support and home visits to residents with long term health issues.



The following are some of the issues that we can help with:

- Help with switching energy suppliers and fuel tariffs to keep bills affordable
- Advice on understanding fuel bills
- Fuel debt advice and assistance
- Registration with energy suppliers Priority Services Register
- Help accessing available grants and schemes – help with winter fuel payments
- Assist with connection to the gas network
- Help and advice relating to insulation, heating and draft proofing
- Guidance on heating systems and controls including Night Storage Heaters
- Emergency heaters
- Free draft proofing service
- Damp and condensation advice
- A comprehensive home fire safety service

We are trying particularly to support residents with health conditions for whom a cold or damp home could be a real health risk but who also could be affected by high energy bills or are more vulnerable. However, the free telephone advice service is open to all Wiltshire residents.

You can also visit the project website for further information about the ways we can help residents at www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk

We Record ...



Funeral at St Mary's Church:

- 16 May Keith George Instone (79)
26 May Basil Stanley Mills (72), with a Memorial Service celebrating his life

Thanksgiving at Purton Methodist Church with Cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium :

- 7 June Alec Dobson (90)

In Memoriam:

- 2 July 1916 Harry Robert Thomas Matthews, aged 19, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action. No known grave but remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.
- 6 July 1916 Edward Frank Curtis, aged 21, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died of wounds and is buried in a joint grave at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbé.
- 7 July 1916 William John Tuck, aged 26, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action. No known grave but remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.
- 8 July 1916 Henry James Gibbs, aged 26, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action. No known grave but remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on Page 2. We are happy to include births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays and anniversaries, exam successes ...

Church Floodlighting

- 1 July St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of my loving husband,
David Ernest Arthur Chamberlain who fell asleep 24
years ago.

For ever in our thoughts.

Iris, Roslyn, Lesley and the Grandchildren and Great grandchildren.



Prayer for Purton

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

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

In Memoriam

14 July Remembering with love a devoted Husband and Father,
Roger Lawrence on the 1st anniversary of his death.
'Forever in our hearts': Vivien and Janet
(The Church will be floodlit in October to mark Roger's birthday.)

Christian Aid Week

I know that many, many people worked for hours to raise money for Christian Aid Week in Purton. And, once again, the outcome is like a mini miracle, the way that the money comes in.



Little red envelopes were distributed all over the village by volunteers; and now that they have been collected and counted we know that all that foot slogging was worth it!

In school the children saved their pennies and other small change to create a 34-metre worm of coins, and when the total was added up it came to over £70!

The plants and cake sale, with raffle (and frogs!) was a triumph of determination over adversity. It was a damp, wet and miserable day but we persevered and raised over £554.

The Quiz, which is loved and loathed in equal measure, made another £365. Thank you to all who took part. There were five people who all scored perfect answers so the winning name was drawn from the hat, and it was Avril Ainscough, who has donated her winning to Polycystic Disease Fund, a charity close to her heart.

We've had Breakfast in Church; Curry in the Maharajah; and the whole week ended with a thought-provoking service in Purton Methodist Church, with a talk from a Christian Aid volunteer. She was inspirational and made us all think very seriously about our commitment 'to our neighbour'.

Thank you, once again to Purton for your generosity, in helping, in giving and in sharing. We have raised at least £5,500 this year ... a miracle, once again

LIBBIE, MARY and the Purton Christian Aid team

PS: If you haven't had your envelope collected, please contact Libbie who will come and get it: 771018.

Blunsdon Open Gardens Weekend 9 & 10 July 2016

Blunsdon will be opening selected gardens to the public on the weekend on 9 & 10 July. Free parking will be available at the Blunsdon House Hotel and breakfasts will be sold at the Village hall from 10 am. St Leonard's Church will host floral displays depicting the life of the Queen. Make your own Miniature Garden from recycled materials at a workshop at the Village Hall. Plant Sales and tombola amongst other attractions. Scarecrows and Gardens will be open from 12 noon till 5 pm by ticket admission only. Open Garden Tickets available for sale from the village hall £5 per adult including a minibus service to reach the gardens for the less active. Small extra charge for Scarecrow competition. Proceeds to St Leonard's Church and participating Blunsdon Community Groups. Contact Julie Allen 01793 721429 for further details

PURTON PLACARD

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Outing to Gloucester Docks**

Wednesday 6 July
Coach leaves at 10 am
Cost £8 - (food not included)
Please check with your street warden
to see if any places are left.

Purton Victory Dance

10 September at 7.30 pm
At Purton Village Hall
£12pp inc Supper
Featuring U3A Dance Band & Breeze
Contact Richard on 07486 909752
or find us at
www.facebook.com/purtonvictorydance

*** SOLD OUT ***

Purton Methodist Church
present a

Thamesdown Choir Concert

Saturday 16 July : 7 pm
at Purton Methodist Church

Purton Royal British
Legion

Flower Show

Saturday 27 August
at Purton Village Hall
Viewing from 2 to 6 pm
For a schedule please contact
David Herbert at 26 Restrop View
or phone 770002



Afternoon Cream Tea

Sunday 3 July
Village Hall - 2.30 to 5.30 pm
Raising funds for the Aspire charity
(supporting people with spinal injuries).
Archie's Bradon Forest Schools World
Challenge trip to Iceland.

Tickets £5
Homemade cake, scones, jam & cream
+ tea/coffee

Bethany - 07584 049660
Lyndsey - 07846 219575
Archie - 772562

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Coffee Morning**

Saturday 9 July
10 am - 12 noon
Admission £1
At the home of Dick & Jackie Scott
Bentham Farm, Bentham Lane
Contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862
to book the minibus.

Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society
present

An English Summer Concert

"A fancy of folk songs"
At St Bartholomew's Church
on Saturday 9 July at 7.30 pm
Music by Vaughan Williams, Eric Whitacre
and Cecilia MacDowell.
Supported by additional musicians.
**FREE ADMISSION - RETIRING
COLLECTION**

Purton Silver Threads
Jumble Sale
Saturday 16 July
2 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

PURTON AGE CONCERN
Golf Day
Wednesday 27 July
At 10 am at Cricklade Country
Club
Please contact Charlotte Griffin
on 770665 for
more information
and to book your place.

St Mary's Church
Everyone is welcome to join us for a
Purton Walking Quiz
on Saturday 16 July
Meet at 6.15 pm, Silver Threads Hall
Fish & Chip Supper and Homemade
Puddings after the Quiz
in Silver Threads Hall
Please bring your own drinks and
glasses
Tickets: £9 adults
£6 children aged 11 and under
Tel: Sandra 770157; or Val 771201

Wessex Male Choir
Summer Concert
at Steam Museum
Concert Hall
16 July at 7.30 pm
(doors open 7 pm – admission to Museum
from 6.30 pm)
with special guests Jubilate
Tickets £15 (under-16 free but must have
a ticket)
from Rick tel. 770648, or
tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk
or 01285 869955



PURTON AGE CONCERN
**Village Outing
to Bournemouth**
for all ages
on Wednesday 3 August.
Coaches leave at 8.30 am
(Returning from Bournemouth
at 4 pm)
Cost - £13 for children/OAPs
£15 for others
(food not included)
Book your place
with your street warden
Come and join us for a fun day out!

Purton Methodist Church

On Tuesday 7 June we said goodbye to one of our Methodist lifetime members, Alec Dobson, who died aged 90. Alec was a regular attendee at our church and he sometimes took a service which always gave us something to think about, he was a forthright man and always gave his opinion on things, we could rely on that, but his faith always came through and we thank God for that. We shall all miss him very much, farewell Alec and God bless.

The amount donated to Jubilee Gardens from St Mary's Fellowship Supper was £300, we do hope they will find it very useful for the good work they do.

Tickets for Thamesdown Choir concert have now sold out; thank you to all who have supported us and hope you will enjoy the evening. Don't forget car parking is at Brenda Cook's yard, High Street, but if anyone has difficulty walking they can be dropped off at the chapel first and then park car afterwards, see you all on 16 July; the concert commences at 7 pm.

ROSE STUMP, Tel: 770564

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	Hazel 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>Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157 Jane Smith, tel 772422</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>