

Purton Magazine



August 2004

40p

LOCAL CHURCHES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Vicar: Rev Jane Haslam, The Vicarage, 2 Kingsacre, Hyde Lane,
Purton tel 770210 email: jane.haslam@virgin.net
www.communitagate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton

Hon. Asst. Priest: Rev Michael Haslam

Churchwardens: Gladys Legg – 770375
Graham Quincey – 772563

Secretary: Sheila Fowler – 770970

Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion
10.30am United Junior Church (except 1st Sunday)
10.30am 1st Sunday: Family Service - all ages welcome
6.30pm Evensong

METHODIST CHURCHES

Ministers Rev Jan Partridge (Purton) tel 534992
32 Bodiam Drive, Swindon, SN5 8BE

Rev Stephen Cullis (Purton Stoke, Braydon, Leigh)
tel 853197

1, Garraways, Woodshaw, Wootton Bassett, SN4 8LT

PURTON

Sundays

10.30am Morning Worship
10.30am United Junior Church
(except 1st Sunday)

PURTON STOKE

Sundays

10.15am Sunday School
11.00am Morning Worship

BRAYDON

Sundays

6.00pm Evening Worship

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, WOOTTON BASSETT

Parish Priest Father J Reville tel 852366

Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Wootton Bassett

Saturdays

6.00pm First Mass of Sunday

For times of weekday services
please see Church notice board

Sundays

10.00am Mass

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

Priest Father Patrick Eastman tel 01285 712586

St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade

Holy Days

7.00pm Mass

Sundays

9.30am Mass

From the Editor

Did you know that this magazine is good for your health? You will find one comment to that effect in this month's issue along with several more reasons why so many of us enjoy living in Purton.

But first, there is a very interesting piece about Parish Councils. The Chairman of Purton Parish Council highlights that his team needs some more volunteers. Just about a couple of hours a week are needed and if the number of Councillors continues to decline, we will be at risk of losing control of our local affairs. With the next stage in the strategic planning process due early in September, we might only have ourselves to blame.

In recent months there has not been any space left on this page to point out the latest creations from Andy Le Poidevin that provide our wonderful front covers. This month's illustration is no exception and it is known that many villagers are eagerly anticipating the auction of all 12 original watercolour paintings at the Purton Artists' Exhibition in November.

The rain from the dark cloud that tried unsuccessfully to dampen the Carnival might have had a later silver lining for the 34 Purton properties whose gardeners opened their gates for Purton in Bloom and we look forward to a report in next month's magazine.

We have received a letter thanking several in our community "for making Purton such a blooming lovely place to live" from someone who has never felt more proud of living here in over three decades. Another reader's letter all the way from Western Australia tells us that part of her heart belongs to Purton, especially as she went to school at St. Mary's; a timely reminder to the many of us who are concerned by recent events at that school.

The children from the last Class 9 at St. Mary's school write to tell us that they found that dog mess made it thoroughly unpleasant to walk along our pavements during geography fieldwork and even found more dog mess on their field on sports day. They ask all Purton dog owners to be more responsible for their pets.

Again we are pleased to confirm that all contributions to this magazine are welcome but we can only accept material with the contributor's name and address being supplied, although those personal details can be withheld from publication if requested. This is your magazine and we need your comments, either to publish for everyone to read or privately to help us improve what we do.

Finally, let us explain how reading this magazine might be good for your health. This month we learn about someone who recently recovered from a serious illness, spurred on by the thoughts of what one of our chief contributors might have written about him in these pages if he had not pulled through. The power of a Purton reporter!

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Purton
Magazine

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From The Vicar:

Two tigers

An old man said to his son, "I have two tigers fighting in my heart. One is angry and vengeful, the other is peaceful and forgiving."

His son asked, "Which tiger will win?" The old man replied, "Whichever one I feed."

I imagine there are few of us who could say that we have never known what it feels like to have those two tigers fighting inside us!

Our choices

What is startling about this tale is that it doesn't say there's anything wrong with feeling like this. We all have times when we feel pulled in two directions. What really matters is what we do about it. And the choice really is down to us. Only we can decide which tiger we'll feed. It just won't do to absolve ourselves of all responsibility for how we might feel and what we might do.

Beware the trap

If we chose to feed the angry and vengeful tiger then it's that one that we allow to win. And you can imagine what sort of person that will make us. Do we really want to be seen by others as angry and vengeful? Because that is what may well happen if we feed the wrong tiger. We may be able to hide it most of the time but the tiger will slip his leash at least occasionally.

Wisdom

On the other hand, whilst being honest about how we might feel hurt, disappointed or upset we can chose the wise path. We can chose not to feed those negative feelings but to feed the peaceful and forgiving tiger. This is not a pathetic thing to do. It takes wisdom, courage and strength. And the results can be astounding. Not only can our lives become more peaceful but, in forgiving others, we give others a chance to live more peaceful lives as we call a halt to the anger and vengeance that exist between us.

Which tiger are you feeding?

Consider your life. Are you feeding an angry tiger at the moment? Are you happy about that? Do you see it getting you anywhere or can you see how it may just lead to unhappiness for you and for others? Why not try feeding the peaceful and forgiving tiger for a while. Imagine a world where we all allowed that one to win!

JANE HASLAM



St. Mary's Church was floodlit on **30th July** in memory of
Albert Parkinson on the occasion of his birthday.
Dearly loved and sadly missed Husband, Dad and Grandad.

Purton Luncheon Club

Purton Luncheon Club has provided freshly cooked meals for the over-sixties at the Silver Threads Hall every Tuesday and Thursday since the 1960s. The same meals were also sent out to those unable to get to the hall.

Then, in 2001, Wiltshire County Council decided to award the contract for providing Meals on Wheels in the whole of Wiltshire to the commercial caterer, Sodexho. That company now also provides the meals for our schools, prisons, armed services and many hospitals. WRVS knew it was vital for the welfare of the housebound to maintain the system of regular home visits by local people, so cooperated with Sodexho to deliver Sodexho meals. From September, 2001, meals were cooked and deep frozen in Abertillery, sent to Corsham where they were reheated and delivered to various WRVS locations around the county, including Purton, for local WRVS members to take to those who needed them.

We made the system work but while we recognised that Sodexho could provide hot meals every day of the year (which local volunteers could never match) we also noted that the numbers requiring meals in Purton gradually fell from 18 pre-Sodexho to just 1 today.

Now an even sadder change, but one many of us foretold, has happened. Although Sodexho is paid £5.40 for each meal at present (£2.25 from the client, £3.15 from Wilts CC), the company felt unable to give WRVS enough money to cover its costs, resulting in the charity actually losing money. So from July 1st, Wilts WRVS withdrew from the contract with Sodexho. Thus local contact with housebound people in Wiltshire ceased and Sodexho drivers from Corsham, with huge rounds, deliver Sodexho meals.

If this pattern is repeated throughout the UK one can imagine the harm done to the voluntary principle the government said it was keen to encourage. It is also feared that some housebound people will suffer if cut off from local news, chat and well-known faces. Happily for Purtonians, our Luncheon Club continues to thrive, its volunteer cooks and drivers helping to ensure that more active older people can meet for a freshly cooked hot meal and good conversation.

As Sodexho has now completely taken over Meals on Wheels in Purton, we would like to thank all those who have been helpers, several for well over twenty years. It is almost invidious to name names, as so many have retired earlier after many years of service, but Margaret Gregory, Edna Shimmings, Alison and Keith Instone, Brian Broad, Madeleine Harvey, Des May and Rosemary Hicks deserve our thanks for coping with all the upheavals of the past four years. Several of these are now retiring but others have said they will continue to help by driving people to Luncheon Club. We are very grateful for this as then our longest serving driver, Stan Leach, will be able to give up in August, when he will be 84. If one or two more people could volunteer to drive for Luncheon Club that would mean a commitment of just one lunchtime per month for each driver on a Tuesday or Thursday.

WRVS is thanking all Meals on Wheels drivers in this area with a tea party in July at which the High Sheriff of Wiltshire will be present.

*ELIZABETH WARD
DIANA THOMBS*

Purton Evening W.I.



It was a 'hands on' experience for our Japanese Culture evening at the June meeting, thanks to the group of Japanese ladies, many of whom are currently living in our village, who came along to demonstrate and guide us through many of their traditions.

We tasted rice dishes, a typical casserole and delicious soup, after hearing about the types of ingredients the Japanese use. No *FAT* – no wonder the ladies are also slim! We had the chance to enjoy the 'Tea Ceremony', making the green tea ourselves and sampling rice sweetmeats with it.

Then it was time to try Japanese writing, with a brush and ink, and to make some of the origami paper items – flowers, pretty boxes, birds and stars. Finally was the fun of being dressed in a kimono, tightly tied round the waist with a beautiful sash. Many photographs were taken to prove how elegant we looked and for the scrapbook. It was such a happy evening, no language difficulties, and we hope the Japanese ladies enjoyed sharing their cultures with us as much as we enjoyed trying and sampling.

In August, members will enjoy an evening mystery tour with supper included. Our September meeting will be a members' social evening when we entertain ourselves, an informal meeting and visitors will be very welcome. Come and meet us at the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th September at 7.30pm and see what we have to offer you.

MAUREEN QUINCEY



The ladies in kimonos



Purton Museum - Exhibit Of The Month

The Playclose Harmonium

This harmonium was donated to the Museum by Mrs D. Eatwell and Mr L. Kirkley. It had been purchased by Mr Kirkley's great-grandfather for the Playclose Methodist Chapel where it was used for many years.

Before the days of electronic keyboards and with full organs prohibitively expensive, the harmonium was the mainstay of hymn singing in small, mainly non-conformist*, chapels throughout the country.

They were completely self-contained and played and pumped by a single person. At the bottom of the instrument you can see two broad pedals used for keeping up the air pressure in the air chamber which is in the harmonium's body. While pedalling, the organist played the keyboard just like a small piano keyboard - there was little need to have special training for the harmonium if you could already play the piano. Indeed, before television, many families' chief entertainment was the piano.

Above the keyboard, the row of white blobs is the organ stops. These open up extra music pipes in the case to allow special musical effects: violin, trumpet etc. Some of the stops even sound similar to the instruments they are supposed to represent!

My grandfather was "organist" - really harmonium player - at the Shrewsbury Street Primitive Wesleyan chapel in Glossop in Derbyshire and also had one of his own at home which grandma was more likely to play. That harmonium also had wooden bars on either side of a footwell which were used to give a louder note, or swell, when pressed with the outside of the knees - while still pedalling. It could be the musical equivalent of a full gym work-out!

Purton Museum is above the Public Library at 1 High Street and is also open during Library hours, that is: Tues 2-5 and 6-8 pm; Wed 10-1 and 2-5; Fri 2-5 and 6-8. Assisted and group visits can be arranged by phoning the Curator, Nigel Manfield by emailing curator@purtonmuseum.com. Alternatively you can visit us anytime on-line at www.purtonmuseum.com which includes Museum and Purton Historical Society news, events and information on the collection as well as the Exhibit of the Month.

RICK DIXON
Outreach Officer

* On a recent holiday in Menorca, we were surprised to see a harmonium tucked away in a back room in the Monastery of Monte el Torro!

Cenotaph Water

The water is now laid on at the Cenotaph so very many thanks to all you kind people who gave us donations towards this project. Special thanks to P.E.S.T., Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion, Purton Parish Council, North Wilts District Council's Area 2 Committee (chaired by Councillor Helen Dixon), and to Paul, from P.E.S.T., for doing all the pipe work. It was a great effort from all concerned. If we ever needed a boost, we certainly got that – we were overwhelmed with your kindness.

TONY PRICE

on behalf of the Cenotaph working party

Dial a Ride

The Dial a Ride service was set up to provide specialist transport for people with physical and learning disabilities within the Swindon Borough Council area. Many of the drivers are unpaid volunteers. Just over 3 years ago this service was extended to Lydiard and Purton with funding from Swindon Borough Council and the Countryside Agency.

Unfortunately funding from the Countryside Agency ceased at the end of March. The 39 registered users were recently informed that as no other funding had been found to supplement the funding from Swindon Borough Council the service would cease at the end of July. This is a crucial service as the users are unable to use public transport or taxis to access medical treatment, education or a simple shopping trip that the able bodied amongst us would take for granted!

I would like to thank those businesses and associations within Purton and Lydiard who have responded to our plea for help. Within a matter of days we have raised £500 in cash (as well gifts in kind) and Purton Parish Council have agreed to contribute £1000. Lydiard Parish Council have also been very positive and will discuss funding at their next meeting. This has provided us with a short term rescue package which means that the service can be extended until the end of September. However the medium and long term prospects are unclear.

My personal view is that a group of people who are already disadvantaged should not have to punt around for grants every couple of years. To this end I feel that Wiltshire County Council, North Wiltshire District Council and our respective Parish Councils should be in a position to precept for a proportion of the £7,000 required per year with possible business sponsorship making up any shortfall. This is the long term solution but if any individual, association or business feels they can contribute now with folding money (but we will take cheques!) or contributions in kind to be used now at fundraising events (with loads of publicity!) I would be extremely grateful.

Many thanks

HELEN DIXON – NWDC Councillor for Purton

Tel No 01793 770412

E mail: hdixon@northwilts.gov.uk

STOP PRESS... Dial a Ride Coffee Morning at Horseshoes, 32 Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent on Tuesday 24 August, 10.30am till 12.30pm. Tickets price £1.00 from Mollie Groom.

!PLANNING ALERT!

A Joint Update from Ps and Qs and the Parish Council “Deciding Tomorrow, Today”

The future shape and growth of Purton, Purton Stoke and Braydon is decided by North Wilts District Council via the Local Plan, which itself is part of the overall Structure Plan for Swindon and Wiltshire. The new Local Plan is being developed now. Several proposed development sites have been put forward by developers and landowners. Currently, the Parish Council has decided that there should be no further development. At the public inquiry to be held next year there may well be increased pressure for the Plan to adopt at least some of the development sites.

Ps and Qs and the Parish Council have adopted the strategy that it would be prudent to be prepared for the situation where development might be minded to be included in the Plan. Assessing the potential for any development in the communities and assessing the merits of individual sites is a complex business. Our general strategy has been to work initially with representatives from partner organisations in the villages and interested individuals to develop awareness of the issues involved in site selection for development. The representatives would then report back to their organisations with the intention that there would be a multiplier effect in spreading the word. Subsequent meetings would be open to everyone. In this way we hope to engage as many people as possible in the process. All this activity would continue during the next few weeks culminating in a Village Open Meeting in October, which would put the nuts and bolts of the case together for what a Future Purton, Purton Stoke and Braydon could look like.

The First Meeting took place on 23 June 2004 and was attended by representatives from 15 village organisations, groups and several individuals. At the meeting, some preliminary thinking was done on the kinds of effects that development could have on the villages and on the factors that might vary according to the location of a development. All the outcomes of the meeting, plus other background information, can be downloaded from a dedicated page on the Ps and Qs web site (www.purtoninfo.org.uk). If your organisation is not yet represented or if you do not have internet access please contact Richard Pagett (771867) or Shirley Bevington (771066) and the information can be copied for you.

The dates of the next two meetings (both at 7.30pm) will be:

- Thursday 9 September, and
- Thursday 28 October (venues to be announced nearer the time)

CONTACT:

Ps and Qs (771867) advice@purtoninfo.org.uk
Parish Council (771066) clerk@purtonparishcouncil.fsnet.co.uk

Good News - *Valuing Our Village*



My first encounter with Purton was 20 years ago when I sang in a local band at the Village Hall. I distinctly remember thinking what a pretty place Purton was, and so full of character. I still recall in my mind's eye the impression made by the trees on the road coming into the village from St. Mary's. Now we have been living here for nearly two years. When we arrived, after living in Swindon town centre for a long time, being in Purton felt as if we were on holiday. There was the huge sky, black enough to see stars in; the sweet smell of the fresh country air; strange noises that turned out to be a herd of cows munching grass in unison in the field next to us, hidden by a hedge!

Then the *Ps and Qs Planning Alert* landed on the doorstep. Now one set of concerns was swapped for another. Where previously they had been about noise from a nearby bed-sit house or the traffic fumes the baby was breathing in, now the worry was that our new-found idyll may be concreted over and populated by executive homes. I went to the *Planning Alert* event, asked if I could be of any help, and was invited to the next meeting, giving the lie to the myth that you have to be in a village for 25 years before being involved in local issues! My initial concern at the *Planning Alert* has turned to the realisation that vigilance and making one's views known to the right people at the right time is more useful.

Valuing our village – it's a wonderful place with a strong identity and community feel. A friend of mine who grew up here described it to me as paradisiacal Purton.

By Jane Stephens of Ps and Qs

Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities

Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities

New members are always welcome

Contact: Jane Smith or Jacqui Lay

or via our web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk

Purton Bowls Club



Our ladies have reached the final of the EWBA Top Club Trophy and travel to Box for this match. If they win through they will represent our county in the regional play offs.

Our men's triple teams continue to progress to the last 16 in the county. We are keeping our fingers crossed in the hope of another visit to Worthing for the All England Finals.

Our busy programme continues with league and friendly matches; the one we look forward to is a visit to Windsor Great Park on Sunday 15th August.

On Sunday 22nd August we host the Wiltshire Mixed Triples Gala.

SID WALKER

The Lydiards Twinning Association

After a most enjoyable D. Day week-end in Normandie, we are looking forward to the rest of our engagements for this year, including:



Sat 31st July	Barbecue and Balloon Race at Hook Farm.
Thurs 16th September	General Meeting and Quiz at The Suffolk Arms, Brinkworth.
Thurs 7th October	Harvest Supper at Hook Village Hall.
Tues 25th November	General Meeting at Lydiard Millicent Village Hall with guest speaker Nigel Sharp on Musical Memories.
Thurs 16th December	Christmas Social at Lydiard Millicent Village Hall.

We welcome visitors. Why don't you come along and introduce yourself, or phone our Chairman Bob Penfold for more details?

JOHN WHITTAKER

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

It was the first wet evening for some considerable time on the night of our June gardening meeting. The only consolation was that the gardens needed the rain badly, everything was looking very dry and parched.



Mr M Cragg-Barber gave a slide show and talk on "Oddities". He is a professional gardener living in Hullavington and studies Plant Teratology. This is different shapes, colours and mutations of plants. When he finds a different mutation Mr Cragg-Barber takes photographs and seeds or cuttings and endeavours to duplicate them. It is very rewarding and he is in touch with people not only in England but all over the world who do this. In fact the Japanese have white and red dandelions. White flowers are mutations of coloured flower forms and there are lots of different sorts of white. When asked how many different plants he had in his garden he said 700 to 1,000. Mr Cragg-Barber was a very knowledgeable man and we would like to thank Malmesbury Garden Centre for sponsoring his visit.

"Tending a garden is an act of worship as you do most of it on your knees."

Jill Herbert proposed a vote of thanks.

Competition winners – Subject: *An Old Garden Tool*

1st: Mary Jones (No, I was not the old garden tool!!)

2nd: Henry Fimmers 3rd: Betty Bunce

Raffle winners Judy Preddy Marion New Sheila Webb Val Hunt

Our next meeting will be on 24th August 2004 at the Silver Threads Hall, 7.30pm, speaker Mrs M Morris – "Climbers & Wall Plants". Competition: *Selection of 3 Vegetables*.

MARY JONES, Secretary

Purton And District Age Concern



Well what a fantastic month we have had in Age Concern. Last month I wrote in the magazine that we needed a street warden for Restrop View. Lo and behold, I had a phone call from Emma Hayden, who wanted to know all about the job and what it entailed. After a chat, she very kindly said she would do it. We feel very honoured and privileged to have someone of Emma's standing come and join us and, being so much younger, it is people like this that should stand Age Concern in good stead for the future. So many thanks Emma, I sincerely hope you enjoy being a street warden and find it rewarding.

I would like to thank Sylvia Freemantle, our retiring street warden in Restrop View, for all her hard work and devotion. She has done an excellent job, under difficult circumstances after moving to the High Street, and, when she worked at the Cedars, she was always a great help to Age Concern. So thank you Sylvia, we really appreciate all you have done for us.

We have had our coffee morning at Bentham, the homes of John Bryant and Phil and Joyce Bryant (they live next door to one another). This now seems to be an annual event and long may it last. It is always such a lovely atmosphere, with such generous hospitality and friendship. It is easy to see why we enjoy it so much, especially as we have so little to do. Joyce, Phil and John asked their friends for help, and that was it. I am frightened to mention individuals in case I leave anyone out. It was a great morning and we are so lucky that our hosts are so popular and well liked, and you will see what I mean when I tell you that we made a grand profit of £537.52. Our treasurer, Bernice, just couldn't believe it. She counted the money four times and, in the end, she got husband Dave to check it and, of course, it was right. So our grateful thanks to our hosts and all their friends, whether helping or spending, it was a great morning.

Another lovely surprise was to receive a cheque from the Angel Hotel. It was the result of a social evening they had to celebrate the re-opening of their function room upstairs – what we used to know as the dance hall. That used to be the 'in place' on Saturday evenings in the 1950s. My word, it's a bit different now – very nice I must say. Our thanks go to the hosts at the Angel – Cathy, Tommy and family, along with Bobby Paul, who provided the entertainment, and all the other people who contributed in one way and another. It was a lovely surprise, and to be coupled with the Prospect Hospice is an honour. We shared the proceeds and each received a cheque for £169 – a marvellous total. It is so nice to see the Angel buzzing again, with good food and an excellent pint of beer, so well done Tommy and Cathy.

Life's full of lovely surprises in Age Concern. Sid Walker goes to the tea dances at Wootton Bassett. They get a surplus of funds every so often and they ask members to nominate a charity to give the money to. Sid recommended us, so many thanks Sid, may you continue to enjoy your dancing – we are very grateful for the £100 cheque.

Keith and June Mobey celebrated their golden wedding and they didn't want

presents, but suggested if people wanted to, they could give a donation to Age Concern. So our grateful thanks to them for that, and, may I add, what an asset they have been to our village since moving in some years ago.

Finally, many thanks to Purton Parish Council for what is becoming an annual thing. They gave us a cheque for £250 towards our running costs. When you get something yearly, you tend to take it for granted, but I can assure you we don't. It is greatly appreciated. So once again, many thanks to my fellow councillors. While talking about councillors, do you know we are six councillors short of the fifteen we require, or we will be in September. There must be a lot of people in Purton who really care about our village, so why not think about it. Any councillor will only be too pleased to have a chat with you about what it entails, or you could give Shirley Bevington, our Parish Clerk, a ring on 771066.

All the elderly have been asked if they would like a second smoke alarm. If you have slipped through the net, tell your street warden. The fire service will be fitting these alarms at no cost to anyone and they will fit them in the right place. These smoke alarms are better ones than we supply – the batteries last for ten years – so our thanks to the fire service for their kindness.

We are very concerned about the withdrawal of the Thamesdown Dial a Ride service from Purton and Lydiard. This is a service that means so much to many. If we were to take on their work, we would need another minibus, and, of course, the people to man it, because we are struggling ourselves for drivers. (Here again, there must be somebody out there who could help us out. Ring me if you are interested.) *[Ed: see article on page 13]*

A couple of dates to look forward to – on Wednesday 4th August we are running our outing to Weston, starting at 9.30 am., straight there, returning from Weston at 6.30 pm., straight home and arriving back about 8.0 pm. This is open to anyone – if you haven't booked, there might be room – give me a ring. The cost is £9.50 for adults, £6.50 for children and OAPs. This is subsidised for the elderly by Debbie Ansell in memory of her nan, Annie Bunce. The next date is our mystery tour on Wednesday 1st September, starting at 2.00pm. with tea provided, cost £9. Numbers should be in to your street wardens by Saturday 21st August.

We shall be distributing leaflets about breast screening in the near future. I am sure most of the ladies reading this know that breast screening is available free for all women aged 50 and over. At the moment they invite all women aged between 50 and 64 for breast screening. From the end of 2004, the service will be extended to cover women up to and including the age of 70. If you are aged over 70, you will not automatically be invited for breast screening, however, you do have the right to be screened every three years if you ask. You need to phone or write to your local breast screening unit. NHS Direct (0845 46 47) will tell you how to contact them and I am sure you will find these leaflets helpful and informative.

Congratulations to Ian and Ruth Derham for making such a lovely job of returning the former paper shop to a house. It looks very nice indeed and is very similar to what it used to look like when the Wheelers lived there. I think the Registrars' Office was on the left of the front door as you look at the building and it had a separate entrance if my memory serves me right.

I must add that our monthly meeting in July was most enjoyable. Albert and Dorothy Sutton gave us two bottles of home made wine for the committee to enjoy and very good wine it was too. I made sure we kept it until after the meeting, as who knows what might have happened if we had had it before! So thanks Albert and Dorothy, it was a very nice gesture.

I see that, in last month's magazine, a few people were complaining about the magazine coming out too early. It makes me wonder what difference it makes, as long as it's not too late. I know it is beneficial to us when it comes out early, as it gives people a better chance to see the early diary dates. I think the magazine committee do an excellent job and people can always keep their magazine and open it on the first of the month.

It has been made clear on many occasions, in the magazine, that anyone can write an article and submit it. I don't know of anyone who has been refused. The reason I am stating this is because I feel very saddened for the person who sent me an anonymous letter complaining that I hadn't written about a certain person who had died. As I have said before, I am not the official obituary writer for Purton. I only write about who and what I know. To write about people you don't know is very dangerous, especially if you get the facts wrong. I don't normally take any notice of anonymous letters as I feel that they are not worth the paper they are written on. Anyone who feels strongly about something should have the courage to put their name at the bottom. I feel the same about any correspondence without a signature or address. Why I feel saddened for this person, wouldn't it have been better if they had written an article for the magazine about the person who had died, instead of wasting their time writing to me? Don't forget, anyone can write in this magazine – it isn't a closed shop.

I have to close by saying that I don't know whether it is a good thing to know me or not, because Sheila spoke to a gentleman who had been seriously ill and has thankfully recovered. She was asking him about his health and he said that the only thing that brought him back from the brink was the thought of what I might write about him in the magazine!

TONY PRICE

Fire Safety Advice – Cigarettes

Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette

- Take extra care smoking if you're drowsy, taking prescription drugs or if you have been drinking. Its too easy to fall asleep and not notice that a cigarette is still burning.
- Don't smoke in bed. It's too easy to fall asleep and set bedding on fire.
- Always use proper ashtrays.
- Make sure when you put out a cigarette, it really is out.
- Take responsibility and keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

It's hotter than you think – cigarettes can burn at temperatures of over 700°C.

1st Purton & Lydiard Cub Scouts



Cub Scouts from three Cub Packs enjoyed a busy weekend away together in July.

Saturday saw us opening and closing the lock gates along the Kennet and Avon Canal and chatting with the owners of the traditionally decorated narrow boats as we helped them on their way. First stop for one group was Crofton Beam Engines, (while the other group went across country to Wilton) where we marvelled at the ancient machinery and picked up some fascinating facts from the enthusiastic engineer. After lunch here we continued on to Wilton Windmill.

We climbed to the top of the mill and watched the cap, from inside, slowly rotating in the strong wind. We tried our hand at grinding some wheat on a small grindstone and collected our flour, and more fascinating facts about a traditional occupation and machinery. After ice creams it was back across the fields to camp.



Sunday morning breakfast was not quite as early as the previous

day! Rain was due in the afternoon, so the tents were packed up, then activities on an American theme, since it was 4th July, American Independence Day, swung into action, involving tepees, do-nuts, horseshoes, maps of America, firelighting and cooking.

At 4 o'clock, 28 tired Cubs departed for home.

Purton Camp Leaders:

*Alison Benney, Sandra Horsnall, Adam Prowse,
Andrew Tedstone, Howard and Mary Smith*

A long week ago, our cubs from Purton went to Burbage to set up a camp for the next two days. Most cubs liked the food [supper, lunch, breakfast and dinner], a burger for supper, for lunch they had a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a chocolate bar and a packet of crisps. We set up the tents which took us over a whole hour. That night we went on a little night hike and went over the corn fields then came back and set up the sleeping bags for the night and went to bed.

The next day the cubs woke up had breakfast and then dashed out on a really really long walk that was fun but tiring. On that walk they went to the windmill and the beam engines then later on that night they had a camp fire and songs then they went to sleep. When they woke up in the morning they had breakfast then packed up and went home with pains in their legs from the big walk.

MORGAN & OLIVER SELWOOD

Purton Guide Dog Appeal

Our Spring Jumble Sale made £207.92 - a really worthwhile amount. On 12th June we did a stall at Bremhill Fete & Dog Show (near Calne) and took £112.98. It was a lovely day and the organiser placed us very near the dog area which always proves beneficial. Several people asked us questions about puppy walking, the "cost" of a Guide Dog and how they were trained - all good for P.R.



On 17th June we had a combined Cricklade Band Concert and Handover Evening. The band are incredible. Their talents are amazing and they have to be seen and heard to be believed. We presented GDBA with another £2,500 and the dog on the photograph we received was named Jazz - the name chosen by the band. Our local MP, James Gray, called in and was most surprised to see 13 photographs already in the Village Hall. He was interested in the various ways we had raised the money. Two collecting boxes were emptied last month - Bassett Pets' held £9.31 and the Punnett's £6.31.

We had a stall at the Carnival Fete and despite the poor weather, took £34.34. What did you think of the new venue? Another large load of compressed foil to Holland Handling yielded £78 and this brings our new total to £744.26. There is no event planned in the village in August, but we're having a stall at Broadtown Show on Sunday 22nd August.

VAL DAVIES
Purton Support Group

Talent Time

Purton Helping Hand Carnival is continuing its celebrations with a Talent Evening on Thursday 7 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. It is open to amateur and semi-professionals, whether you are a musician, singer, comedian, juggler etc (no fire eaters though – the Village Hall wants to keep its curtains!). It is not restricted to those living in Purton. There are classes for Under 16 and over 16 and entries can be solo or groups of people.

This event is being sponsored by Toomers Garden Centre and the first prize in each class is £25, plus a trophy to keep, and consolation prizes for second and third. The winners will be selected for their entertainment value. If you are interested in taking part please call Lynda Warren for an entry form.

Admission tickets are also on sale at £2 a person and there will also be a licensed bar and raffle. Last year's event was well attended and proved a really enjoyable evening, even the audience joined in with a sing along of popular music at the end of the evening. Seats are limited so make sure you don't miss out. Tickets are available from Lynda Warren and it is hoped nearer the time they will be available in a couple of local shops.

Distributor Wanted!

Purton Magazine needs a new distributor for The Hyde/Hyde Lane area
– please contact Jacqui or Avril via 772954 –

PURTON PLACARD

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

The Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion Annual Open Horticultural Show



to be held at The Red House Club on Saturday August 21
The committee will welcome your entries at The Red House Club
Purton on the evening of Thursday August 19. On the day staging
will be from 9-11a.m. and we are open to the public 2-7.30p.m.
There will be an auction of exhibits at 7.45p.m. We hope to see you there!!

PURTON HELPING HAND ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 11th August
10.30am to noon
at "Quarrydene" Residential
Home, Pavenhill

FREE Bouncy Castle
Numerous Stalls
Tombola – Raffle
Admission 50p

Minibus Available
Contact Pauline

Purton Silver Threads JUMBLE SALE

Sat 7 Aug – 2 pm
SILVER THREADS HALL

Raffle – Refreshments
Admission FREE

Purton House Organic Farm

**OPEN DAY &
FARMERS' MARKET
Sunday 5th September
11-4pm**

MANY ATTRACTIONS

Including Scrubditch Real Meats, Purely Organics
trout & watercress, Brookapple farm cider & perry,
Purton House organic veg, fruit & beef.
FARM WALK/TRACTOR RIDE, treasure hunt &
archery.

**LIVE MUSIC & BOUNCY CASTLE
& FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

**HOT HOME MADE SOUPS AND BARBECUE
COME AND WALK ROUND THE FARM & SEE THE
ANIMALS. SEE WHERE YOUR VEGETABLES ARE
GROWN AND EGGS ARE LAID.**

CHURCH END, PURTON, Nr SWINDON WILTS. Tel 01793 772287
www.purton-house.co.uk

3rd Purton Pram/Barrow Race

Sunday 12th September 2004 – *Starting 12.30 pm*

Can you survive the course!!

START & FINISH

at the Red House Playing Fields

Entry forms now available from:

Keith Taylor

Paul Clifford

The Spar, & Purton Pubs & Clubs



Followed by

lots of fun for all the family

BBQ/Bar/Bouncy Castle/Games etc

Raising money for a children's slide
on the playing field.

The Friends of Playclose Playgroup are holding a Race Night at the Red House on Sat. 25th September. More details will be available in the September edition but horses can be bought by contacting Sarah Webb.

We are sorry to disappoint so many people
who were looking forward to the visit of

Black Sea Don Cossacks Choir

St Mary's Church on Friday 17 September



This event has been

Cancelled

by the Choir, who will not now be performing in this country this year.
We will try to secure a visit next year.

Purton Diary Page – August 2004

August:

- | | | | |
|-------|----|---------|--|
| 1 | Su | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Mary's |
| | | 10.30am | Family Service at St Mary's - all welcome |
| | | 10.30am | Service at Playclose Methodist Church |
| | | 6.30pm | Evensong at St Mary's |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 3 | Tu | 2.00pm | Silver Threads Club - talk on Peacekeeping in Iraq |
| | | 6.30pm | Holy Communion at the Cedars |
| | | 7.30pm | Age Concern Committee meeting at Silver Threads Hall |
| 4 | W | 9.30am | Age Concern village outing to Weston |
| | | 10.00am | to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads |
| | | 7.30pm | RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train |
| 6 | F | 9.30am | Age Concern Concessionary coach to Swindon |
| 7 | Sa | 2.00pm | Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (for Silver Threads) |
| 8 | Su | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Mary's |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Communion at St Mary's |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Communion at Playclose Methodist Church |
| | | 1.30 pm | Parish Walk Leaving from Village Hall Car Park |
| | | 6.30pm | Evensong at St Mary's |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 10 | Tu | 10.00am | Purton Probus at the Red House |
| | | 11.00am | Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House |
| | | 7.30pm | Purton Yacht Club |
| 11 | W | 10.00am | to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads |
| | | 10.30am | to 12noon: Coffee Morning at Quarrydene in aid of Helping Hand |
| | | 7.30pm | RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train |
| 12 | Th | 10.30am | Songs of Praise at the Cedars |
| 15 | Su | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Mary's |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Communion at St Mary's |
| | | 10.30am | Service at Playclose Methodist Church |
| | | 6.30pm | Evensong at St Mary's |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 16 | M | 7.45pm | St Mary's Fellowship of Women |
| 17 | Tu | 11.30am | Holy Communion at White Lodge |
| | | 2.00pm | Silver Threads Club - Carousel Choir |
| | | 2.00pm | Holy Communion at Ashgrove House |
| | | 7.45pm | Royal British Legion at the Red House |
| 18 | W | 10.00am | to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads |
| | | 7.30pm | Evening W.I: Summer Evening Visit |
| | | 7.30pm | RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train |
| 19 | Th | 3.00pm | Holy Communion at Quarrydene |
-

21	Sa	2.00pm	to 7.30pm: Royal British Legion Horticultural Show at the Red House – auction at 7.45pm.
22	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Service at Playclose Methodist Church
		6.30pm	Evensong at St Mary's

23	M	7.30pm	Purton Helping Hand Club at Silver Threads Hall - new members welcome
24	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: speaker Mrs M Morris - Climbers & Wall Plants
25	W	10.00am	to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads
		7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train
29	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Service at Playclose Methodist Church
		6.30pm	Evensong at St Mary's

31	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club - Musical Companions
		6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars

September:

1 W 2.00pm Age Concern mystery tour with tea provided

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included, let us know:
Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill

St Mary's Church – Future Social Events 2004

Saturday 25 September Bazaar at the Village Hall

Saturday 2 October Harvest Supper at the Village Hall

Saturday 9 October Concert with Beth Godfrey at St Mary's Church

Friday 10 December at 7.30pm: Cantores Choir at St Mary's Church

August Fixtures at Purton Cricket Ground

Sunday August 1st	Lechlade	2.30pm
Saturday August 7th	2nd XI v Burbage and E.R.	1.30pm
Saturday August 14th	1st XI v Bath Civil Service	1.30pm
Sunday August 15th	Cricklade	2.30pm
Saturday August 21st	2nd XI v Swindon United Churches	1.30pm
Saturday August 28th	1st XI v Potterne	1.30pm
Sunday August 29th	Great Bedwyn	2.30pm

Perambulator



THE COW PARSLEY HAS FADED, the daffodils have died, the local meadows have been shorn of their grass to ensure winter feed for farmstock, about thirty beautiful looking horses have not ceased romping around Pavenhill and the hedgerows have lost the wonderful colours of their May blossom which gave such a lift to the spirits to behold; already we have had our first crop of broad beans, despite the invasion of blackfly, our peas are nearly ready, the potato patch is in flower and looks promising, fruit is forming on orchard trees and the pigeons are busy pecking at the berries on my neighbour's holly tree. In short, summer is in full swing as the brilliant colours of garden flowers abound and the roses in particular flourish their heavenly shapes, colours and scents as though made for no other purpose than to enlarge the world of human delight. What bounteous good fortune we enjoy in just being around to have such a full share of all the wonder of it all.

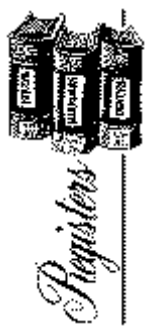
WHEN THE GROWING SEASON STARTED I decided to erect a scarecrow. But, I wondered, do they actually work? A friendly village fount-of-wisdom assured me they certainly did; but, she warned, it must have something loose on it, it is movement that scares birds. So I tied a couple of plastic shopping bags to the buttons of an old leather jacket which I draped on the shoulders of one of those horse things children play with, a head on a stick they hold between their legs as they gallop around. I also gave it an old pair of striped pyjama trousers and put a peaked cap on its head, hoping the birds would not notice anything untoward. Actually I had never made a scarecrow before and I was rather proud of my work. But I have to report that when a few days later I found all my little pea seedlings had been pecked to nothing I began to have my doubts, and then, one fine morning, when shaving at the bathroom window, I saw a huge blackbird actually sitting on the shoulder of my wonderful scarecrow!

HOW DO WE SEE THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME in Purton? Lots more houses? More shops? Have our own copper? Be just another part of Swindon? Or just stay like it is? These were some of the questions a very unusual meeting went for in the Silver Threads Hall on a cold, blustery, stormy June evening. Not just unusual, it could well prove of historic significance; for the first time in its history some Purton citizens met to discuss the planning options of the village future. There are three plans currently operating; one for North Wilts, one for Swindon and one for us – our community. We may not like what is happening to our village today, but some of it is the result of planning decisions taken as long as six years ago, so the plans now being talked about will decide how things will be six years ahead – and even very much longer.

Anyway this meeting was part of an ongoing exercise to alert people to what the planners are up to for Purton and to create an informed reaction to what is being proposed. If a large number of us can agree on how many more houses we should have in Purton for example; agree on where they should be built and

support our views with reasoned arguments, we are far more likely to influence the planners than if we just sit at home and grumble about what was decided years ago. There were representatives of over 15 village organisations in that Silver Threads meeting and now they will be reporting back to their members. I think something important is afoot here; watch out for the notices.

PITY ABOUT THE CARNIVAL WEATHER, months of hard work and then, on the great day, the rains came. But rain or not, for one day of the year people poured out to line the High Street and to indicate what a very large number of us actually live in our village. And the Parade? A grand effort, but surely first prize must have gone to the first float, the Play Close Play Group and its lavishly coloured and decorated truck, with banners and balloons aloft and masses of children in imaginative costumes and make-up, raising a cheer as they passed. After the end float had passed, just for a bit of exercise, I walked to the top of the parade as it continued to process, but some exercise! That marvellous Penhill British Legion brass band, leading the procession in their Royal Marine white sun helmets (£40 a time) and gold-braided uniforms, signalling days of glory and of the pomp and circumstance of imperial power and the majesty of empire suzerainty, now one with Stonehenge and the Pyramids, and with Nineveh and Tyre, did not seem to be marching at more than a modest pace; how could they, with all that banging and puffing and blowing on their instruments? But the gap between floats stretched out for a bit and it occurred to me that if the procession had halted at every pub on the route, just for a drop of refreshment like, so to speak, it would have enabled the rearguard to catch up. As I walked along under that heavy sky, like an enormous damp duvet hanging up there, I thought well, things could be worse, it could be pouring with rain. But then it did pour with rain. But fortunately only for a spell and then it held off, enabling young and old to enjoy one day of the year in fun and fairground frolic. I love carnivals and I love this particular one, it moves me to see the spirit of community alive in our village and the way so many people dedicate themselves to making a go of things. So never mind the rain Lynda and Pauline, and all those beautiful Committee Members who worked so hard to make it go. Next year it will be fine; this is your African Witch Doctor telling you! I promise!



From the Registers

<i>Baptisms:</i>	6 June	Samantha Kate Howse Kieren Luke Kirby
<i>Marriages:</i>	19 June	Duncan Robert Drewett and Verity Mary Scott
<i>Funerals:</i>	8 June	Margaret Belt (72)

Purton Historical Society

We had an enjoyable outing this summer, to Worcester. As usual Helen even arranged for good weather. Our thanks to Helen for all the organisation. With three different venues for us to visit, it still went like clockwork.

The walk around the area of Poulton was enjoyed by its participants; thanks to Andrew and Roy for organising it. As I was unable to go I have asked Marion to write a report.



Cogges Manor Farm Trip Wednesday, Sept. 8th There are still couple of places left for this trip. We are meeting at Cogges Manor Farm, Witney at 7.00p.m. I understand it is well sign posted. The cost will be £2.00 to the Society to cover the charge for a special guided visit and the entrance fee of adults £4.00 and seniors £2.85.

Practical Archaeology Course I have been sent details of a 5 day course to take place in September at Cranbourne Chase, Dorset. They include lectures, workshops and work on the actual dig. The price is £100 waged or £60 concessions. Phone me if you require further details or email m.bunyard@wessexarch.co.uk.

Cricklade Historical Society On Sunday 22nd August they are having a heritage walk to look at the sites discussed during their talk on Cricklade's Lost History, back in May. They will meet at the Town Hall car park at 2.00 p.m.

Autumn Course The subject for study this Autumn will be The French Revolution. It will run from 29th Sept. until 10th Nov. There will be no meeting on the 27th Nov.: more of that later. Meetings will be at St. Mary's Junior School Upper hall at 7.30 p.m., except for the meeting on 13th Oct., when it will be at Bradon Forest. Cost will be £15. For more details contact Julia Cook. We will see why the revolution broke out and look at the roles of some of the leading characters, such as Danton and Robespierre. We shall also see how a movement devoted to Liberty, Equality and Fraternity descended into Terror.

Paris Trip By now you should have all been notified of the visit to Paris to see some of the sites pertaining to the French Revolution. It is on Thurs. 28th Oct. to Sun. 31st Oct. We have asked Di Greenaway to organise it for us as she has the expertise in planning such visits. We will be staying in a 4-star hotel at Bougival for 2 of the nights, half board.

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Correction/Apology:

Iris Parsons has pointed out that the amount raised in memory of her husband, Ron, was £701.80 and not £401.80 as we reported in the July issue

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



All units helped with the mile of coins run by the Helping Hand Committee. The coins up at The Parade certainly stretched further than they have done in previous years, so hopefully a good result was achieved.

The following weekend Brownies from 1st Purton enjoyed a wet and windy carnival procession, dressed as Brownies of the Future.

Thankfully the weather has also been kind to the units this month, enabling more outdoor activities to take place. Guides have spent their meetings honing campfire cooking skills, starting from the basics of collecting wood, how to build a fire and safety issues working up to cooking to a menu with little supervision. Some of the Guides also took part in a Division Challenge evening at Wootton Bassett where they had to lead other Guides in campfire songs and perform sketches. The two participating patrols worked really well together as teams and were a credit to the unit.

2nd Purton Brownies have taken topical themes as the basis of their meetings this month. Firstly they held a football evening to tie in with Euro 2004, unfortunately this coincided with one of the hottest evenings we've had so far this year, which meant they did all the activities indoors and didn't actually play any football!! They have also had a couple of evenings based on the Olympics – learning about the Olympic flag and flame, making edible flames (ice-creams), composing an Olympic song, holding a mini olympics as well as fitting in Greek activities such as making Greek Gods and tzaziki. The mini olympics were led by the four eldest Brownies who have now all moved on to Guides: Georgia, Lauren, Billi and Jessica.

Rainbows held a "penny fair" (competitions and stalls) to raise money for the mile of coins. They also held an "orange meeting" when they cut out an orange teddy bear, tasted oranges, Wotsits and Jaffa cakes, played an orange memory game and looked at their marigold seeds which were in flower.

At the time of writing the units are preparing for their end of term activities before taking a break for the summer. If anyone would be interested in helping out with any of the units once term restarts in September, do contact me. 2nd Purton Brownies in particular (Monday evenings) could use an extra pair of hands.

JO SULLY, Braydon District Commissioner

I would like to congratulate the Mums and Dads of Vasterne Close and Jubilee estate for their carnival float this year (such a pity about the weather). Having been involved in various floats over the past 30 years, it's wonderful that these parents with young families are continuing to carry on the traditional. It's good to know the baton has been passed on to another generation. Keep up the good work!

INEZ GALE

PURTON POSTBAG

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



Dear Editor,

On Friday 25th June, Class 9 were conducting traffic surveys in Purton High Street as part of our geography fieldwork. We had to visit three locations, One Stop, the Library and the Lay-by, which meant we had to walk the length of the High Street. Our walk along the High Street was thoroughly unpleasant due to the amount of dog mess on the pavement. We ask all dog owners that if they must exercise their dogs on the pavement (and with the abundance of footpaths radiating from Purton why is this necessary?), please clean up after your dog.

Also on Monday 28th June the school held their sports morning and again there was an issue with dog mess, this time on the school field. We ask why do people need to exercise their dogs on the school field where children play and do P.E.

In our class there are many dog owners, so we are not anti-dog, just anti irresponsible dog owners who let their dogs cause offence to others and can be a danger to a child's health.

Yours very concerned
The children of class 9
St Mary's Primary School
College Road

Purton's Blooming.

I've lived in Purton for all of my 36 years and have never felt prouder or truly appreciated what a wonderful place Purton is to live. During the last 3 weekends, I have attended 3 fundraising events in the village. The first was Purton Carnival and despite being a little disappointed by the number of floats I was amazed to see how many people braved the rain to attend the fete down on the common. I really admire the Helping Hand team especially Pauline Ward who, despite constant criticism each year, does an extremely good job of entertaining the whole village.

My second event was the Charity Night at the Angel. Tickets were only a fiver but for this we had a curry, a disco and Bobby Paul as Elton John. We had a fantastic time. Congratulations to Tom and Kath for arranging the evening. It's good to see the Angel on top form again.

My last event was St Mary's School Fete. Once again I was amazed by the number of people there to support it. Thank you to the PTA for all their hard work – it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Whilst raising money for various charities, all the people who work so hard to arrange them do so much more for our village. They bring us all together as a community. Thank you all for making Purton such a blooming lovely place to live.

EMMA BERRY

PS: Magazine Committee, keep up the good work – you're doing a great job. I've never written in before!!

[Ed: Thank you for taking the trouble to write to us – all letters and contributions are always welcome.]

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank Pauline and all her helpers for the hard work they put in for Carnival Week and what they do for us all the year round.

Thank you,
Mr and Mrs GUNNING

Letter from... Australia

Purton Magazine is well travelled. For the last six years I have regularly received it, courtesy of my good friend Ruth Mills. It's lovely to read about people and places I grew up with. It's so interesting talking of all that's going on in your lovely village. I especially liked the artist's "April Showers" cover. I can't put the magazine down until I have read every word.

I thought you might like to learn from my part of the world.

Today June 16th is a lovely sunny midwinter day, it is quite warm. We had lunch in the garden, and while we were eating a flock of seagulls flew over, there must be a storm approaching they always come inland away from it. As I am writing this I can hear the surf pounding the beach, it sounds like a train roaring. Halls Head is a lovely part of Mandurah, we are between the estuary and the ocean, so surrounded by water. Each day – weather permitting – I take my little dog on a walk on the beach; he chases seagulls (very naughty) and I collect sea shells. Sometimes I'm lucky and a big one has been washed up. We live one hour's drive from Perth which is the capital of Western Australia. I have only lived in Halls Head six years previously for many years I lived in the gold-mining town of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, such a contrast from the edge of the desert to the ocean.

But I have to say a part of my heart belongs to Purton – it was there I went to St Mary's School – my headmaster was the late Mr P. A. Greenhill – no disrespect but we called him PA; behind his back of course. I left Purton when I was twenty to come to Australia.

So keep your magazine going – it's a treat to read and gets passed around a lot here.

Daphne "Clayton" Mader
Mandurah, Western Australia

Cricklade Fire Station

During June crews from Cricklade attended 13 emergency calls as follows:-

- 1/6/04 at 1802 Reported house fire, false alarm with good intent, Locks Lane.
- 6/6/04 at 1750 Car fire, A419 Northbound.
- 7/6/04 at 2101 Fence fire, The Peak, Purton.
- 9/6/04 at 2150 Emergency special service call, animal rescue, The Pry, Purton.
- 13/6/04 at 0434 Reported car fire, false alarm, A419 Blunsdon.
- 17/6/04 at 1100 Automatic fire alarm, Cotswold Water Park.
- 19/6/04 at 1555 Straw bales on fire, Down Ampney.
- 20/6/04 at 2138 Car fire, Purton Stoke.
- 23/6/04 at 0849 Road Traffic Collision, person trapped, Brinkworth, 1 fatality.
- 25/6/04 at 1303 Emergency special service call, child trapped on fence, Bath Road, Cricklade.

- 27/6/04 at 2343 Road Traffic Collision, persons trapped, B4696, Ashton Keynes
- 28/6/04 at 1422 Tree fire, Farm Premises, Minety.
- 28/6/04 at 2118 Pile of tyres on fire, Spine Road, Ashton Keynes.

We are always looking for new recruits to become retained firefighters. It's a part-time job with full-time job satisfaction and you get paid. We are first response to Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, Purton, Minety, Marston Meysey, Braydon and a good portion of the A 419, but can be called on to assist in Swindon, Gloucestershire, and other areas as necessary. If you think you have what it takes and are interested in serving your community then please call any of the personnel below:

*This month's Fire Safety
Advice is on Page 21*

*Sub Officer Neil Vigor – 07971 547069
Leading Firefighter Rob Milican – 01793 751482
Leading Firefighter Brian Francis – 01793 750535*

Purton Historical Society Annual Walk

On Saturday 5th June nine members and one dog set off on a hot afternoon from Down Ampney Village Hall and took the bridlepath north towards the village of Ampney St. Peter through unspoilt countryside. We turned down an old route lined each side by trees, towards Poulton Priory, the original site of Poulton Hill Fort around 500BC, and subsequently where the Gilbertin Order founded a Priory in 1347. This area is now in Gloucestershire but before 1844 it was part of the Hundred of Highworth, as was Purton.

We passed south of Poulton village and then close to the modern complex now built on the priory site. On the return we passed a disused Cotswold barn at Charlham Farm which was being renovated and was viewed with interest. The walk was shorten to 5 miles due to the warm evening. All agreed the walk was enjoyable and thanks were given to Andrew Rudden and Roy Hobbs.

MARION HOBBS



At the half way stage of the season six matches out of eighteen have been lost to the inclement weather at weekends. Currently the 1st XI is in fifth position in Division 1 of the Wiltshire League with 111 points and in Division 5 the 2nd XI is in third position with 136 points. In the early years of the club's history the local newspapers published the scores of many of the matches. The earliest match to be reported in the Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette was on 11th June 1835. It read, 'On Tuesday and yesterday a match of cricket was played on Lansdowne (corrected in the 18th June edition to Purton) between Lansdown and Purton clubs. In the first innings the Purton club scored 18 runs and in the second 65 – total 83. The Lansdown scored 106 in the first innings, thus beating Purton by 23'.

Today that result would be recorded as winning by an innings and 23 runs. In 1836 Purton played Lansdown on three occasions, winning one match and losing two.

JOE GARDNER

PADS 30th Anniversary

The date has been set for PADS 30th Anniversary Celebration! It will be held on Saturday 30th October 2004 at the Village Hall, Purton commencing at 7.00pm. We hope to invite PADS members and friends past and present. We are compiling our lists but if you think we may have forgotten you please let us know. The invitations will go out in September.



If anyone has any photos or programmes they are willing to lend us - please get in touch. We hope to have a full programme of events organised for the evening with time to chat to old friends.

If you want to know more, please telephone Inez or Lindsey.

Riddle-Me-Ree

From each line take one letter from the underlined words to make the name of a place.

Can you solve it?

My first is in POT, it's not found in PAN

My second's in JAR, and not in a can

My third's found in URN in VASE it is not

My fourth is in BARROW, and CART hits the spot

My fifth is in HOLDALL, and in SHOPPERS, pretty.

An ancient Duchy contains this city

Where am I?

Answer in next month's issue

Compiled by Bookworm



July's Riddle

The answer was:

Hull

Carnival 2004

carⁿival

Carnival came and went so quickly with varying results. We started with the Model Railway Exhibition which was a good beginning and quite well attended. The Mile of Coins was very much better than last year thanks to the enthusiasm of the Brownies and Guides. I don't think it will be too long before we make *THE MILE*.

The Treasure Hunt was a non-starter and, to finish the day, stalls, bouncy castle and committee members got drenched in a late afternoon deluge. A lot of preparation for nothing. The children's disco was a great success this year and very well attended. The Kennett Accordion Orchestra was excellent as usual but the attendance was very disappointing. Fashion & Beauty was a lovely evening but sadly the attendance was poor – maybe it was the football!

Carnival Lunch of Bangers and Mash etc went very well and was enjoyed by all. It was requested again for next year. Thank you, John Harris, for your sponsorship.

CARNIVAL SATURDAY: Well what can I say? New plans, new venue, a wonderful team of volunteers doing all the preparation on the field before the day. Our thanks to the residents of Vasterne Hill for their cooperation and support and to Tim Handy for the wonderful field cut. Wonderful. Saturday morning, the "Powers that Be" decided we needed rain, so rain it did and continued all day. We decided to carry on and so did the people. Out came the umbrellas and the procession was watched and cheered. It was then followed by the public to the Fete Field and supported throughout the day and into the evening despite the cancellation of all Arena events and the Family Fun. What an eventful day. Next morning that great team of volunteers dismantled the field equipment and – guess what? – in the *SUNSHINE*. You can't win can you. Thank you everyone who supported us in every way. We do appreciate it.

See you next year, hopefully, and maybe it will be our turn for a dry day!

The Open Meeting is on 14th September, 7.30pm at the Silver Threads Hall. Do come along with your ideas and remarks. If I have forgotten to thank anyone, I apologise.

Happy holidays,

PAULINE WARD
Carnival Secretary

Thanks from Debbie!

I would like to thank everyone who very kindly came to my fund raising Coffee Morning on behalf of the MS Therapy Centre in Cheney Manor, Swindon.

On the day, the total raised to include many generous donations was £405.11 which was wonderful and will be very much appreciated.

Thanks also go to my many family and friends who helped on the day, especially with the washing up!

An additional £88 was raised over the Purton in Bloom weekend, with a raffle, plant stall and serving teas.

The grand total handed over today was £493.17. Thanks again!

DEBBIE WALTON

Have you met Charlie?

Meeting Charlie for the first time filled me with apprehension and made my heart flutter more than I would care to admit.

Entering into his 'space' was awe inspiring. Caution was in every step. Nervously I glanced about, as his species reputation came foremost to my mind. On sighting his massive frame nonchalantly socializing with his harem quelled thoughts of him catching me unaware of his presence.

Boldly I stepped forward. Walking straight towards him, intending to pass by him as though I wasn't interested yet giving him a side-wards glance. He looked at me and turned back to his women not wanting me to intrude. I passed out of sight from them all. Fine, no problem, what's the fuss, easy peasy,

Thunder, no the sky is blue. A train's vibration, no, wrong direction. Earthquake or what? I sensed a mass coming at me. I continued forward, not hesitating, not rushing. My heart beginning to quiver until the beat was as strong as the sound from behind me. I stopped, I turned and there *she* was, head down, a mass of strawberry roan heading in my direction. There appeared no intention to stop. Should I run, should I stand aside? No, I stood my ground. Behind her, came Charlie, at a slower pace but still threatening, his huge frame like a snowdrift. Letting his chief wife do the dirty work, eh! I held up my hand and said firmly 'No, behave'. Legs outstretched in breaking action, she slid to a halt. Quite a beauty, but oh so big.

He came alongside. My heart began beating, faster and faster. Here I was with nothing between us but thin air. My introduction to him was intimately close. Closer than I would have liked my initial meeting to be. Firmly I told them both to 'stop'. I stood my ground and looked them both in the eye, they both tossed their heads defiantly and, like children, appeared to obey me. After seconds, which felt like hours, I turned and walked away. Like children, as soon as my back was turned, they ignored me and now with the rest of the harem tripping along behind me. Each time I could sense the gap was too close, the procedure had to be repeated; turning, standing square onto them and staring them in the eye and talking sternly and unafraid to them. Three or four times this procedure was done, as they both seemed intent to extend the acquaintance. Finally, I reached the stile. I climbed over with what felt like hot breath down my neck. Turning I reached out and tickled the huge wet ringed nuzzle of Charlie – the Charolais Bull – who has moved into the fields near my home.

I was told later, that Tony Matthews watched my experience from the far side of the field and mused as to whether I was capable of the 100 metre dash with the incentive of his latest acquisition hot on my heels. Charlie apparently is a great big softie. However I may leave getting to know him better, as he probably would be better off being left alone to graze in his field undisturbed. There are plenty of other walks nearby.

JACQUI LAY

Purton Parish Council News

Parish Walk – We have arranged a walk for Sunday 8 August 2004, starting at 1.30pm from the village hall car park. All are welcome to come along. The route will be approximately 5 miles and will include some paths in Braydon. We look forward to seeing you on the 8th.

North Wiltshire District Council has approved the following planning applications:

- N04/01090/FUL** *52 Vasterne Close, Two storey side and single storey rear extension*
- N04/01133/FUL** *18 Hoggs Lane, Demolition of existing single garage and erection of replacement double garage.*
- N04/01179/FUL** *Springfield Residential Home, Erection of garage.*
- N04/01114/COU** *Field 0020 Formerly Part of Bagbury Farm, Erection of 3 stables, tack room and hay barn and change of use of field to equestrian.*

North Wiltshire District Council has refused the following planning applications:

- N04/01148/FUL** *34 New Road, Two storey and single storey side extensions and double garage with room over.*
- N04/01030/OUT** *Field View, Widham, Demolition of single storey building and erection of single dwelling.*

Parish Council Information

The Origins of Parish Councils

In Norman times, villages and small towns were generally ruled by the local Lord of the Manor because at that time with poor communications and the distance from the Sovereign's jurisdiction, there was little national control. Over time Parish Priests and sometimes Schoolmasters and other literate men joined the Lord of the Manor to form a kind of ruling body. These groups were the first effective local councils and their meetings became known as Vestry Meetings.

By the Year 1601, Church Vestry Meetings were so organised and workable that it was quite natural for legislators to give them the responsibility of levying the poor rate. These were the first effective local taxes. Everyone in the parish was entitled to attend Church Vestry Meetings but in practice the work fell to a few individuals, rather like Parish Councils today.

Although the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act removed from Parish Vestries the responsibility for poor relief and handed it to Poor Law Unions, parishes had naturally accumulated responsibility for administering local charities, and managing commons and other land as a consequence of the 18th Century Enclosure Acts.

Up until 1894 the affairs of the parishes continued to be administered by the vestry meeting, dominated as they were by the squire, the parson and the principal

landowners. Although theoretically open to all inhabitants these meetings were in effect open mainly to those deemed suitable to serve. In 1894 for a variety of reasons, including better education, a general movement towards greater 'democracy' and a desire to break the power of the Church of England over the lives of nonconformists and non-believers, a Bill was promoted to create Parish Councils.

The great Victorian Prime Minister, W.E. Gladstone, piloted the 1894 Local Government Act through the House of Commons. After a difficult passage through parliament and many amendments, this Bill became Law and Parish Councils were formed. The effect was to transfer all non ecclesiastical functions from the church to elected Parish Councils. Some other functions were added, such as those relating to the burial of the dead, which had, many years before, been vested in Burial Boards.

Under the 1894 Act, Parish Councils were to receive their income from rates levied on agricultural land, but this was a time of agricultural depression and the money raised was so very low that soon this system was abandoned. Householders were then rated; something householders had never experienced before and unsurprisingly this led to some opposition to Parish Councils. It wasn't until after the first World War that Central Government began to give serious responsibilities to Parish Councils. The earliest among them being the provision of allotments and playing fields.

After the second World War the National Association of Parish Councils was formed and, by 1952, half of all parishes in the country were members. The Association became a national force and raised the profile and consequently the activity of parish councils.

Much has changed since 1894 and Parish Councils are now closely regulated. The amount of administrative bureaucracy and red tape has increased exponentially in the past few years, with an accompanying rise in the costs of audit and insurance. Lines of responsibility are more clearly drawn and church and parish councils often work together.

Powers and Responsibilities of Parish Councils

The Local Government Act, 1972, is the Act most often referred to when describing the modern powers and responsibilities of Parish Councils but it is augmented by many earlier and later Acts. For example - *The Criminal Justice and Public Order, Act 1994*, which, on the face of it, would not appear to relate to Parish Councils, gave them a long needed ability to pay for measures to combat crime and the fear of crime in villages.

Parish Councils may only spend public money on projects or actions for which they have a Statutory Power. Breaking this rule is likely to result in a PC's accounts being refused by the auditor and, possibly, the individual councillors being required to repay the money illegally expended. (*A list of the legislation conferring some of these powers will be provided in Purton Magazine next month*). There is still, as there was in 1894, only one power which the Parish Council must consider using and that is to "provide allotments for the labouring poor", if asked for them. All other powers are voluntary - the Parish Council is not obliged to exercise them and indeed the majority would find it difficult to raise enough money to exercise them all on a permanent basis.

Raising Money

Parish Councils are empowered to raise money for their activities through a tax (the “precept”) on the village residents which is collected on their behalf by the District Council, as an addition to the District and County Council Tax. This is then paid to the Parish Council in two equal instalments. Two neighbouring Parish Councils might require the same amount of money to function but the fewer houses there are in a village, the more each household is obliged to pay towards raising this sum. The actual tax paid by similar houses in neighbouring villages can therefore differ widely. Though not actually ‘capped’ in their expenditure, as are the Principal Councils, the activities of many smaller Parish Councils are effectively limited by this difficulty: to what, in modern parlance, *‘the market can stand’*. To combat this, smaller councils often try to combine with other neighbouring parishes for some large projects and share the expense across a wider base.

Borrowing is allowed, up to a prescribed limit and with permission, but this is of limited help to a small parish because, of course, the loan (plus interest) has to be repaid from slim resources. Grants may be obtained for specific purposes from various sources, not least the District Council. Very few, if any of these, can be used for maintenance or general administration purposes.

Limited fund raising can be done but this is so hedged about by restrictions that, in the main, it is hardly worthwhile for a very small council.

Some larger councils are lucky enough to own property from which a considerable income is obtained.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL (The here and now – a summary)

The civil parish (as opposed to an ecclesiastical or church parish) is an independent, local democratic unit for villages and smaller towns, and for the suburbs of main urban areas. The Parish Council is the most local tier of administration and the first tier of democratic government and each parish council is in effect a small local authority. Its councillors are elected for four years at a time, in the same way as for other councils. The next local elections for Purton Parish Council will be in May 2007 though by-elections may be held to fill vacancies occurring between elections. Co-option may also be used to fill casual vacancies.

What are the powers and responsibilities of Purton Parish Council?

The Parish Council has more formal powers and responsibilities than most people realise. We are consulted and comment on all planning applications within the parish. We are consulted by, and liaise with, both the District and County councils over all issues affecting the parish and sometimes the wider community - particularly over planning, traffic and road issues. We monitor street lighting, can provide allotments and, as trustees of the village charities, look after the play areas and other village amenities. We provide and maintain bus shelters and safeguard footpaths and rights of way. Again as trustees we are also involved in the provision of halls and meeting places. We may provide guides or leaflets for newcomers and from time to time we make village surveys. We can provide car and cycle parks and also public conveniences, litterbins and public seats. We can also prosecute noisemakers or litter bugs. Many appoint charitable trustees.

We manage the cemetery and have taken over maintenance responsibility for the churchyard in response to a request from the Parochial Church Council.

We have the power to improve and maintain the quality of village life by spending sums of money on items and projects which, in our opinion, are in the interests of the parish or its inhabitants. The Parish Council may do these things either directly or by helping others (such as volunteers or a charity) to do them. Purton Parish Council makes regular grants to appropriate groups and charities whose role is to improve the quality of life for its residents. All Parish Councils thrive on volunteers.

Who controls the Parish Council?

Each year the Parish Council elects a chairman who has the responsibility of controlling the business of each Parish Council meeting and ensuring that all Parish Council business and meetings are carried out lawfully with all who are entitled to speak being given the opportunity to do so. He/she is an *ex-officio* member of all sub-committees and represents the Parish Council at official functions and occasions. The Parish Clerk, who is the Council's chief executive, manages the council offices and staff, takes the minutes at council meetings, advises councillors, carries out the approved policies of the council and ensures the accounts are properly kept and audited every year.

Where does the money come from?

Parish Councils are the cheapest and least bureaucratic kind of local authority. As already explained, PCs are funded by a small part of the council tax and get no general government grant, so they have every incentive to ensure that they give and get value for money. Budgets are set and strictly controlled and the precept (or local rate) is set annually.

What is your role?

There does seem to be a general nationwide disillusionment with the democratic process and a feeling that the man in the street can't really affect anything. In addition our lives certainly seem busier and more complicated. However if anyone out there could spare a couple of hours a week helping to do a necessary and worthwhile job then the role of Parish Councillor can be rewarding and might even help you to wind down and to put life into perspective. We currently have 5 vacancies so if you do have the interest of your community at heart do consider putting yourself forward. If the number councillors continues to fall we will be at risk of losing control of our own local affairs and others will be making more decisions for us. The choice is ours. Please contact the Parish Clerk or any councillor for more information.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and these meetings include a regular slot where parishioners can ask questions. An annual general parish meeting for all parish electors has, by law, to be held every year (usually in March, in Purton) at which reports on the previous year are made and at which parishioners can raise items of query or concern.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email address: clerk@purtonparishcouncil.fsnet.co.uk

Website www.communitagate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil

GODFREY FOWLER
Chairman

Useful Purton Numbers



Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Philip Cooke	771022
Library	Librarians	770870
Mobile Library	Sarah Reed	01249 650536
Police	Cricklade Police Station	750207
Post Office	Susan Budd	770346
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	John Blackwell	771138
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Animal Surgery	771869

Schools and Play Groups

Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141 or 07759 583566
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239
Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570

Craft Show News

Another Carnival event is the popular Craft Show being held on Sunday November 14. There are just two tables left for crafts people to sell their wares, at £10 per table. The show is at the Village Hall and open from 10am to 4.30pm. Admission is free, with donations and a raffle for Helping Hand funds. There will also be continuous Christmas card making classes for all ages from 10.30am to 4pm – for just £2 per person you can make up to 3 Christmas cards using materials supplied, although ½ hour sessions can be booked if you want to avoid queuing. This is your chance to try using embellishments, stamping, embossing, decoupage and many other techniques. Again, all profit goes to the work of the Helping Hand supporting local elderly, needy and disabled. Call Lynda Warren for details.