

Purton. Magazine

September 2017



Canon Brian Fessey, vicar of St. Mary's Purton 1994 - 2003, taking part in the 1995 Purton Carnival. Brian sadly died in July 2017, see pages 5, 13 & 18 for tributes.

50p

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	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, bethaney23@icloud.com	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Purton Age Concern	Louise Tidman	772558
Age Concern 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 Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020

Schools & Playgroups

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Pear Drops Pre-School	Sarah Grigg	771723
<i>(formerly Under 5s')</i>		
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239

Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk	
	Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com	
	Tel: 770627	

Wardens	Sandra Horsnall:	Jane Smith:
	770157	772422

Administrator: Rosie Harris administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035

Methodist Churches *For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship*

Minister: Revd David Perkins Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw,
Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT

Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett

www.thesacredheartparish.uk

Parish Priest: Tel: 852366

Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues

Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell Tel: 325681

Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm

Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade

Priest: Father Michael Robertson Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Services: Holy Days 7.0pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.

Contents

10 Years Ago	39	Guide Dogs.....	41
A Book I will always Remember.....	44	Great War Project.....	46
Advertiser Index.....	62	Health & Wellbeing Champion.....	25
After 8	60	Historical Society	36
Age Concern.....	13	Knit-a-square	60
Amateur Dramatics (PADS).....	35	Methodist Church	29
Blast from the past.....	52	Open Gardens	27
Bowls Club.....	35	Parish Council News	6
Brian Fessey remembered	18	Passendaele 100.....	48
Cedars care home	25	Patient Participation Group.....	38
Christian Aid Week 2017	44	Phoenix Players.....	29
Church floodlighting.....	10	Prayer for Purton	37
Cricket Club	45	Probus Club.....	55
Cricklade Country Market.....	35	Profferings	52
Cricklade Revealed	59	Purton Contacts.....	3
Defibrillator Awareness	28	Purton Evening Women's Institute...38	
Diary Pages	30	Purton Placard.....	42
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	22	Purton Postbag (letters).....	40
Farewell Fionna	26	Shoobox news	17
Food Festival	29	Tennis Club.....	48
Gardeners' Guild	51	We Record.....	41
Girlguiding in Purton.....	32	Wessex Male Choir	28

All previous editions of Purton Magazine, from 2004 onwards, are available to view and download from the website: www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

Purton Magazine committee:

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey,
Sheila Fowler, Sandra Horsnall, Francis Sheppard,
Liz Stephenson.

Designed by: Heather Ponting-Bather, In Touch Design & Print

Advertising enquiries: Liz Stephenson

Email: advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Copy & advertising deadline: 10th of each month, please to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR
Tel: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries: Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2017

INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Many readers will remember Canon Brian Fessey who was Vicar of St. Mary's Purton between 1994 and 2003 before he retired and returned to live in Ryde on the Isle of Wight. His death was announced in July and many Purtonians travelled for his funeral over the stormy seas early in August. Purton has indeed been blessed with Brian's ministry and detailed tributes can be found on pages 5, 13 and 18.

Arriving from his previous parish in Bristol, Brian threw himself into village life with a remarkable and oh-so-infectious enthusiasm; the photograph on the front cover shows him as a one man entry in the Purton Carnival procession soon after becoming our vicar. In such circumstances he unfailingly raised cheers and many smiles among all age groups. He was also an accomplished actor (with or without Ollie and Fred, his puppets) and appeared regularly in several PADS performances, often with his guitar and another instruments.

Others will also remember Brian running round the village in all weathers, sometimes stopping to chat and other times giving a cheery wave but always acknowledging people he passed – rarely did people pass him when he was out running. Throughout his time in our community he was lovingly supported by his wife, Annis, who was one of the first ordained women priests in the Bristol Diocese and who also contributed to the work of the church, both here in Purton and in Swindon. As she writes on page 40, Brian bore his illness with great courage and as he is now free from pain at last, we can remember that his life was so full of fun and love.

The Book of Condolences has many mentions of how skilled Brian was with younger people and he was always pleased and very supportive of all their community activities. In this issue you will find reports of international events in Denmark and Switzerland attended by Guides from our local area on pages 33 and 34 respectively.

Brian was also very much in favour of using St. Mary's church building for all sorts of community events, including the annual Christian Aid breakfast that is regularly supported by villagers of all faiths and none. He would certainly have supported the recent use of St. Mary's church for a sit down meal and other entertainments for about 65 people to celebrate a silver wedding anniversary as reported on page 40.

Thank you Brian.

3rd & 5th

October for PADS
pantomime auditions
– see page 35

8 inch

Knitted Squares for
South African orphans
– see page 60

27

Years at Purton Under
5s' for Fionna Griffiths
– see page 26

Purton Parish Council News



Councillor Surgery – Have Your Say

Sunday 2 September 2017 10am - 12 noon at Purton Village Hall – Councillors will be available to talk to residents regarding issues that matter. Come along have a coffee and slice of cake and meet your Councillors.

Annual Village Walk

Sunday 3 September- Meet at the College Road lay-by at 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start.

The walk goes to Mouldon Hill Country Park and back, a total distance of 5.1 miles. This includes a loop of 1.5 miles to see parts of the old North Wilts canal and Swindon to Cricklade railway (both partly restored). Those wishing to skip this loop could enjoy a relax beside the lake (and reduce their walk to 3.6 miles)! The walk crosses the main Swindon to Cheltenham railway at two locations and also goes through Purton and Berriman's Wood. The route is mainly across fields and along tracks and there are about 30 stiles!

N.B. Dog walkers should be aware that there may be livestock in some fields and it may not be possible for dogs to get through all of the stiles.

Footpaths

What better way to remember a loved one than donating a gate in their memory for inclusion in one of the many footpaths around the village. For more information contact the Parish Council offices, or email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk.

Division of Footpath no 31b, Folly Down Farm, Purton has been approved. Full details available on the Wiltshire Council website.

Make Purton Dementia Friendly

Over 2 million people have become Dementia Friends. Why not join them at our Dementia Friends Information Session to be held at Purton Village Hall, Station Road, Purton, SN5 4AJ on Wednesday 13 September 2017.

Sessions Available: 10.00am - 11.00am, 2.00pm - 3.00pm, 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Learn a little more about dementia and some of the small ways you can help those living with dementia and you can make a huge difference in your community

For more information contact the Clerk at Purton Parish Council on (01793) 771066 or email clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk Wiltshire and Swindon DDA Support Group.

Charities

We have set up a "giveasyoulive" site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and lets raise some pennies.

www.giveasyoulive.com

Councillors 2017-18

Chairman of Council/Staff Sub/ Finance & General Purposes/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Vice Chair of Council	Elizabeth Wilson	01793 771854
Chair of Planning	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Scott Harflett	07920 260222
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Sue Matthews	01793 771091
Chair of Play Areas	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Matt Rogers	01793 771066

Community Speed Watch

The trained volunteers have been regularly carrying out speed watch sessions at the determined sites and have recently been questioned regarding the speed limit throughout the main road in Purton (Station Road/High Street). Please be advised that although there are stickers on lamp posts, wheelie bins etc stating 20mph the statutory speed limit is in fact 30 mph.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff.

If you are interested in knowing more and how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Grigg on chezneymb@hotmail.com or Debbie Lawrence on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call the office on 01793 771066.

Planning - permission granted with conditions

17/01716/FUL	Land adjacent Mandrea, The Hyde. Erection of a self build detached dwelling; double garage and associated works.
17/02711/FUL	3 Jewels Ash Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extension.
16/10143/FUL	North View House, Willis Way Erection of 11 dwellings and associated works.
17/04007/FUL	Hallidays, 24 High Street Single storey extension.
17/04598/LBC	Hallidays, 24 High Street Single storey extension.

17/04189/PNTEL Adopted Highway Pavement adjacent to roundabout junction of Restrop Road, Pavenhill and High Street Telecommunication base station consisting of 12.5m high street pole with 3 integral antennas, 2 external 300m transmission dishes and 2 associated ground based equipment cabinet. Prior Approval Granted.

17/04393/FUL 7 Witts Lane. First floor extension over existing ground floor extension.

How to contact the Parish Council

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council's letter box - The letter box can be found 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 know" 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.

Church Floodlighting

Aug 3 St Mary's was floodlit for **Canon Brian Fessey** on the day of his funeral. He will be sadly missed by all friends in St Mary's and in Purton village.



Aug 20 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of a dear and loving husband and father, **Brian Simpkins**, on what would have been his 80th birthday. From Chris, Lynn, Helen and family.

Sept 6 The church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Doris Wadsworth** whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered and so sadly missed. Reg, Jean, Mark and all her dear family.

If you would like the Church floodlit for a special date, occasion, or memorial, please contact Libbie on 771018. The cost is £18 for one evening and it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a couple of weeks before the chosen night. A short announcement can also be published in this magazine at no extra cost.

Purton & District Age Concern



On the second and fourth Friday's of each month one of our minibuses goes to Cirencester. The minibus leaves Purton at 9am and returns at approximately 12.30pm. The return trip costs £3. It is market day on Friday's in Cirencester, so even more reason to visit. Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus.

At our August committee meeting we picked the photos that will be in our 2018 calendar. Hopefully the calendars will be on sale from September. Please contact Louise on 772558 for more information.

There is still time to join us on one of our outings, we have two mystery tours coming up in September and October, you can use your travel vouchers if you haven't already done so and save yourself £5. Thirty five people used their travel vouchers on our June outings.

We recently found out that Jayne Funnell will be leaving Age UK Wiltshire this month. Jayne has worked tirelessly over the years to improve the lives of countless pensioners in Wiltshire. She has always been so supportive of the work we do in Purton and as our 'Friend of Age UK' contact she has always been at the end of the phone whenever we've needed her help or advice. Jayne will be missed by all of us in Purton Age Concern. We wish her well in whatever she will be doing in the future and hope she will occasionally have time to pop over to one of our events.

The following tribute to Canon Brian Fessey has been written by Tony Price.

I am sure you all felt as saddened to hear of the death of Canon Brian Fessey as I was. Brian had been poorly for quite a while but you hope and pray that things will improve but sadly they didn't. He is a man the village has certainly missed since he retired in 2003. I said retired but from all reports he was still very active within the Church on the Isle of Wight.

When I think of Brian the first thing that comes to mind is what a great villager he was, always interested in what was going on, no matter what - from Brownies, right through to Age Concern. I know he always made a point of attending our AGM, which was very rewarding for us that such a busy man would spare the time to show us that respect. He used to come to our Christmas parties when he could and he didn't worry who he sat by, whether you went to Church or not. That is the one thing that stands out with me – on his runs around the village he would stop for a chat to anyone. Everybody was the same to Brian and you would get a lovely smile. He would always look on the bright side – was he ever miserable?

I have said all these things about Brian but nothing to do with the Church. Well, when he preached you could not help but listen. He spoke in everyday language which suited me, being a little bit down the ladder! His sermons were interesting and meaningful and what about the puppets for the children (never mind the children I enjoyed them too). He was so knowledgeable about hymns and, when

announcing one, he would tell you when, why and where it was written and, of course, who wrote it. I have one or two CDs with hymns on so, while I am writing this, I have been playing them in memory of Brian. I believe Brian was brought up a Methodist but he was always at ease no matter where he was preaching.

I am sure that Brian was part of the team that started up Coffee and Chat when the Local Ecumenical Partnership was set up between Purton Methodist Church and St. Mary's, something he was also instrumental in. Coffee and Chat is still going strong today every Wednesday 10.0 am to 12 noon. (Why not go along and do what it says – I am sure you would enjoy it).

Brian was an entertainer, with his lovely sense of humour – something he brought into his sermons. With his puppets and his guitar playing he certainly entertained the children at Church and at St. Mary's School. He joined PADS and usually took part in their pantomimes and enjoyed the Carnival. He was kind and thoughtful and, when someone had a bereavement or they were down on their uppers, Brian was a great help and comfort to them. You only have to look through the book of condolence to see that – the remarks are quite touching.

What lovely memories Brian left us with in Purton. We have so much to thank him for. He was a man for whom I had the greatest respect. To Annis and all the family and friends, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

TONY PRICE

Future Events

Jumble Sale - We will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd September at 2pm. Jumble can be left at the Village Hall between 12-1pm and the sale starts at 2pm, so come along, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee/biscuit and bag yourself a bargain or two!

September Mystery Tour - Our next mystery tour is Wednesday 6th September with a 2pm start. Cost including tea is £13.50 for village pensioners and £15 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 28th August.

October Mystery Tour - Wednesday 4th October with a 10am start. Cost including a pub lunch is £13.50 for village pensioners and £15 for non-pensioners and people from outside our area. Please book your place with your street warden before Monday 25th September.

3Bs x2 - Our second 3Bs evening this year is on Friday 6th October at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The cost is £7 and includes a two-course supper. Soft drinks will be available but bring your own alcoholic drinks. Admission tickets are available from Jenny Barnes on 770339. Bingo tickets will be on sale on the night. There will be no admittance on the night without pre-booking. This is a fun evening and tickets sell out fast so don't leave it to the last minute to get yours, you may be disappointed!

Past Events

Outing to Hop Pocket Shopping Village – Maureen and Arthur were in charge on the day. They thought most people seemed to enjoy the outing but there wasn't really enough to do at Hop Pocket for a full day out. Perhaps it's the sort of place that's better to visit closer to Christmas so you can buy all your Christmas presents!

Information

Fire Service & Bobby Van - If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 0800 038 2323. If you need the Bobby Van please call them on 01380 861155.

Minibuses - Please contact Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator on 770862 if you would like to book the minibus. If you are thinking of volunteering as a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on the minibuses please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at: andywhitepacmb@gmail.com (New volunteers are always welcome.)

Tai chi - The classes will resume on Thursday 7th September at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. Places are available so if you would like to give it a go please contact Louise Tidman on 772558. New members get their first week free of charge.

Friendship Club - The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The September meeting will not be held in Silver Threads Hall as the club are going out for lunch so the next meeting in Silver Threads Hall will be on Friday 6th October from 2pm-4pm and costs 50p which includes tea/coffee/biscuits. The minibus is available for anyone who needs transport, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus.

Fit Steps FAB Dance Class - If you like Ballroom and Latin dancing and want to get fit why not try the Fit Steps dance classes held on Fridays from 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Village Hall. All ages are welcome and a dance partner is not required. For more information please contact Joanne Edwards on 01793 325341 or just turn up at the Village Hall at 4.30pm on Fridays.

LOUISE TIDMAN

Shoebox News

Just as a reminder from last month, our Fund Raising day will be on Saturday 7 October from 10am to 2pm. As usual it will start with tea, coffee etc. and continue on until 12noon when lunches will begin to be served. The one difference is that it will be held in the SILVER THREADS HALL, not at our home in the High Street. We hope you will support us there, as much as you have at our home. With our thanks.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, co-ordinator

Brian Fessey remembered

As one of St. Mary's churchwardens I first met Brian when I chaired the selection panel which appointed him and brought him to Purton from his previous parish in Bristol. In the contacts which have occurred since Brian's passing someone commented "a good day's work there". However it was an easy task because Brian's wonderful personality shone out that day and continued throughout his ministry in Purton. As you know Brian started his working life as a teacher and I recall that at the lunch which followed the formal part of Brian's interview it transpired in conversation that Brian had done his teaching practice at the Church School in Dursley in Gloucestershire. My wife immediately said that that was where her father was headteacher and Brian somewhat embarrassed related how he had been taken to task by Sheila's father for taking notes on her father's teaching techniques during a class which he been observing.

We all laughed and Brian still got the job!!

As we remember his life among us we will recall his infectious smile, his bubbling personality and his enthusiasm and general zest for life.

In sharing with you my memories of Brian I start with something which transpired just after Brian had retired from Purton. The PCC were beginning the process of thinking about his replacement and a member of the PCC was in one of our then two village convenience stores and asked the owner what was important in the selection and qualities of a new Vicar. Immediately the man said "well if you can get someone exactly like Brian Fessey then that will suit us very well".

Among the many tributes written in the Book of Condolences was this telling sentence....'he took the church out of the building and into the streets'.

Since the news of Brian's passing in conversations and in the items posted on social media there has been a constant repetition of the qualities and character of this much loved Vicar which all Purtonians will instantly recognise.

So many have commented on his love of running and remember him pounding the village roads in his running shorts with a cheery greeting to all.

Others have remarked on how approachable and accessible he was. One who was quite young during Brian's time with us said that he related well to children and didn't treat them as though they were unimportant.

The words "amazing man" and "thank you for all that you did" appear often.

You will recall that during his time with us he set up a Wednesday Coffee and Chat sessions in the Silver Threads Hall and further developed our ecumenical partnership with the Methodists leading up to the signing of a formal covenant.

Brian liked to keep fit and if he wasn't running he would be on his bike on his way to some meeting or pastoral visit. Sadly his health curtailed this considerably during the latter stages of his life.

We will also remember that Brian loved music and played the guitar, banjo and I

think also the Ukulele. One of his skills was to write songs and poems with words appropriate to a particular person or situation which he would perform at parties and retirement get togethers. He was also a knowledgeable hymnologist and would often talk about the writer of and background to a particular hymn when announcing it.

In the year 2000 I helped Brian to organise and lead a pilgrimage to Israel and all who went will remember the wonderful time we had combining our visits to the biblical sites and our evening excursions to pavement Café's. A Catholic couple who had joined us were very appreciative of the warm fellowship that they had with our Anglican group and were very touched by the fact that Brian invited them to act as chalice assistants at our communion service by the Sea of Galilee.

Brian was particularly good at relating to young people. One boy, now grown up, recalls that the children at St Mary's always looked forward to him coming with his puppets and guitar bringing happiness to all.

His puppets Ollie and Fred and his ventriloquist acts to illustrate talks were very popular not only with the pram service and other youth services but also to most of the congregation. There was a phase when Ollie and Fred would play a part in Baptisms and there were occasions when one or the other would fall into the font (deliberately I might add). For quite a few families this is still remembered with great pleasure.

Brian was also a good actor and loved dressing up. He performed in several Purton Amateur pantomimes and plays and on Carnival day it was not unusual to see him dressed as a Jester or other funny character.

On our Israel trip we visited a Roman Amphitheatre and he took to the stage to demonstrate the excellent acoustics which meant that even people sitting right at the top back could hear as well as the patricians sitting in the front.

He loved a good joke and I would often ring him to share an anecdote, joke or story with a moral theme and some of these would be incorporated into a sermon.

A few weeks ago I phoned Brian to see how he was. Initially his voice was weak and he was obviously under the influence of the pain killers he had to take. However as we talked his voice became stronger and I told him a joke which the Bishop of Bristol shared with us recently at St Mary's. We laughed together and by the end of our conversation I was talking to the same old Brian I had known since 1994.

Of course Brian had a serious side and could equally identify with and help the bereaved and those in trouble. Even after he retired and during the subsequent interregnum he would have requests to take the funerals of those who had known him and after he had cleared this as necessary he would return.

And of course life at St Mary's was not always a bed of roses. Brian sometimes had to deal with difficult situations, tense PCC meetings and complaining parishioners but he was always able to deal with things in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Often after a particularly difficult meeting one of us would call the other to check how each of us was feeling.

Whilst Brian led from the front he was also very good at encouraging others to step forward and use their own particular talents and his legacy lives on in Purton as those he encouraged continue to serve our community and Church.

In everything he did he was supported by Annis who was one of the first ordained women priests in the Bristol Diocese and who played her own part in church work in Purton and Swindon.

When Brian retired a torch lit run was organised not only as a way of saying farewell to him but also as a church fund raiser. The theme was "SHINE ON". A large number turned out to see him lead the run through the village and to join together in a barbecue. There was a large bonfire and a fireworks display.

And so we join with Annis and the family in mourning the passing of this lovely man but let us remember that although Brian's physical body has died his spirit and his memory will live on.

From all those who knew and loved you "Farewell Brian – SHINE ON"

GODFREY FOWLER

Duke of Edinburgh Award – New Participants Wanted

We are a volunteer led Open Award Centre based in Royal Wootton Bassett providing young people with the support and training they need to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

If you are not familiar with the scheme, the DofE is all about going the extra mile – gaining new skills, pushing yourself physically, helping others and exploring new territories. You choose the activities that motivate you and go on your own personal journey. At the same time, you'll gather friendships, experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Many young people find achieving a DofE Award life-changing. A fun adventure and major challenge with three progressive Award levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and a wide range of activities offer endless possibilities. Millions of young people in the UK have already taken part in the world's leading youth achievement award – pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs and university applications. We know from other participants that the DofE helps you stand out from the crowd when you apply for college, university or jobs.

The Royal Wootton Bassett Open Award Centre group meets on Tuesday evenings in term time from 19.00 to 20.45 at the Manor House Enterprise Centre in Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7HH.

If you are aged 13* - 24 and would like to know more about the DofE, please e-mail your details to royalwoottonbassett.OAC@gmail.com or telephone 07548 100252.

*You must be in Year 9 at school.

The Cedars welcomes new Home Manager

The Cedars is home for up to 49 older people, who are supported and cared for by a professional, dedicated, committed team of carers, catering, ancillary and administrative colleagues. The team is led by the Home Manager, Phillipa Green, supported by a Head of Care and a team of Care Leaders.

Phillipa has over 10 years' experience in the care sector and has worked in a variety of care settings across the North West and South West of England. She began her career as a Student Nurse in Manchester, working in large teaching hospitals, Phillipa then took up a position as a Health Care Assistant working on a very busy Orthopaedic Ward, gaining valuable experience in a trauma setting and working with clients from a variety of backgrounds. Seven years ago, Phillipa relocated from her home town of Blackpool to the South West of England, where she has undertaken the roles of Carer, Senior Carer and Deputy Manager in domiciliary, residential and nursing settings, primarily caring for people with a diagnosis of dementia; work that she finds incredibly rewarding.



In May 2014, Phillipa joined the Trust as the Head of Care at Ridgeway House, then Acting Home Manager until being officially appointed as Home Manager in 2016. In December 2016, Phillipa was asked to support The Cedars pending recruitment of a new Home Manager. In March 2017, Phillipa was officially appointed as the Home Manager for The Cedars.

Phillipa is excited to be leading the team at The Cedars in providing high quality, person-centred care in a compassionate and caring setting. Each team member brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to make a difference every day to those who live and work at the home. As well as creating the right environment for residents, Phillipa is keen to develop strong relationships with the local community to bring them into the home for the benefit of all.

For more information visit the website:

www.osjct.co.uk/where-we-care/find-your-new-home/the-cedars

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Just a quick word to remind you all that I am around for general help and support on a wide variety of issues including transport, mobility and safety around the home and reducing the feeling of loneliness. Give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

*ELLEN BLACKER, Health & Wellbeing Champion Tel: 07557 922020 OR
Email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk*

Farewell Fionna!

At the end of the summer term Purton Under 5s' Community Playgroup said goodbye to one of its longest-serving members of staff. Fionna Griffiths has been involved with the playgroup for the past 27 years, spending three years on the committee initially, whilst her children were small. During this time she helped raise the funds to enable the playgroup to purchase second-hand porta cabins, and move from its original site at the old Scout hut in the High Street, to St Mary's Primary School. With a group of parents and volunteers she helped install and decorate the porta cabins, which are still in use, and improve



the facilities for the pre-school children in the village.

For the past 24 years Fionna has supervised and managed Purton Under 5s', working tirelessly to give local children the best start to their education, preparing them for school but also ensuring they enjoyed their time at playgroup, by learning through play (Under 5s' motto).



Fionna will be very much missed by all the staff and families she's worked with over the years, but everyone wishes her a very happy, and well-deserved retirement. At the end of July a surprise retirement party was held for Fionna at the Purton Club. It was attended by many of the current and former staff members, committee members and families Fionna has worked with, and thanks to the many photographs provided by Nikki Webb and others, everyone was able to see just how much progress has been made during Fionna's time at the helm.



As featured in last month's magazine, it's all change for Purton's pre-school provision from September, with the introduction of the Government's new 30-hour childcare system. Thanks to Fionna's hard work, and the amalgamation of Under 5s' with Playclose Pre-school, to create Pear Drops, children in the village will continue to receive a great start to their education.



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

OPEN EVENTS 2017/18



OPEN SATURDAY:
Saturday 16 September 2017
9.30am - 11.00am



OPEN EVENING:
Thursday 21 September 2017
6.00pm - 8.00pm



OPEN MORNING TOURS:
Monday to Friday
2 - 6 October 2017
9.15am - 10.30am



Purton Open Gardens

Our accounts for the money raised this year by Purton Open Gardens have not been finalised but we hope to be sending cheques of approximately £650 each to Brighter Futures and Jubilee Gardens. In addition several hundred pounds have been raised by individual gardens for their respective charities.

Apologies for the delay but we have had key committee members away on holiday. We will make sure that the final figures are available for the October magazine.

In the meantime could we say thank you to all who opened their gardens, to those who provided refreshments and other entertainment, and above all to those who bought a programme and wandered round the village helping to make it such an enjoyable and successful weekend.

NICK YERBURY

An Autumn concert with Wessex Male Choir

The award-winning Wessex Male Choir will be performing in St Lawrence Church, Lechlade at 7.30pm Saturday 14th October 2017 together with talented local persons, Thomas Graff from Faringdon and a group known locally as TATT (Tunes At The Trout). The choir's Chamber group will also perform.



Italian composer, Giorgio Susanna, has given the Wessex special permission to perform his emotional work 'Io Resto Qui', The concert includes a range of gorgeous new songs and arrangements. The Programme is sure to get the feet tapping and audiences clapping!

Tom Graff has been appointed Principal Accompanist to Wessex Male Choir. This will be his first public appearance with the choir. Tom began to play the piano at age 4. He studied music at the University of Bristol and won the University Concerto Competition. He is a Licentiate of the Royal School of Music and has played at a range of venues including the Welsh Millennium Centre.

TATT is a group of musicians who meet informally at The Trout in Lechlade, hence the name which stands for Tunes At The Trout, think of them as a "pop up" band. Their musical style is predominantly instrumental traditional folk but they encompass composers ranging from Playford 16th century, O'Carolan 17th century and Mozart to more modern artists and feature Fiddle, Accordion, Flute, Recorder, Guitar, Mandolin and Percussion.

Wessex Choir's Musical Director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale, says; 'This is a fabulous opportunity for the Lechlade audience to hear the choir and gives local talent an opportunity to perform with them. Wessex has a lively performance with fabulous lighting and stagecraft that helps bring the music to life – Wessex is not your average male choir!'

Tickets are on sale from Lechlade Post Office from September at £15. Under 16 years £5.

All proceeds will go to the Lechlade Memorial Hall Fund.

Defibrillator Awareness Session

On Wednesday 4 October 2017 At The Royal George Pavenhill Purton 6.30 for 7pm, come along to find out about the defibrillator. A trainer will be on hand to show us how it works and to give us a chance to look at and also to handle the equipment. We will be shown how simple the defibrillator is to use in an emergency situation.

The session will also include some advice and training on basic cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which is a very useful first aid skill to have.

You don't need to book, just turn up. If you have been along to previous sessions you are welcome to come along again for a refresher course.

Purton Methodist Church

To continue fund raising for our Refurbishments, Rose Stump has organised an evening of music on Friday 22nd September at 7.30pm. Geoff Walters and Encore will be providing the entertainment, along with the popular young Tom Keene as guest singer. The cost will be £6 per ticket. This will include light refreshments. Tickets are available from Rose on 770564 and Sylvia on 770686.

The second date for your diary is, Saturday October 14th 2-4. This is a Jumble Sale at the Silver Threads Hall.

We are holding a Cream Tea and Harvest Praise on Sunday September 10th from 4pm - 6pm. This is not a fund raising event. Please come along if you can to help us celebrate our Harvest. You will be most welcome.

We are very grateful to those who have contributed towards our Refurbishment Project, but our fund raising must continue. We hope to hold an event of some kind each month. So what will Novembers be? The October magazine will have details.

Purton Food Festival

The Purton Food Festival will take place this year on Saturday 4 November at Purton Village Hall 12pm - 4pm. We would love to welcome as many local food producers or crafts people as we can fit in the hall! Tables will be available for £10. All profits will be shared between Pips café and Purton Evening WI.

To book a table or for more information contact Helen Tel: 01793 759123 Mob: 07976 546825 Email: helendixonmail@gmail.com

The Phoenix Players present: Recipe for Murder by J.D.Robins

Now here's a recipe you won't find on "Masterchef". It is being cooked up at the Arts Centre, Swindon by the Phoenix Players in September – a very secret (or should that be sinister?) recipe with a most surprising conclusion. All starts well – the mixture includes David Lawson, a research scientist, who is not a well man and his sister Beatie, who thinks that his wife Claire (Nicky Ashdown) doesn't take proper care of him. Now add a visiting journalist Kit Kelly who suspects that Claire may be guilty of more than negligence....

Claire's grandmother and her first husband both died in mysterious circumstances leaving her generous legacies; could David be the next victim on her recipe list? Mix in some cups of tea...but is it just tea in those cups? Who knows how the final dish will turn out? Suspicions deepen as this tightly-plotted, fast moving and often funny thriller moves to a surprising conclusion.

Written by J.D.Robins, directed by Sally Lovejoy and played by actors Colin Wilkins (David), Marlene Poole (Beatie), Nicky Ashdown (Claire) and, making his debut for the Phoenix Players, Daniel Henshaw (as Kit).

Come along for a taste of Recipe for Murder on Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 September at the Swindon Arts Centre at 7.30 pm.

Purton Village Diary - September 2017

- | | | | | |
|----|----|---------|--------------|--|
| 1 | F | 12.55pm | until 4.00pm | Blood donation session at Purton Village Hall, and later from 4.50pm-7.15pm |
| 2 | Sa | 2.00pm | | Age Concern Jumble Sale at Purton Village Hall |
| 3 | Su | 8.00am | | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Family Service at St Mary's Church |
| | | 6.00pm | | Evensong at St Mary's Church |
| 4 | M | 7.30pm | | New term for Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society at RWB Methodist Church |
| 6 | W | 2.00pm | | Age Concern Mystery Tour with tea included |
| 7 | Th | 10.30am | | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| 8 | F | 9.00am | | Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester for all areas of the village |
| 9 | Sa | 8.00pm | | Tony M plays at The Red House |
| 10 | Su | 8.00am | | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Harvest Service at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Communion and Patronal Festival at St Mary's Church |
| 12 | Tu | 11.00am | | Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House |
| | | 2.00pm | | Paul Levy plays his ukulele at Silver Threads Hall |
| 14 | Th | 11.00am | | Songs of Praise at The Cedars |
| | | 7.30pm | | Concert by The Cricklade Band at Purton Village Hall |
| 16 | Sa | 9.30am | | Open morning at Bradon Forest School |
| 17 | Su | 8.00am | | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Family Communion at St Mary's Church |
| 18 | M | 7.30pm | | St Mary's Fellowship of Women 're-homing hens' at Purton Methodist Church |
| 20 | W | 2.00pm | | Communion at Ashgrove House |
| 21 | Th | 6.00pm | | Open evening at Bradon Forest School |
| | | 7.30pm | | Purton Evening WI welcome Linda Buckland and her hearing dog, at Purton Village Hall |
| 22 | F | 9.00am | | Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester for all areas of the village |
| | | 7.30pm | | An evening of Musical Entertainment at Purton Methodist Church |
| 23 | Sa | 2.00pm | | Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall |
| | | 8.00pm | | Manhattan Nights play at The Red House |
| 24 | Su | 8.00am | | Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | | Communion at St Mary's Church |
-

26 Tu	2.00pm	Presentation and tasting by Wiltshire Farm Foods at Silver Threads Hall
	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
27 W	7.30pm	<i>until 30th</i> The Phoenix Players present 'Recipe for Murder' at Swindon Arts Centre
28 Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society welcomes John Fell, to talk about Post boxes and the Royal Mail, at Purton Village Hall
29 F	10.00am	World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
	7.30pm	After 8 at Eileen's; planning followed by food and drink treasure hunt – don't forget your clues!

October

3 Tu	8.00pm	<i>and 5th</i> Auditions for PADS pantomime 'The Wind in the Willows' at the Red House
4 W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour with lunch included
	6.30pm	Defibrillator awareness session at The Royal George
6 F	7.30pm	Age Concern 3Bs x2 Evening at Silver Threads Hall
7 Sa	10.00am	Shoobox Fundraising day at Silver Threads Hall
	7.00pm	St Mary's Harvest Barn Dance at Purton Village Hall
13 F		and 14th PADS production of 'The Lights are Warm and Coloured'
14 Sa	7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir performing at St Lawrence Church, Lechlade

Every week

Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall 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
	2.00pm	<i>to 5.00pm</i> : Purton Museum open, free of charge
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church
Th	9.00am	<i>to 11am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall 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 Purton Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12.30pm</i> : Purton Museum open, free of charge

Moon Phases

● 29 August ○ 6 September ● 13 September ● 20 September

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



End of term celebrations and goodbyes are the themes running through this month's report.

1st Purton Rainbows had a busy end of term; they painted their clay Rainbow coasters as mementos of 30 years since Rainbows began and took them home at the end of the summer term. They said a sad farewell to three Rainbows, Sophie, Maisie and Kennedy who are all moving on to Brownies. The Rainbow Leaders report that these three deserve a big thank you for planning and implementing the projects they devised at the last meeting. It sounds like they are very ready to take the next step on their guiding journey with Brownies! The unit also said a sad goodbye to Wren (aka Mandie) who has been a sterling volunteer and an invaluable support to the leadership team over the last year. Good news for the unit came in the form of Sarah, who joins as a Leader having previously been a Brownie Leader for many years in Swindon. Sarah, we hope your house move to the village over the summer has gone well and look forward to reporting on the name the Rainbows choose for you in September.

2nd Purton Rainbows spent their last meeting of the term at Purton House Organics Farm Shop where the girls had fun learning about what's in their food as well as meeting the chickens. They made it there and back from the Millennium Hall without too many moans about the walking!

1st Purton Brownies went to Jubilee Lake for their last meeting. They worked in their sixes to find items in the great outdoors before playing 'Drip, drip, splash!', a variation on the popular playground game of 'Duck, duck, goose' involving water and Brownies shrieking as they get wet! A big thank you must go to Maxine from the café at Jubilee Lake for feeding them all hot dogs and cakes at the end as they said goodbye to those moving on to Guides and also to Leader Candycane (Becky) who is transferring to a Brownie unit nearer her home in Swindon.

Sporting challenges followed by water games were chosen by 2nd Purton Brownies as their last but one meeting. This was followed by a Disney slumber party picked by the Brownies who were leaving and moving on to Guides. The 'slumber' party didn't involve much slumbering but included pass the parcel (with a Disney prize), a Disney song quiz and a Finding Dory game along with some food and cake of course. As well as goodbyes to girls, the unit also said goodbye to Marigold (Lauren) who is unable to help on a Monday evening from September. Thank you Lauren, it was great to have your help.

For the Guides, (torrential) rain stopped play for wide games at Lydiard Park but the girls enjoyed making bracelets in the dry instead. To celebrate the end of term, Guides and Rangers joined forces for a BBQ and game of rounders. At the time of writing the Guides and Rangers are on the first night of their summer camp at Deer Park, Cowley in Gloucestershire, so more of that next month.

If you're interested in volunteering, particularly with either of the Brownie

units now that they've both lost a Leader we'd love to hear from you. For more information about guiding locally, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

International Opportunities with Girlguiding



During the summer Kirstie, who's a Young Leader with Purton Guides, went on a County trip to a Jamboree in Denmark. She and the rest of the group experienced camping Danish style including taking part in a Danish tradition where people on horseback ride round in a circle and have to knock a key off with a stick – this was rather difficult!

“We went for 10 days (21 July to 1 August) and this was a county trip run through INTOPS (Girlguiding International Opportunities – girls apply to go abroad as part of an organised Guiding group and take part in a selection weekend), therefore there were girls from all over Wiltshire.



We attended a Jamboree, which was 7 days long, and was held in Sonderburg. The Jamboree was called Spejdernes Lejr or SL 2017 for short. There were 40,000 participants, with people from Denmark and across the world. The theme was “leaving impressions”. As I am 18, I was too old to participate so I became a Jobber. This is someone who had a Job/worked there. I worked in a place called Children's Island, where I looked after Danish Children. The sign was hung outside children's island and translates to “welcome to children's island”.

After the Jamboree, we travelled to Copenhagen for 2 days to do some sight seeing. We saw the Little Mermaid, Tivoli Gardens and went to the Lego shop.





The trip was so amazing which makes it difficult to pick out a highlight, but for me it was probably learning about different cultures and meeting people from all over the world. We met people from Denmark, America, Ireland and Germany. We also met Guides from Scotland! Scouting in Denmark is extremely different to Guiding within the

UK, so being able to learn about that and experience it first hand was amazing. Being at such a big event like that makes you realise how Scouts and Guides are really just a big family and being a member of that community was really special.”



High up, high on a mountain...

A group of Guides and Young Leaders from Wiltshire North; including Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett, visited Switzerland at the end of July. In 1932 Lord and Lady Baden Powell opened the first World Guiding Centre at Adelboden, in the Swiss Alps, and a visit to ‘Our Chalet’ was a highlight of the trip, especially for the



girls who made their promises there. As well as visiting this important historical site, the girls went swimming in a spring-fed outdoor pool, took a cable car to a mountain-top lake, did a toboggan run, visited a traditional wood carver, did a heart-stopping mountain-top aerial assault course, had a tour of a chocolate maker in Interlaken, visited the World Scout Centre at Kandersteg and spent a day at Disneyland Paris on the way home. Everyone had a fantastic time, made lots of new friends and memories that will stay with them forever.



The photo above is of the group assembled on the famous steps at Our Chalet. The photo left, shows Liz Radford (nee Cook), Wilts North joint County Commissioner and former Purton Guide, with her daughter Louise. Louise made her promise as a newly-qualified adult leader with 1st Royal Wootton Bassett Guides.

Purton Bowls Club



I really can't believe how fast this year is going, did we have a July this year? Here we are in August doing the magazine notes for September, perhaps I should drop a few hints about what I need for Christmas!

We have had some bad weather recently and some heavy rain which makes some of the games pretty awful to play. We always stay out until the green is actually holding water before coming off, so we are not just fair weather players, and sometimes you can be out in the rain for the whole match which is best part of two and a half hours!

Results are varied and in the men's leagues we recently beat Stratton Churchways 12-2; Wanborough 8-6 but lost to Westlecot 14-0 and to Highworth 12-2. The ladies are doing better, they won the county triples final on the 29th July at Alderbury 19-15 with Alison Fail, Chris Mitchell and Julie Jones. Alison is playing at Leamington Mon 14th August. Currently they are top of the evening league but have played a couple more games than some of the teams below them. The afternoon triples are currently 6th. Still in the county Top Club, playing Royal Wootton Bassett in the semi final, scheduled for Sun 27th August. Well done ladies, they are having a great season.

The real leveller though is the Men versus Ladies match played on 6th August where the men showed what they can do and trounced the ladies (not really, they just scraped through). A fun game to play.

PETER BERRY

Cricklade Country Market

Our next market: Friday 29 September 2-4pm at The Jenner Hall Cricklade



All our produce is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown so come and find delicious pies and cakes, scones and cookies, jams and pickles and all manner of original gifts. Seasonal plants and fruit and veg too. Pop along for a delicious afternoon tea or come in for after school refreshments too!

Future market date: 27 October Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Moira on 01793 771656 to place an order or for further information about the market.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Our next production "The Lights are Warm and Coloured" by William Norfolk is now going to be on Friday/Saturday 13/14 October so put the date in your diaries. Posters with details will be around the village nearer the date and tickets will be available on the door or ordered in advance from PADS members.

We have a couple of Murder Nights coming up at different venues and our latest "Murder" is available for booking if you want to host one.

We will be holding auditions on 3rd and 5th October for our next Pantomime, "Wind in the Willows", this will be at The Red House at 8pm.

LINDSEY HALL 771890



PAST EVENT: PURTON AND THE GREAT WAR - WALK AND TALK WITH BOB LLOYD – SUNDAY 8th AUGUST 2017

A group of 20 sat in St Mary's Church to hear in detail the anomalies of the Village War Memorials. In the churchyard we visited the commonwealth graves, saw pictures of the soldiers with maps of where they were injured on the front line.

Bob Lloyd's research is invaluable and we are privileged to learn from him the stories behind the men associated with Purton, who paid the price for our freedom. Thank you Bob.

There will be a similar event later in the year to include a visit to the Remount Depot Memorial at the Pear Tree.

The Golden Chapter memorial book is on view in the Purton Museum with a record of Bob's research on soldiers not recorded on the memorials.

MARION HOBBS, CHAIR PERSON

Future Meetings

Autumn Course – Speaker Mr Paul Booy

The title of the autumn course this year is "Purton and Wiltshire in English History". For example in the first week we shall see how the invasion of Britain by the Celts and Anglo-Saxons has consequences for us locally. The course will run from Wednesday 4th October through to Wednesday 15 November with a break on 25 October 25. It will be held in the Silver Threads hall on Wednesday's at 7.30 pm. Course fees will be £22 if paid on the night or £20 if booked previously. Further details can be obtained from the speaker Mr Paul Booy (tel. no. 01793 770755). Other subjects that will be covered are the journeys of William Cobbett in Wiltshire and also Victorian Gothic architecture.

PAUL AND EVE BOOY, TEL: 01793 770755

Future Monthly Meetings

Thursday 28 September 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall - John Fell – Post Boxes and the Royal Mail

John's talk will consist of a two part presentation. The first being the history of the post box from 1852 to date and he will bring five genuine post boxes from his collection for display. The second part will consist of the history of Royal Mail/Post Office going back to Henry VIII 1516 to present times.

Thursday 26 October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall - Martin Way – Cotswold Wool Trade and Shepherding

Thursday 23 November 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Purton Village Hall - Martin Collison – Agincourt

Friday 1 December 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silver Threads Hall - Annual Christmas Social with entertainment by 'The Ukey D'Ukes' Ukulele Band

New Members and visitors always welcome

TONY & JANET NEATE, e mail: tjneate57@gmail.com tel: 01793 770117

The Purton Historical Society Bulletin, Issue 43, £2

It is almost two years since the last Bulletin appeared so we are pleased to announce that issue 43 has now been published. It is on sale at Flawless Floors and can also be found in the Museum, otherwise phone 770185 or 770331 to reserve a copy. They are selling well!

This publication is not just for members of the PHS. It should be of interest to other parishioners and indeed those living further afield, with or without Purton connections. The stories are of times past, describing how people lived their lives in the last century in particular. We hope some of the details will surprise and entertain you, so do consider purchasing a copy for your family or a friend.

JEAN BELT

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Jubilee Estate, Vasterne Close, Hoggs Lane and Vasterne Hill*

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 

**BLACKWELLS
OF CRICKLADE**

Est 1916

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Care and compassion when you need it most

PERSONAL SERVICE

A dedicated personal service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Tried and trusted since 1916.

Where excellence comes as part of the service.

01793 750225

WWW.BLACKWELLSOFCRICKLADE.COM

THAMES HOUSE, THAMES LANE, CRICKLADE SN6 6BH

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding villages.



Talk on Organ Donation, Monday 30 October, 7.30 - 9pm, Purton Surgery, Purton. Speakers: Great Western Hospital, Organ Donation Team.

This is a subject which some find difficult to think about while others are so grateful that it exists. It should be a very interesting and informative evening. Although this is a free event, tickets are required due to limited seating and will be available from mid-September. Please contact Purton Surgery, tel 770207.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, Purton PPG

Flu Vaccination 2017

Saturday 14 October, Purton Surgery

The Department of Health has recommended that we offer vaccination against Influenza to all our patients over the age of 65 and also to patients who suffer from a 'high risk' condition, regardless of their age.

This includes: diabetes, chronic heart disease, chronic renal failure, COPD, have undergone a splenectomy, severe asthma (taking inhaled steroid – not seasonal), carers & pregnant ladies.

Call or pop in to make your appointment from Tuesday 5 September 2017. Only eligible patients may receive the vaccine.

Purton Evening W.I.

Our July Meeting was all about Archery and Targets. Our speaker for the evening was Shelia Walker, who was accompanied by Chris Compton, both very keen Archers. They are members of the U3A and joined a thriving group of Archers at Roves Farm at Sevenhampton near Swindon. Roves Farm has both indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, but Shelia's favourite shooting course is in the forest, targeting cut outs of animals – ranging from large deer to small squirrels. Shelia and Chris had also brought along some Bows and Arrows for us to see and they explained about technique, safety, and the materials used to make them.

After the business for the evening, we tried our hands at various Target Games – Darts, Quoits and Hoop La. They all looked easy, but that wasn't necessarily the case!

Our September Meeting will be on Wednesday 20 September in the Village Hall, when we will welcome Linda Buckland and her beautiful Hearing Dog Fidgey. We hope to find out how these very clever and caring dogs can help us in our everyday lives. This looks like it will be a very interesting and informative evening, so if you would like to come along and join us, we would be very pleased to see you.

For any further information call: Barbara 01793 770818 or Janet 01793 772146



Ten Years Ago...

Environmental matters at different ends of the spectrum were highlighted in the September 2007 issue of Purton Magazine. There were reports of torrential rain in late July 2007 with the Thames bursting its banks not far from Lechlade causing big problems on the roads throughout the area.

Several homes were flooded in Purton and it must be one of the worst natural disasters to be inflicted on any property. Just thinking about the damage and destruction that can be caused simply by too much water is enough to worry any house owner. Pictures on television of householders baling out with endless buckets and mops vividly illustrate the problems to say nothing about the sodden carpets and damaged furniture left behind.

Cricklade Firefighters were turned into Inshore Rescue services with 17 flooding call outs in a 24 hour period in and around our area with at least 47 people rescued. Among all that they also saved a child from choking inside a locked car – all in a day's work for the brave volunteers.

On a much more positive note, the Pear Tree Hotel reported that they had been awarded a silver medal under the Green Tourist Business Scheme. It was given for very good environmental practices including recycling, local purchasing and energy efficiency and the Pear Tree became the first hotel in the country to have received the award – what a fitting way to celebrate 20 year in the village in 2007.

New-look website for Purton Magazine

Since the production of the Magazine changed hands in the spring, we've been researching ways in which to make all the previous magazines, dating from 2004, available to view online. The previous website was in need of an overhaul and it seemed like a great opportunity to try something new.

The new-look website is now live and on typing purtonmagazine.co.uk into your browser you will be re-directed to DropBox Paper, a version of the popular file sharing site, which allows you to share documents but with a home page similar to a traditional website. The PDFs of the magazine can be viewed online or downloaded and saved on to your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

Purton Magazine has a surprisingly large readership outside the village, with former residents and relatives reading all about our news from the four corners of the world, hopefully our new online presence will enable this to continue into the future.



Purton Post Bag

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, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.



SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

On a beautiful August evening we celebrated the Silver Wedding of David and Liz Martin in the Grade 1 Architectural Surroundings of St Mary's Church in Purton. Who would have thought that the church could provide such a wonderful setting? We were welcomed with drinks and canapés, under gazebos, by the Lych Gate.

We later moved into the church for a sit down meal for about 65 people. Followed by speeches, a quiz and music. A truly magical experience.

Congratulations to David and Liz on their Anniversary and for being the first to take up this wonderful opportunity of a community use for the church.

David and Avril Ainscough



PURTON OPEN GARDENS

Thank you to everyone who attended my open garden weekend on 8th and 9th July. The weather was wonderful and it was lovely to see so many people from different areas of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and local areas, as well as Purton. My garden and cakes were very much appreciated, which made it all worthwhile. Thank you also to my helpers and to all the people who

bought raffle tickets for Combat Stress. We made £105 for the charity, which helps service men and women with mental health issues, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I received a lovely letter from the charity expressing their appreciation for our fundraising efforts, which will help towards the provision of intensive psychological therapy sessions for veterans.

One raffle prize is still to be claimed; pink ticket no 801 – Steve Palmer, if anyone knows Steve please get in touch.

Doreen Freegard TEL: 770178



CANON BRIAN FESSEY, VICAR OF PURTON 1994-2003

Greetings to you all from Ryde, Isle of Wight. How lovely to discover so many friends from Purton in church with us for Brian's funeral service and afterwards at the wake. I did not get to speak to everyone on the day but I do so appreciate you all making such an effort to get here, stormy seas notwithstanding. A special surprise to see Barbara and Len and to receive cards and letters from PADS members and from so many others who remember our time in Purton. Brian loved being your Vicar and continued to care about you and pray for you

in retirement. He bore his illness with great courage and grace, but I hope, like me, you will thank God Brian is at last free from pain. Now we can remember him full of life and love.

*Our thanks to you all,
Rev. Annis and Family*



A BIG THANK YOU...

...to those who give their time and what they can afford to help with the upkeep of St Mary's Church and the work we do around the Parish!

I've just received another £20 in the post – this time from Yorkshire! Who

can that be from? I hope they see this and know how much it's appreciated.

Anything given to us helps with the running of our enormous village building and is spent as best we can.

For instance, this might be on the roof and the upkeep of the church building, children's and work with young people, or work with the older generation and the running of the many services held in church.

Many thanks everybody for all your help, both now and in the future.

*Rev. Judith Wells, Curate,
St. Mary's Church*

We Record ...

Baptisms at St Mary's Church:

6 August 2017 **Harley George Newman**
6 August 2017 **Bailey Brian Newman**

Renewal of Marriage Vows in St Mary's Church:

4 August 2017 **Martin and Michelle MacClay**

In Memoriam:

30 March 1917 **Frank Sutton**, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Died, aged 18, of wounds received at Jadida, Mesopotamia and remembered on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorial Board and Book held in St Mary's Church.



Purton Guide Dogs

On the 22nd of July I supported Swindon Branch members by transporting their official guide dogs gazebo, and all the ancillary equipment for a pitch at 'The Stratton Festival'. They had a Bottle Tombola, and another one with prizes for children, also a Bric-a-Brac Table, plus I operated the 'Trading Goods' stall. Despite the weather we took just over £400.

On the 14 September the 'Cricklade Band' will be giving a concert in the Purton Village Hall, in aid of us,

It will be starting at 7.30 pm and admission will be £6.

Many thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for Purton Guide Dogs Support Group

Purton Placard

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PURTON

Harvest Barn Dance

Saturday 7 October 2017, 7pm,
Purton Village Hall

All very welcome. Bring and
Share supper, bring your own
drinks. Adults £6, under 14s, £3

Tel: Sandra 770157 or
Jane 772422

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Jumble Sale

Saturday 2 September at the Village Hall
Jumble can be left between 12 noon & 1pm.
Sale starts at 2pm. Lots of bargains!

Mystery Tour

Wednesday 6 September, coach leaves 2pm
Cost £13.50 for village pensioners
(tea included) Use your £5 voucher and join
us for the afternoon!

Mystery Tour

Wednesday 4 October, coach leaves 10am
Cost - £13.50 for village pensioners
(Pub lunch included)

3Bs x 2 Evening

Friday 6 October at 7.30pm, Silver Threads
Hall, Cost £7 and includes supper
Ring Jenny Barnes on 770339 for tickets.
Join us for a fun evening!

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS present
Recipe for Murder
A thriller by
J.D. Robins

Wednesday 27th
to Saturday 30th
September 2017

**SWINDON
ARTS CENTRE**

7.30PM TICKETS: £10.00 £9.00

GROUP BOOKINGS:
1 FREE FOR EVERY 10 BOOKED.

TICKETS AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE:
07517 698083

E-mail:
bookings@phoenix-players.com

For payment by credit/debit
card please go to:
www.swindontheatres.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd
www.phoenix-players.com

Follow us:
The Phoenix Players, Swindon

PURTON METHODIST CHURCH

We invite you to an evening of
Musical Entertainment

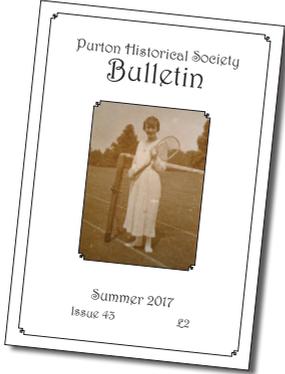
with Geoff Walters, Encore and
singer Tom Keene

Friday 22 September 7.30pm
Tickets £6 (inc. light refreshments)
Tickets available from: Rose on
770564 and Sylvia on 770686



The Purton Historical Society

Bulletin issue
43 is on sale
NOW!



In this issue;
Lydiard Millicent
Reading Room,
a memorial in
St Mary's Church,
Cricket, Tennis
and Two Wars,
Purton Cycle
Speedway, the Maskelyne tomb
restoration, and Museum news.

Copies available at £2 each from *Flawless Floors,*
Pavenhill, Purton Museum, 770185 or 770331

PURTON GUIDE DOGS SUPPORT GROUP

A Concert By The Cricklade Band

On Thursday the 14 of September
In Purton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.
Admission £6.

Light refreshments, Raffle and
Guide Dog Stall. For information
ring Brian Tel. 01793 770961

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT *World's Biggest*

Coffee Morning

Friday 29 September

10am - 12noon.

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

We welcome all our friends and
supporters from Purton to join us
for Coffee and Cake.

LOVELECHLADE

AUTUMN CONCERT

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, LECHLADE

7.30PM SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2017

Featuring

WESSEX MALE CHOIR



Guest appearances

Tom Graff — Piano

Tunes At The Trout (TATT) — Instrumentalists

In aid of Lechlade Memorial Hall Fund

Tickets £15. £5 under 16yrs old - available from

Lechlade Post Office

Includes a glass of wine or soft drink.

Groups are invited to submit forthcoming
events in, for, and on behalf of the community
Email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk



A Book I will Always Remember

Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it

need not be very long; 450-500 words. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

Out With Romany

As a child I lived in Cardiff, but I loved being in the country I spent a lot of my free time at a farm outside the City with friends and my pony. A favourite programme on the radio at that time, (no TV) was “Out with Romany” this being a programme about wildlife and the countryside presented by the Rev Bramwell Evens known as Romany. I believe he was the first presenter of wildlife programmes, to be followed of course by David Attenborough and many others.

My lovely father on trips into town would often buy me a book, and on one of our trips I found “Out with Romany”. All that lovely information in words and pictures on the page and all the stories of Romany’s adventures with his lovely dog, Raq, his horse, Comma and his romany caravan. It was very gentle reading for a child but had a great deal of easily learned information about the British countryside and its flora and fauna. I lapped it up and observed for myself when I was on the farm. It taught me a great deal, and I loved it and the following books that Romany wrote. It was certainly not the most exciting book I read as a child, but it did instil in me the appreciation I have for all things rural.

Unfortunately in our move to Wiltshire as I reached teenage, I think the Romany books got left behind, but recently as I talked with a friend about this, she informed me that she has four of Bramell Even’s books and she lent them to me. So I have been able to indulge myself by returning to my childhood and re-reading the books that taught me so much. Thank you Romany

JEANNE PERONS

Purton and Christian Aid Week 2017

Thank you to absolutely every one of you who contributed to Christian Aid this year. Some were buying, selling, cooking, growing, sharing, delivering, collecting, counting, writing, encouraging... the list of jobs goes on and on.

This year we made a fantastic total of £5,000, and that does not include the money raised at the Swindon Station bucket collection; or the money raised through selling items on e-bay throughout the year. Interestingly, we made more money on



the House-to-House collection than at the events this year.

Purton village has quite a special reputation for giving... and, in fact, over £110,000 has been raised for Christian Aid, here in Purton, in the last thirty years....a staggering sum! We are so grateful to you all.

LIBBIE, MARY AND BRIAN, ON BEHALF OF PURTON CHRISTIAN AID TEAM

Purton Cricket Club



The last four weeks of June were very much dominated by rain although both Purton XIs managed to play on the final week when few other contenders in our leagues even started. The 1st. XI were easily beaten by Trowbridge (league leaders) in spite of both Pinchin and Bowler getting into the forties. The following week at Purton the home side beat Swindon by 5 wickets in a relatively low scoring match. It was a good team performance with Tom Bowler showing his all round strength with 40 runs and three wickets. Saturday the 22nd. was a complete washout and the same sort of weather seemed likely for the 29th. However, against expectations, the game was started. Purton's score of 217 all out in the final over looked competitive. Sizwe Masondo (83) and Elijah Samuel (64) performed well. However, heavy rain eventually interfered and the visitor's score of 97 for 3 after 24.1 overs was adjudged a winning one by the Duckworth-Lewis formula. That was surely a close call.

The 2nd. XI also played three out of the four Saturdays. Trowbridge 2nd. XI, unbeaten and top of the league, was beaten by 8 wickets. The visitor's score of 138 all out in only 34.4 overs was overhauled thanks mainly to not out scores of 75 and 28 by Dave Allen and skipper Phil Duffell. The remaining two games were lost fairly comprehensively against Burbage and Goatacre. Alex Duffell's 5 for 55 against the former deserves a mention. In spite of mixed form, both sides occupy reasonably safe league positions notwithstanding a catastrophic final five games!

Amongst the various youth teams, top marks must again go to the U-11 boys who remain unbeaten in their league and are now top. In a close T20 match in the U-15's competition A. Khan scored 51 not out. But Purton's 141 was overtaken by Cannings & Potterne with nine balls remaining.

Turning now to former times, it was sad to hear of the recent death of former club player Donald Glead. He continues to be remembered by the Club as he and Graham Miles still hold the club record 5th. wicket partnership of 152 from June 1953 in a match against Wroughton. Donald lived at 27 Park Lane, Lydiard Millicent. He and his wife Jean emigrated to Australia in the early sixties but have made a number of visits back to the UK; the last occasion was only a few years ago when Donald visited the ground and was able to view his famous scoresheet.

Matches at Purton in September:

Sept. 4th. 1st. XI v. Great Bedwyn 12.30pm

Sept. 5th. U – 15 League v. Corsham 1.30pm

DAVID BISSET

The Great War Project

Part 50: September 1917

The following men with Purton connections were mobilised in September 1917.

To France:

Herbert Willie Ponting, Royal Field Artillery.

To Egypt:

Herbert Henry Stone, 1/4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. He had been serving with the Battalion in India since 1916 and was transferred with the Battalion to the Egypt Expeditionary Force. (Herbert had been in the army since 1898 in the Boer Wars though on the reserve list between 1905 and 1916.)

Western Front

The French Premier Alexandre Ribot resigned on 9 September and was replaced by Paul Painlevé on the 12th.

In the 3rd Battle of Ypres, British Empire forces attacked the strategically important Menin Road Ridge on 20 September, succeeding in holding the ridge on the 25th with losses of about 20,255 killed or wounded. German casualties were similar. From 26 September until 3 October, British and Australian forces attacked at Polygon Wood capturing positions from the Germans, with 21,000 lost to the British and Australians and 13,500 German troops.

Mesopotamia

In the 2nd Battle of Ramadi (28-29) September, British troops took Ramadi from Ottoman Empire control.

My apologies are due for missing the fact that Frank Sutton died on 30 March 1917. Frank had previously seen action at Loos in September 1915 and the North Wilts Herald at the time reported he was with the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Bob Lloyd's investigations suggest that the 1st Battalion was not involved at Loos but the 2nd Battalion was. It is possible that Frank had been with the 1st Wilts when he was hospitalised following a gas attack at Hill 60 south of Ypres in April 1915. He was probably transferred to the 2nd Battalion after his recovery and in time to see action at Loos.

Frank was later sent to Mesopotamia to join the 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. There, he suffered from dysentery and was hospitalised in India before returning to Mesopotamia and was present at the fall of Baghdad (11 March 1917).

On 29/30 March 1917, the Battalion diary records that they were at Deltawa having advanced from Jadida on the 25th. On 29 March, the Battalion was in action when it suffered 132 men wounded at Palm Tree Post. Frank Sutton is believed to have been wounded there and died the following day, 30 March 1917, aged 18.

Frank was perhaps buried south of Jadida village but is remembered on the Basra Memorial which commemorates more than 40,500 members of the Commonwealth forces who died in Mesopotamia between 1914 and August 1921 and whose graves are not known. His name is also inscribed on the Purton War Memorial and the Memorial Board and Book held in St Mary's Church.

Russia

German forces attacked in the Battle of Riga on 1 September capturing the city on the 3rd. They continued on to attack Jacobstadt in Courland (Latvia) on the 22nd.

On 8 September, General Kornilov headed a revolt against the Russian Provisional Government (RPG) under Prime Minister Kerensky and organised a march on Petrograd. Two days later Kerensky assumed dictatorship of Russia under the RPG and proclaimed Kornilov a traitor. Kerensky declared Russia to be a republic on 14 September. Leon Trotsky was elected Chairman of the oppositional Bolshevik Petrograd Soviet on the 23rd. On the 25th, the Mossovet (Moscow Soviet of People's Deputies) voted to side with the Bolsheviks.

As the fringes of Russia continued to disintegrate, the Central Powers proclaimed a temporary constitution for Poland on the 12th. Trans-Caucasia was proclaimed a federal republic on 20 September by a committee known as the Council of Trans-Caucasian Peoples (representatives from Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Daghestan).

War in the Air

Although daylight air raid on England ended in August, several moonlight raids were conducted by German aeroplanes, notably on the 2nd with the first raid by more than a single aeroplane, and attacks on Kent and London between 3 and 4 September. On 6 September, the French pilot Georges Guynemer shot down his 54th German aircraft.

War at Sea

On 4 September, Scarborough on the Yorkshire coast was shelled by a German submarine. On the 6th, Sir Eric Geddes was appointed as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Italy

An Anglo-French conference was held in London on 4 September to discuss military assistance for Italy, which was still struggling with the Isonzo river valley battles against Austro-Hungary. The 11th Battle of the Isonzo ended on 12 September.

A further Anglo-French Conference assembled in Boulogne on 25 September to discuss an Italian offensive and the extension of the British front in France.

Other News

A first party of British POWs was repatriated through Switzerland and reached England on 11 September,

On 21 September, Costa Rica severed diplomatic relations with Germany.

RICK DIXON

Passendaele 100

Alfred Stewart Earwicker – Private, 87th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Killed in action 27 September 1917, buried at Villers-au-Bois, near Arras.

Alfred was our maternal Grandfather, who emigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1913 aged 33, with his wife Rosa and their three children; Florence (8), Doris (our mother, then aged 6), and Alfred (3). Grandfather was a journeyman painter and decorator, who like countless others, was seeking a better life for his family. Tragically Rosa died in 1915 while in childbirth and as a result of which, Grandfather decided to send his children back to the UK in November 1915 to live with relatives, and then enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 31 December 1915.

After initial training, Grandfather sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia on 7 August 1916, arriving at Liverpool on 18 August. It appears that he spent some time at Witloy Camp before being sent to France on 20 December 1916 to join his unit. We believe he was involved in the Vimy Ridge battle in early April 1917, where the Canadian and British Forces secured a famous victory.

In June he volunteered as a Canadian Corps Pioneer (a scout on the front line). How and where he was killed, we do not know, but at least he has an identified grave instead of one of the tens of thousands 'Known unto God'. Sadly our mother never knew where he was buried – she only knew that his grave was 'somewhere in France'.

In 2002 we were determined to find where our Grandfather was buried. We contacted the National Archives of Canada and were able to obtain copies of his services files. There are 32 pages in all, from which we were able to complete the story above. Not only do we know the location of the cemetery, but also precisely where in that cemetery his grave is.

*GEORGE HAWKESWORTH & JOAN HAWKESWORTH,
(grandson and granddaughter of Alfred Earwicker)*

Purton Tennis Club

Not much to report on this month as Summer Camps for the children will have come and gone and as I write this the last few re-arranged matches are being played so we don't know the final positions in the league. Our Annual Junior Tournament will be held on Sunday 3 September – so come along and watch. Many thanks go to Nicola Gardner and Teresa Miles for running the junior sessions for the club.

Our charity "Miller Tournament" will be held on Sunday 10th September in aid of Prospect and HASAG in memory of Elaine and Ray Miller, parents of Justin (Mutley). We hope social Friday evenings are well attended now matches have finished – please come along if you wish; our coaching programme will be restarting now that holidays are over. Follow us on facebook and twitter or for information: www.purtontennisclub.com

Purton Tennis Club 

LINDSEY HALL, Chairman

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We welcomed Roger Umpelby, a professional entomologist and horticulturalist to our July meeting to present a talk entitled 'The kitchen garden today'. This was Roger's third visit to Gardeners' Guild as guest speaker and we were soon absorbed in the subject matter for this occasion.

'So why bother to grow your own when you can buy'? Roger asked.

The first thing that comes to mind is freshness and the lack of food miles involved. As Roger explained the sell buy date is no indication of how long the item has actually taken to reach the customer after harvesting.

Of course vegetables seldom leave the ground washed and ready for use but one thing we can be sure of is that even when dug up from under snow we can always guarantee their freshness.

What to grow depends on available space, soil type and environmental factors, as well as types you particularly like and those you can't buy.

Varieties are a matter of choice with quality, flavour and size determining this. Roger suggests sticking to tried and tested varieties with the occasional new one added on a trial basis.

It's also always worth checking what grows well in your area with other gardeners as well as referring to the information in the RHS Award of Garden Merit index which is freely available online. There are some varieties, Pea - 'Kelvendon Wonder' for example, that have stood the test of time, appearing as a recommended variety in the 1942 RHS index and still retaining its merited position in the current index.

General tips for vegetable growing

Correct ground preparation is crucial and the regular addition of organic matter to replace the nutrients leached from the soil by vegetables.

For ease of care, plant vegetables that require a lot of water next to each other and where space is limited grow quicker maturing crops, sow in narrow beds, sow little and often, and keep weeds down with a hoe.

Using fleece will protect plants from pests and has the added benefit of advancing crop growth by up to 3 weeks although the fleece will need to be removed occasionally to check for pests and weeds.

Net against birds and use a scarecrow.

Sow vegetables like broad beans, french beans and runner beans in sequence to extend the growing season and apply manure liberally and regularly.

To help prevent carrot fly, carrots can be grown under fleece. Roger recommended planting, carrots, leeks and onions in beds rather than in rows.

Avoid planting potatoes in freshly manured ground.

Having thoroughly discussed vegetables, Roger turned his attention to fruit in the kitchen garden.

He once again stressed the need for correct soil preparation and the installation of supports before planting. We learned that with fruit, new varieties are far better than the old, the RHS Award of Garden Merit index for 2012 confirms this.

Particular mention was given to strawberries. They can be grown in any container successfully and growing a number of early and late varieties can ensure a long season. However strawberry plants have a short effective life and for that reason we should invest in new plants every 3 years.

Blackcurrant plants, however, have an effective life of 10 years but a very short season. Their fruit is brilliant for freezing and jam making. They should be pruned each winter by removing 1/3 of older branches.

Raspberries are best planted in fertile, lighter, well drained soils. As with strawberries, growing different varieties will ensure a long growing season.

Having expertly answered a number of member's questions, it only remained for Diana Thombs to offer the vote of thanks for another interesting and enlightening talk from this popular speaker.

Congratulations to the winners of this month's competition 'A Potato Print' – 1st Deb Davis, 2nd Eric New and 3rd Maureen Griffin.

Our Mini-show takes centre stage for our September meeting, a chance for members to show off the fruits of their labours and an opportunity to sample some of them!! This is always a popular evening so come and join us on Tuesday, 26th September at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall. You won't be disappointed!

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary, 770906

Blast from the Past...

Last month we featured an article about Purton Churches Activity Days, which are held each summer for local Children. The fun-filled days of sports, crafts, cooking, games and local visits are provided free of charge and run by volunteers. The photograph right, was taken at the summer activity week at St Mary's Primary School circa 1979.



Can you spot yourself or someone you know?

Purton Profferings

OFFERED:

Popular Flying magazines 2003 - 2007. Contact Dave Ellis 017973 772350
Conway Miami DL trailer tent (4berth). Approx 20 yrs old) Phone: 01793 770505

Purton and District Probus Club



On the 25 July, Doctor Chris Scott gave a fascinating talk entitled Shakespeare's Stage. It was a story of how the modern theatre evolved from the early days of playwrights staging plays in either, market places and Inn yards. Actors would be moving around the country performing in various locations. The leading actor of the day was Richard Burbage whose father James decided to build a purpose made theatre based on the lines of both the Inns and the Bull pits. Hence the round shape with a tiered gallery on three sides together with an open roof was used in the design.

James Burbage built a theatre in Shoreditch called "The Theatre". The reason for the location was to escape paying the taxes imposed on Inner London buildings. At the time Shoreditch had two other theatres The Rose and the Swan. There were also animal baiting arenas, taverns and brothels. Because of a problem with the original twenty-one years lease a carpenter, Peter Street, together with the players dismantled the theatre timber by timber and moved it south of the Thames to Maiden Lane Southwark. The new theatre called the Globe started to be built in 1576 and was completed by 1599. A company was formed named the "Lord Chamberlain's Men" and was owned by actors who were shareholders in the venture. The two major shareholders were Richard Burbage 25%, his brother Cuthbert 25%, William Shakespeare, John Hemmings, Augustine Phillips and Thomas Pope each had 12.5%.

Most of the actors were also playwrights and their plays were performed to audiences of up to 3000 people. On average, each play would only last for about three to four days so because of this rapid turnover thousands of plays were being written. The major playwrights other than Shakespeare were Robert Green, Henry Chettel, George Peele, Thomas Nashe, Thomas Dekker, Chris Marlowe. Thomas Kyd, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, John Fletcher, John Webster and John Ford.

The first play to be performed at the Globe in 1599 was William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. In 1613 the original globe went up in flames as in a production of Henry VIII a theatrical cannon, set off in the performance, misfired, igniting the wooden beams and thatching. It was rebuilt the following year. It had a 43ft x 27ft stage area approx. 5ft from ground level. It was complete with trapdoors and an overhead lowering device to provide theatrical trickery. There was a minstrel's gallery above the stage. The admission prices were 6d for the best seats, sometimes rich spectators sat on the stage. 4d, 3d, 2d and the cheapest in the pit was 1d.

Most of the spectators were a rowdy crowd, nonstop talking and drinking. Whoring was rife. If a play or actor was disliked they would throw nuts and apple cores at the offender. Fencing was an important part of the acts so the performers were skilled in this art. It was interesting to hear that the idea of character acting came from the Italian "Commedia Dell'arte which translates to "theatre of the

professional” as is known as the first professional theatre. It began in the 16th Century and was characterised by masked types and was responsible for the advent of actresses. The main categories of these characters included servants, old men or military officers full of bravado. Some of the main characters was a greedy old man named Pantalone , Harlequin and a know it all doctor Il Dottore. There were stories of Innamorati (Perfect Lovers). What remains of these characters is immortalised in the present Punch and Judy shows.

The characters in the Elizabethan era followed along the lines of these Italian originals. The difference being that young boys played the female parts instead of actresses. Most of the English actors were very serious and were very well paid to the tune of £10 per performance. Something like £60,000 in today’s value. There was one exception to the rule, this was a man called Wil Kemp who was one of the first slapstick actors. He was well known for acting with a dog and making rude noises and smells on the stage. Elizabeth the 1st commanded some performances should be held in the palace hence the birth of a “Royal Command Performance” It was also the start of having covered theatres instead of the open roofed venues. Dozens of theatres were opened throughout the major towns and cities. Like all other theatres in London, the Globe was closed by the Puritans in 1642 and was pulled down in 1644/45. Doctor Scott finished his talk quoting “Festes Song” a story of being an early actor.

A modern reconstruction of the Globe theatre named “Shakespeare’s Theatre was opened in 1997, the design based on the 1500 and 1614 buildings. This was a completely different subject from our usual talks but never the less it was a most entertaining morning.

DAVID SWEET

Our Speaker on Tuesday 11 July was one of our own members, John Clark, who has in the past entertained us with “Building the Pyramids” and “The Pleasures of Metal Detecting”. His subject on this occasion was entitled “Life in the Fast Lane”, an account of his lifetime interest and activity in Classic Racing Cars. As a child, he says, he liked to take the wheels off, indicating his natural talent for investigating anything mechanical. At 17yrs, with a scholarship to Salford Tech, he gained his O.N.C. His first part-time job was with a company called Chequered Flag, which specialised in rebuilding competitive racing and rally cars, together with an interest in Karting, which gave John a start towards participating in the European Touring Car Championships and Le Mans. Endurance racing became John’s speciality. “My first real job materialised when the Army were recruiting prospective engineers for the R.E.M.E.” John signed up and was posted to the Vehicle Research and Development Establishment at Chobham. His primary activity was the disassembly of Tanks and the writing of Workshop Manuals for their maintenance. His ‘sports’ activity was promoting, with a friend, Prince Michael of Kent, the British Army Motor Association.

Under the BAMA, they reconditioned and souped-up touring cars, resulting in the Prince’s competing in the 1970 London to Mexico, 16000 mile Car Rally.

Unfortunately Prince Michael, with two other Captains, in their Austin Maxi, didn't manage to go all the way, having broken down in South America. After a 9 year career in the Army, a lucky break introduced our speaker to Robert Cooper, the owner of thirteen classic cars, who was interested, with others, in reconditioning and rebuilding his cars for competition and rallies. In the 1970's, restoring such cars was a popular and widespread activity. The lightweight and more powerful engines, newly available, improved racing times and intensified the competition. John identified a market for restoring cars and set up his own factory in Aldbourne, employing enthusiastic engineers to do the work. Chassis were redesigned in tubular aluminium. Body fairings were hand rolled to aerodynamic shapes and engines tweaked, all to win accolades and prizes. A memorable rebuild was an Aston - Martin DBR1 which John himself drove at Le Mans. In '72 they had a success in the British Saloon Car Championships and in '73 British cars took 1st, 2nd and 3rd. in the German Touring Car Championships. An ex-Jim Clark, Lotus 23B, rebuilt, took pole position at Silverstone. During Close Racing in 1978 cars from John's workshop entered 17 races and won 16 of them. A wrecked Maserati 250S, found in France and purchased for £2000, when restored was sold for £110,000, but recently auctioned for £750K. Many of the cars which passed through John's workshop feature in Michael Bowler's book "Classic Cars '45 Onwards" and many can also claim provenance with some of the greatest names of motor racing; Stirling Moss, Graham Hill, Fangio, Jochen Rindt, James Hunt and others. It's always interesting to hear from a person who has cut his own path and has thoroughly enjoyed his working career. John certainly demonstrates this.

On Monday the 24th of this Month, Five of our members and their wives joined Les Walker and the Highworth Probus Club on a four-day coach trip to the Norfolk Broads. On the outward journey we visited Bressingham Gardens & Steam, day 2 - Norwich Cathedral and the Sheringham/Holt Railway, day 3 - the Broads at Wroxham for a boat trip, and, in the afternoon, Blickling Hall, once the home of the Boleyn's and currently housing the RAF museum of Oulton airfield. On the return journey we stopped off in Cambridge where members were given a tour of the world-famous King's College Chapel and took a pleasant walk in the College grounds. Congratulations to Les of the Highworth Club on a well-organised trip.

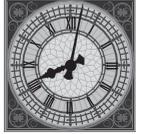
BOB STEVENS

Cricklade Revealed Extra Index Book Three - Coming Soon!

Available later this year, Cricklade Revealed Extra Index Book Three is the first Extra book to cover the Second World War period in this area, adding more insight into the stories contained in Parts 4 – 7 of the main series. Read all about the Royal Engineer who was billeted in dog kennels, the Royal Canadian airman's first impressions of Cricklade, the build up to D-Day, evacuees' memories, and much more!

Proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to Cricklade Open Door.

After 8



We held our Summer Social held at Helen's in July, here's a selection of one liners from some of our members who attended:

"Slightly cooler, great selection of meats and vegetarian option cooked by Helen outdoors, eaten indoors."

"Lovely, food sharing table! Good company."

"Yummy salads and puds. Good food and good company."

"Wide ranging discussions... from Internet providers to garden produce, rail fares to health, holidays to roadworks."

"Tasty salads and tempting puds."

"Good friendship and a delicious variety of food (provided by the members) - can't beat that."

"Some wonderful deserts including one of my favourites , Summer Pudding yum!"

"We swapped recipes and stories and of course discussed the weather."

"Relaxed atmosphere, lively chat, lovely food."

"Looking forward to next year."

Next meeting 29 September at Eileen's. Planning followed by Food and Drink Treasure Trail. Don't forget to bring clues.

Knit-A-Square (KAS) & Mama Ntombi's Community Projects (MNCP)

It's been a while since I updated you about the two South African charities we support so here's what has been happening so far this year.

Two shipments of knitted and crocheted items have been sent, one in January and the second in April at a cost of £800. Eleven tea chests of items went to Knit-a-Square and Eight tea chests to Mama Ntombi's Community Projects. I am in the process of packing tea chests for another shipment due to go next month.

If anyone is interested in making items to be sent to South African orphans and Gogo's (grandmothers) who raise their orphaned grandchildren. The items most needed at present are;

8 inch knitted or crocheted squares.

Knitted or crocheted blankets size 40 inches x 56 inches.

Hand warmers (not gloves or mittens) to fit children aged 3-9 years.

Navy blue scarves 8 inches x 40 inches.

Hats to fit children and adults.

Jumpers for ages 3-9 years.

Cuddly toys.

I have patterns for all these items, please contact me on 772558 for more information. We will be fundraising towards future shipment costs at the Silver Threads Table Top sale on Saturday 11 November. Hope to see you there, thank you for your continuing support.

LOUISE TIDMAN