

# Purton Magazine



June 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.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton](http://www.communigate.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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
10.30am 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Richard Barton tel 01285 712586

St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade

#### Holy Days

7.00pm Mass

Sundays

9.30am Mass

## From the Editor

The production schedule for a monthly magazine is often unable to accommodate major events in a community. So it is that, when you read this, Amanda Edwards' funeral will have taken place. The request from her family for all to wear something pink or a pink flower was such a lovely idea and will surely add to so many other happy and personal recollections of Amanda. The planned cherry tree and other memorials will help to keep her in our thoughts for many years to come.

With two other premature deaths in our village recently, it has been a sad time for many in our community and probably quite a challenge for our newly arrived vicar, Jane Haslam, as she gets to work in Purton.

June 6th will be the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Northern France and memories of one serving officer are included this month. There must be so many people in our community with very proud memories of family members serving King and Country in those so dark days. In years to come it will be interesting to see how the country remembers those taking part in the current conflict in Iraq.

One wonders how much lasting damage those staged photographs on the front page of a national newspaper will have done to undermine the courage and credibility shown by a vast majority of our troops. Even those who are uncomfortable with our involvement in this conflict will doubtless remember that our troops are yet again, representing our country and doing an amazingly difficult job in such dangerous circumstances.

Men big and strong are also featured in this issue, trying to pull each other over for fun and you will find reports and photographs of the 2nd Purton Tug of War event that also included a ladies team. Their fun included fund raising of substantial proportions and we should all be able to sleep more easily with such formidable and generous neighbours in our community.

Our sporting teams have been excelling again. Anything Arsenal can do, Purton can also do; our football team remained unbeaten throughout their 34 league matches as they won the Hellenic Division 1 West – a truly memorable achievement to make us all proud. And if that wasn't enough, Purton Tennis club became inaugural winners of the Swindon & District winter league. There must be a bookmaker somewhere who would give some attractive odds on Purton Cricket club completing a terrific treble!

The Purton Carnival has come round again; this year it will take place between 18th and 26th June. Entry forms are being requested while programmes and prize draw tickets are already on sale throughout the village. As always, the proceeds will be going to the Purton Helping Hand Club. So many families in the village have benefited from the Helping Hand Club over the years. The Carnival provides us with lots of fun and entertainment as well as a great, practical way of helping our neighbours.

## CONTENTS

<a href="#">From the Vicar</a>	<a href="#">Diary</a>
<a href="#">2nd Purton Tug of War</a>	<a href="#">Purton Bowls Club</a>
<a href="#">British Beef is Best</a>	<a href="#">Purton Cricket Club</a>
<a href="#">Exhibit of the Month</a>	<a href="#">Useful Purton Numbers</a>
<a href="#">The Cenotaph</a>	<a href="#">Rainbows, Brownies &amp; Guides</a>
<a href="#">"Horse" by Stephen Fenn</a>	<a href="#">Purton in Bloom 2004</a>
<a href="#">Green Tips - Ps &amp; Qs</a>	<a href="#">Guide Dog Appeal</a>
<a href="#">Village Hall Fundraising</a>	<a href="#">Playclose Methodist Church</a>
<a href="#">St. Mary's School Visit to the Isle of Wight</a>	<a href="#">Riddle-me-ree by Bookworm</a>
<a href="#">Age Concern</a>	<a href="#">Purton Postbag - Letters page</a>
<a href="#">Purton Tennis Club</a>	<a href="#">Cricklade Open Gardens</a>
<a href="#">Gardeners' Guild</a>	<a href="#">A Hunting We Will Go - Digby</a>
<a href="#">Women's Institute</a>	<a href="#">Purton Historical Society</a>
<a href="#">PADS 30th Anniversary</a>	<a href="#">Perambulator</a>
<a href="#">Purton Football Club</a>	<a href="#">Dragons at Widham!</a>
<a href="#">From Bradon Forest School</a>	<a href="#">Lydiards Twinning Association</a>
<a href="#">1st Purton &amp; Lydiard Cub Scouts</a>	<a href="#">Carnival 2004</a>
<a href="#">Purton Churches Together</a>	<a href="#">From the Registers</a>
<a href="#">Purton Placard</a>	<a href="#">Cricklade Fire Station</a>
	<a href="#">Parish Council &amp; Trustees News</a>

*Purton*  
Magazine

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## From The Vicar

### ***'Well, I'm not a spiritual person'.***

This was one of the first comments made to me by someone I visited recently. I could have left it at that and backed off but I didn't happen to believe her!

Everyone is a spiritual person. We are all made by God in his image. We all have something of God in us. We can't help but be spiritual people.

What might be true is that we aren't aware of it or that we actively try to deny and ignore it. But, if that is the case, then we are the losers because we are denying or ignoring a fundamental part of our nature. And that isn't healthy.

### ***Agreeing with a Vicar!***

So I carried on the conversation and we did discover that this person has a spiritual side. She does have a belief in a creator, in a supreme being. Yes, she uses different words to those that the Church tends to use, such as God the Father, but she certainly has faith. I think she was surprised to find herself in some agreement with a Vicar!

### ***Words for God***

In the Bible, God is described in very many ways, in addition to Father: Mother Hen, Spirit, Lamb, Lion, Light, Bread, Living Water, Wisdom, etc. Some people find these descriptions of God more helpful and they are perfectly valid. And it's not surprising there are so many ways of talking about God – because all of us are trying to use our language to describe the indescribable!

### ***The way of Jesus***

But whatever words we ourselves use to describe God, Christians do have the life and example of Jesus. We believe that Jesus was God. He was the supreme being, he was wisdom, he was bread, he was light. And he came and lived among us to give us a better picture of God, to show us God's love and to teach us how to live. It is him that Christians worship. It is his love that they try to show to others as they live their lives according to his teaching.

### ***A faith journey***

The woman I was talking to was far from signing up to being a Christian. Perhaps she never will. But she is a spiritual person. She is on a journey, aware of a creator, aware of a being that is involved in this world. Of course, I hope that she grows towards a Christian faith but for the moment I admire her honesty, her questioning. I believe that all those who search, whatever words they choose to use, will find answers to their spiritual search. God longs for us all to invite him to be present in our lives. All we have to do is ask.

JANE HASLAM



May 5th

The church was floodlit to welcome  
Rev. Jane Haslam as Priest in Charge of St. Mary's and  
Rev. Michael Haslam as Ecumenical Officer for Swindon  
and North Wiltshire.

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## 2nd Purton Tug of War

P.E.S.T. held the Tug of War competition on 2nd May at the Red House Playing Fields. After four days of continuous rain we were considering calling it off but took a chance and as it happens the weather on the Sunday was glorious.



Over two hundred people turned out to watch eight teams from across Purton pit their strengths against each other in the mighty tug. Everyone joined in the spirit of fun mixed with the competitive edge of the game. It was good to see that nearly all the local pubs had made the effort and entered teams. The Working Men's Club even entered a women's team although it was hard to tell the two teams apart as they were all dressed up as 'ladies of the night'!!

The winners and runners up of last year's event both chickened out with Minety Rugby Club making some excuse of having to go the Badminton Horse Trials, the big bunch of pansies, although they would have met their match this year!

The competition was hard fought and some found it hard especially pulling up hill, or was that just in the mind! British Beef (Terry Young's team) and the Lager Lout Ladies from the Working Men's contested the final with the big beefy British Beef winning through to take the trophy for this year.

A £1000 was raised on the day which is going towards a new children's slide at the Red House Playing Fields. Many thanks go to Tony Richardson for his professional stewardship and everyone who turned up to make this a real village fun day.

Watch out for the P.E.S.T.s at the Purton Carnival and look out for entry forms for the P.E.S.T. 3rd Purton Pram Race to be held on 12th September 2004.



*The Royal George prepare for battle*



*British Beef pull  
The Ghost Train up-hill!*

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## British Beef Is Best

Sunday 2nd May gave the village one of those “glad to be part of it” moments. The sun came out as P.E.S.T. hosted this year’s *Tug of War* competition at the Red House. I’m proud to say I was one of the cheer leaders for the winning team, *BRITISH BEEF*.

### ***Team members***

Ray Brown (Captain)	Daniel Richings
Paul Young	Colin Littler
Terry Young (Anchor man)	Keith Walker
Jamie Lait	Luke Gough (Substitute)
Nigel Richings	

Paul’s daughter, Laura, came up with the team name, which was quite apt when you saw the line up. Only losing one pull throughout the competition, they certainly did use their beef. It was really good to see that you don’t have to be that young to have all the brawn. (Sorry boys but, with the exception of Dan and Luke, you weren’t the youngest team in it! ) They set a good example to follow anyway.

We had a fantastic afternoon and an equally good evening thanks to Paul and Charlotte, celebrating the team win. This is what village life is all about. Thank you P.E.S.T.

Let’s hope that the carnival raises as much enthusiasm and the village has another really good time.

*PEARL LAIT*



*Top row, Daniel Richings, Keith Walker, Paul & Terry Young  
Front row, Nigel Richings, Ray Brown & Jamie Lait.  
Colin and Luke evaded the camera*

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## Purton Museum - Exhibit Of The Month

### A D-Day Story

6th June will be the 60th Anniversary of D-day when Allied Forces invaded mainland Europe over the beaches of Normandy. Among the countless members of the armed services who risked their lives in the struggle for liberation there would have been a similarly innumerable collection of stories of bravery to tell. Looking through the Museum's collection of WW2 memorabilia, I found it impossible to pick one item to illustrate the story. When so many had risked all, how could I favour just one over all the others? I decided I would tell my own Dad's story.

Ken Dixon was born in August 1924 and volunteered for the Navy in 1942, aged 17, rather than waiting to be conscripted. Preferring the Navy to the other services, he would be unlikely to get in without volunteering. In the RN, wherever you went, your commanding officers went with you... and so did the hotel!

He was accepted into the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and posted to the cruiser HMS Diomedé, at Rosyth. Diomedé steamed to Scapa Flow to escort a convoy to Archangelsk in arctic Russia. The voyage "seemed years and was bloody cold". On his return, he received 8 weeks of Officer Training and 4 weeks of Advanced Navigation. Commissioned as Sub Lieutenant, he was posted as Gunnery Officer on HMS Seagull in the 1st Mine Sweeping Flotilla.

Later he volunteered for Coastal Forces and, aged 18 in June 1944, found himself Navigation Officer of Motor Launch ML 571 – built in Canada from little more than wood. The 42nd ML Flotilla were sent in to the Normandy coast 24 hours before H-hour\* to take out as many German E-Boats as possible before the main invasion fleet arrived. Accomplishing this and with no following orders, they made for the incoming fleet and reported for new instructions. They were told, "Oh, we didn't expect you still to be around, chaps. Sure we can find you something..."

After patrols during the landings around Arromanches, Ken served on ML 571 for the rest of the war eventually becoming skipper of the boat and later commander of the flotilla, aged 21. It has always amazed me the responsibilities that were carried by such young men in those difficult times. I salute them all.

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 or emailing [curator@purtonmuseum.com](mailto:curator@purtonmuseum.com). Alternatively you can visit us anytime on-line at [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://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.

\* H-hour was the precise time on D-day that the invasion would commence.



*in Basic Training, 1942*

**RICK DIXON**  
Outreach Officer

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## The Cenotaph

Thanks to everyone's kindness, we are well on the way to getting the water laid on. As I said in last month's magazine, we were almost there. Well, PEST, the group that does so much good in the village, came along and gave us £220 – the result of the collection they did around the village public houses. Boxes were also left in the Spar and John Harris'. So, on behalf of PEST and the Cenotaph working party, may I thank everyone most sincerely for their generosity.

While I am mentioning PEST, what a marvellous afternoon they laid on with the village tug of war. It was a real village event, with everyone taking part in the spirit of it and lots of people enjoying themselves. So our thanks to them for that, and, of course, they were raising money towards the cost of a new slide for the play area at the village centre – another project I have a great interest in.

*TONY PRICE  
on behalf of the working party*



*“Horse” – drawn by Stephen Fenn  
(Year-6 Pupil at St Mary's School)*



## St Mary's Church Treasure Hunt

**Saturday 12 June  
6pm from Lay-by**

**Tickets: £5.50 adult  
£1.50 under-14s**

to include Fish-and-chip supper



May 16th

St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate the Christening of  
**Maria Grace Normington.**

With love from all the Normingtons.

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## Green Tips

### ***Spring has Sprung!***

- Ø Spring is a time for new beginnings so perhaps this is the year for all those resolutions to become a little 'greener'. Just a few changes from each of us will have a positive benefit on our environment.



### ***Spring Cleaning Outside!!***

- Ø Gardeners have, by now, prepared beds, raked up old leaves and foliage, dug over vegetable plots, repaired fencing and trimmed dead wood and branches. So, keep a compost heap - put any cuttings, leaves and kitchen scraps etc (not cooked meat) onto your compost and next year you will have a wonderful mixture to dig into your vegetables and flowerbeds.
- Ø Use a shredder to create your own topping and mulch.
- Ø When planting out seeds, use toilet roll tubes; the tube will rot away as the plant grows.
- Ø Be aware if lighting an old bonfire, that this may be a hibernating home for toads, frogs, slow worms and many other creepy crawlies. Old logs, piles of leaves, flowerpots also provided a safe haven.
- Ø When cleaning out the shed:
  - Ø Look out for those illegal pesticides and take them down to the recycling centre in Mopes Lane (full list of banned ones are on the Ps and Qs web site). Sort out any tins of unwanted paint and dispose of them carefully. Ensure all containers, are properly labelled and away from children and pets.
  - Ø Check your tools, ladders, mowers etc that they are clean and safe to use. Look round the house for blocked gutters, loose tiles and paintwork. Clean off green moss and algae from pathways.
  - Ø If you have a gas barbecue - clean off the dust and cobwebs, check piping has not perished and is connected securely, give the gas bottle a thorough check and replace, if rusted or damaged.

### ***Spring Cleaning Inside!!!***

The irony is that in making your home brighter and fresher, you may inadvertently contaminate the air and water. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Ø Almost anything we dump down our drains, even if derived from plants and other "natural" substances, can cause problems. Check out [www.greenconsumerguide.com](http://www.greenconsumerguide.com) – lots of useful information.
- Ø Now could be the time to sort out all those things you don't want: jumble sales, charity shops and even car boot sales are excellent places to take useful unwanted clothes, toys etc
- Ø Recycle papers, cardboard, wood and broken furniture at Mopes Lane.
- Ø Check cupboards for out-of-date foods, unwanted cleaning materials etc and dispose of carefully.
- Ø Unwanted furniture, furnishings, white goods and electrical goods can be donated to charities. Top Drawer in Swindon (01793 536613) is the nearest, and they can collect.

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### **Spring Clean the Village!!!!**

Ø If you can, tidy up litter in your neighbourhood, keep verges trimmed and pavements and gutters weed-free. This all helps to give a good impression that we do care, plus may add value to your home.

### **Spring Clean You!!!!**

Ø Just one 'greener' change could make a difference. Perhaps decide to recycle tins this year or buy economy light bulbs for one room, or turn off the lights in rooms not being used, or turn down the heating by a degree or two, or shop locally and save petrol, or grow some of your own vegetables, or....

*Compiled by Jacqui Lay 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, Jacqui Lay or via our web site:  
[www.purtoninfo.org.uk](http://www.purtoninfo.org.uk)*

## Village Hall Fund-Raising

What a delightful show *Pass the Port* turned out to be. The two highly professional performers, Susan Flannery and Michael Lunts, kept the almost capacity audience wide awake with their very lively musical show. Based on Noel Coward's *P&O 1930* there were sixteen musical numbers. To aid the smooth running of the show the Trustees engaged the help of Andrew Tedstone, a pupil from Bradon Forest School. Andrew proved to be a very able technician and Susan and Michael were greatly impressed with his aptitude; so much so that I think they may well have Andrew in mind for any similar performances in this area. So, well done Andrew – it was a long day for you but it may well stand you in good stead for the future. Who knows what opportunities lie ahead?

The profit for the evening was £175.25 and this will be added to the ongoing funds to replace the old and heavy folding tables. Many thanks to all of you who are making these evening events so worthwhile. We are now in the process of choosing a performance for the Autumn. We will probably opt for something musical. Your feedback is always welcome after these events so please let us know your preferences – Teresa Hartshorn, tel 771066 – and we will endeavour to please as many of you as possible.

**SUSAN MATTHEWS**  
*on behalf of the Trustees*



May 8th

St. Mary's Church was floodlit in fond remembrance of  
R.A.F. (Ray) Matthews,  
on what would have been his 100th birthday.  
From Tony and Susan, Pat and Sandra.

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## St Mary's CE Primary School: Visit to the Isle of Wight in April

The children from Years 5 & 6 were kept very busy and had a wonderful time. On Monday 72 children (accompanied by Mr Oakes, Mrs Rushen, Miss Arrowsmith, Paul Critchley, Mrs Philcox and me) set off for the Isle of Wight. Brian Fessey met us later in the day.

First port of call was Portsmouth and Action Stations. Here the children were given a taste of Naval training. Then a quick journey on the ferry to Ryde, IOW. The children were very impressed with the Crusader Centre. It is a very large, well equipped building set in extensive grounds. The children spent a long time on the rope course – Paul and Dan being urged to push ever harder so the children could go faster! Plus a games room. Basket ball court etc...

On Tuesday we all went to the zoo together!! It is famous for its lemurs, tigers and reptiles. We had an excellent talk from the girl leading the educational visits. After lunch on the sea front we stormed Carsibrooke Castle. Here the children were able to get dressed up, walk up the towers and see the donkey at work in the well.

The boys, as on the previous evening, were first to sleep. So they were ready for a popular trip to the Shire Horse Centre. During the afternoon we got thoroughly wet at Black Gang Chine. Don't know what got us wetter – the rain or the water slide!!!

Apart from Wednesday's rain we had a glorious week. It was hot and sunny for our visit to the Steam Railway and a trip on a steam train. Most of the children really enjoyed the trip although Eleanor declared she was not so interested in trains but enjoyed talking – and talked and talked and talked!! During the afternoon the children were very excited (not to mention the adults!!) during a visit to Robin Hill Theme Park. The swinging Pirate Ship was a very good draw. Nearly all the children went at a fast rate down the toboggan slide – and a climb UP the squirrel run!! The simulator was just like a roller coaster through space – very scary – note the screams from Lorna.

Friday concluded with a trip to Osborne House – holiday home of Queen Victoria. The children were very impressed with the splendour. Marley declared he enjoyed this part best of all!!

We arrived home at 5.30 tired but happy. I have had a great many compliments about the visit. The children were very well behaved and any home sickness quickly vanished. My thanks to everyone who made the visit so successful and particularly to Dan, Laura, Liz, Chris, Brian and Paul. Brian entertained us with an assembly on Thursday night with a new acquisition – Larry the Lemur. The drivers from Barnes Coaches were excellent and we have written to thank them for all their help.



*BARRY KNOCK, Head Teacher*

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## Purton And District Age Concern



I thought that May's editorial was excellent, expressing the sadness that we all felt over what had happened in our village and the way we all reacted in various supportive ways. Sadly it could be rewritten for this month as well, with the sudden and tragic deaths that have occurred. Hopefully, the support of the village, with prayers and messages, will help to bring a little comfort to family and friends in the days ahead. Our thoughts are with you all.

I made a mistake in last month's magazine when I spoke about the seat we are going to install outside the Silver Threads Hall. It is in memory of Nurse Lambert and was paid for by Nurse Gower, not the other way round as I said – sorry about that.

We have had our annual general meeting and everything seems to be running well. The finances were in a very healthy state considering we purchased a new minibus during that financial year, plus we had our big party at the Village Hall, which everybody is still talking about. The meeting felt that we had a very enjoyable and successful year. As usual, everyone was thanked for all their hard work - our president, Elizabeth Ward, along with the officers, committee, street wardens, minibus personnel and all the people outside Purton Age Concern who make such a difference when we are fundraising, and the people who give us donations – everyone is so kind and supportive. Talking of people outside Age Concern, Bob Tinson was thanked for auditing our general accounts as was Mr. Walton, the manager at Lloyds bank at Wootton Bassett for auditing our minibus account.

On the minus side, Maureen Griffin decided to call it a day after being our treasurer, assisted by Arthur, her husband, for twenty years. Some record! It would be interesting to know just how much money has passed through her hands over the time she has been treasurer. What an excellent job she has made of it, never a penny out when it came to the audit every year. It is very reassuring to an organisation like ours when you ask a question about finances, whether it was last week or last year, Maureen would say 'I will have a look' and come up with the answer straight away. So thank you, Maureen and Arthur, for all the care and devotion with which you looked after our money. To show our appreciation, we made a small presentation of some earrings to Maureen and vouchers to Arthur. On the plus side, they both want to stay on the committee and I am sure will still be very much involved. Many thanks to you both.

The good news is that Bernice Seviour, 18 Church Path, is our new treasurer. Bernice has been a street warden and committee member for a good number of years, so she knows how we operate. Thank you Bernice, I know you will do an excellent job, the same as you do with everything you are involved in, so, once again, many thanks for offering your services.

Another presentation we made on the evening of the AGM was to Warrant Officer Bernie Ibbs. He was the gentleman from RAF Lyneham who made and

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decorated that lovely cake of which you all received a piece – over 900 in all were cut out of it. We had an enlarged photo of Elizabeth Ward, our president, cutting the cake with Warrant Officer Ibbs, framed, with an appropriate inscription underneath. If you'll excuse my pun, the icing on the cake was that Richard Walker did all this for us free of charge, so our thanks go to Richard, and, of course, Jan, for this kind gesture, and to Bernie for such a fantastic cake. We wish him well whatever career he chooses when he leaves the RAF later this year.

There were one or two matters to come out of the AGM – firstly we need some younger people to get involved while we are still in a healthy state. We have already had one new committee member come forward – that is Susan Pagett, our street warden in Hoggs Lane, who has come to join us. Thanks Susan. Also we need more minibus drivers. If you are interested and would like to know a bit more, please give me a ring.

By the time you read this, you should have received your replacement battery for your smoke alarm. Take the old one out and put the new one in. If you haven't received one, contact your street warden. After our talk from Dottie Avenell of the Wiltshire Fire Service, we decided to see if you would like an extra smoke alarm so that you have two, as they recommend. If your street warden hasn't got to you yet, let them know and we will supply another one free of charge, and also replace the batteries every year, also free of charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bryant and Mr. John Bryant, have kindly offered to host a coffee morning at their joint homes in Bentham Lane. These mornings at Purton Stoke seem to be an annual event now, which is good because they are always very enjoyable, and it is nice to have a venue in a different area. The date for this is Saturday 3rd July. If you would like a lift down there, phone John for the minibus, and I am sure he will accommodate you.

Advance notice that we are running our annual trip to Weston on Wednesday 3rd August. This is open to all ages so, for anyone who would like to come, there will be more details later.

May I welcome Jane Haslam, our new vicar, with her husband Michael and her family, to our village. It is such a comfort to know we have a vicar again and I sincerely hope they will be happy and enjoy their stay in Purton, and be with us for a good number of years. My own opinion is that the interregnum is far too long. Continuity is very important. Perhaps one day someone might explain the reason for this. It had better be good because I will certainly need some convincing. Anyway let's think positive and hope that we don't have to face another one for a good few years to come. I would like to thank all the people who have guided us over this difficult period. It couldn't have been easy, with all the problems and sadness we have experienced during the last six months in the village. They have done an excellent job, none more so than Rev. Jan Partridge, the local Methodist Minister, who has often borne the brunt of it all. So, once again, very many thanks to you all.

*TONY PRICE*

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Purton won the inaugural Swindon Winter League to take the Chris Kent Cup under its new guise. For those of you not in the know, the Chris Kent Cup has for the last few years



been run as an annual team handicap knockout cup but, with falling entries and many walkover matches, the league decided to find a new home for it. This coincided with the change of format of the Wiltshire Winter League into regional competitions and for the first time this year we have had a Wiltshire (Swindon area) Winter League and the Chris Kent Cup was to be the allocated trophy for Division One of the new league. So it was a real fillip for the Club to be the first winners of what we hope will be a successful annual fixture.

Summer League matches are now well under way. The horribly changeable weather has caused some anxiety – *will it, won't it RAIN?* But, amazingly, few matches have had to be cancelled so far. Mind you the determination of some players means that play carries on even when a heavy drizzle seems to have set in for the evening. The Juniors are also busy with matches around the area and the courts are well used – when the rain holds off!

The Club is attracting many new families to the membership this year and a few ex-players who are returning to the game. We are always delighted to welcome players of any standard who just enjoy playing or may be more competitive. If that seems to relate to you – give our membership Secretary a ring to find out more about the club: Janet Saunders.

We have a full programme of in-house competitions running throughout the summer with our Finals Day to look forward to in September. But that all seems a long way off. Plenty of time to keep practising and improving those unreturnable shots. And Wimbledon starts soon...

CAROLINE McLEAN

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

At our April meeting James Bunn gave a very interesting talk on *Practical Fruit Growing*.

He covered all aspects of fruit growing, from what is a fruit and why we grow it, to pollination and grafting. We should all be able to manage the difficult and complex job of pruning now! Also what to look for when buying fruits in pots or bare rooted. Mr Bunn covered apples, pears, plums, raspberries, gooseberries, red and black currants and also peaches, nectarines and grapes. It was a very interesting evening and there was a very good attendance. Tony Price proposed a vote of thanks.



Competition winners - Easter Bonnet

1st: Betty Hatton 2nd: Mary Jones 3rd: Doreen Freegard

Raffle winners: Jill Herbert Valerie Hunt Sheila Price Joy Newman

Our next meeting will be on 22nd June 2004 at the Silver Threads Hall, 7.30pm, speaker Mr M Cragg-Barber *Oddities*. Competition - An Old Garden Tool.

MARY JONES, Secretary

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## Women's Institute



At our April meeting a local lad gave us a talk on lawns and their care. John Matthews has been in the lawn and greens care business for over 30 years, so he knows his grass. John also incorporated a run-down on the various chemicals that are now banned for use both commercially and domestically in the garden and public open spaces. It would seem that the banning of these substances has led to further research which has produced organic products to replace some of the deadly chemicals. This would seem, on the face of it, to be only a good thing in these polluted times and could lead to a non-chemical world!

At the start of the meeting the vice president, Gladys Legg, welcomed two new members and visitors, one of whom was Ellie Machin. She came along with her mother and did the beautiful arrangement of flowers for the table.

Our June meeting is on the 16th when we will be having a Japanese Culture Evening presented by Keiko Amos. This should be a very inspiring and interesting meeting so all of you who would like to get out of the house for a couple of hours come and join us and see what you think. You may even feel that the Women's Institute has something to offer you. You will be very warmly welcomed in Purton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Looking ahead to July we have Nick McCamley talking on Secret Underground Cities. I have already heard him do this talk and I can tell you that you will be fascinated.

*VERONICA GARSIDE*

## Purton Amateur Dramatics Society 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year



Yes, this year is the Society's 30th Anniversary. So if anyone used to be a member, or knows of someone who has moved away from Purton that used to be a member, we would love to hear from you.

We are planning on a reunion of past and present members, and would like to form a committee to oversee the planning of this event. It would be great if some of the past members could form part of this Committee, as I am sure your input would be invaluable.

So let's all get together and make the 30th Anniversary of P.A.D.S. one to remember.

If you are interested in being on the committee, or have any information or photographs of past members or productions that would be of interest, please contact the Secretary Sandy Keen or the Treasurer Sue Richardson.

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## Purton Football Club

Sincere thanks to all those who supported Purton FC's Easter Raffle by purchasing tickets and donating prizes, and to all those who supported the "Sporting Dinner" admirably organized by Mr Terry Crumbie to whom the Club is most indebted.

The Hellenic side, under Alan Clark, won the Hellenic Div 1 West Championship, remaining unbeaten in 34 league games during the season. This added to 7 games at the end of the previous season gave them a 41 match unbeaten run – a truly remarkable record in this day and age, which will take some beating. It is a great credit to all the players. Reaching the semi-final of the Hellenic Challenge Cup, going out over two legs to Premier side Bishop's Cleeve, was another notable achievement. Eurshell Fearon, for the 2nd season in a row, was leading scorer.

Purton Reserves, after an excellent three-quarters of the season, finally finished mid-table, losing their last eight games. But 45 points gained and a mid-table placing – their best for many, many seasons – is a credit to them. Simon Pugh was the leading scorer.

Unfortunately, due to lack of players, we had to withdraw our 'A' side from the league but have reinstated them for next season.

Our 'B' side, consisting mainly of older players, lost in the League Cup Final to Lechlade but had already won their league (Cirencester Div 2) and won it well with Mark Cutter a prolific scorer for them.

At Youth levels, our Under 15s were runners-up in the Cirencester U-15 League Cup but won the Cirencester U-15 League, remaining unbeaten; no mean achievement with Tom Cadden and Danny Greenfield the leading goal scorers.

Of the other Youth and Minor Sides, Mark Carson and his Under 10s did well, being placed well up the league while the Under 11s and Under 9s were just below midway. The Under 12s finished well down the North Wilts League but fared better in the Cirencester Youth League.

The Under 8s, with fewer games than all the other sides, had a good season and gained valuable experience in their progression.

Sincere thanks to all sponsors, advertisers and supporters of the Club in 2003-04 which has been one of our best ever. We look forward to your support in 2004-05.

Our AGM will be held at the Red House at 8.00pm on Friday 11th June. Anyone is welcome to attend.

My personal thanks to all those supporters who purchased 1st Team and Reserve Team programmes throughout the season. It makes it well worth the effort producing them.

Have a good summer. The Club looks forward to your continued support in 2004-05, the season commencing on 7th August!

*ALAN EASTWOOD  
President/Hon.Sec.*

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## Dogs Must Not Be Walked On The School Fields, Please

We would like to remind residents that dogs should not be walked on the school field. Recently there have been some incidents of players, both students and adults from local football clubs who have been smeared with dog faeces during their matches.

Many thanks for your co-operation with this important health issue.

### ***Study Leave***

Year 11 students will have started their Study Leave on Monday 17 May. Students have already taken examinations in Art, Drama, BCS and Languages.

The season for the main written examinations has now begun and some students will be travelling into school or leaving school at different times of the day. Parents have been requested to pick up students from the school grounds and, where possible, the students will be using the bus stop on the High Street. The school is running a Revision programme over the next month.

We are sure you will join with us in wishing our current Year 11 students well, as all their work culminates with the GCSE written examinations.

*BRADON FOREST SCHOOL*

## 1st Purton and Lydiard Cub Scouts

1st Purton and Lydiard Cub Scout Group are seeking a new leader. We are a thriving group who are well supported by an Executive committee. Do you have an interest /past experience in the Scouting Movement and feel able to share this by supporting the current Cub Scout Group? We have regular helpers and participate in an interesting and varied range of activities such as rock-climbing, hiking and camping. We would love to hear from anybody who could help us.

*HOWARD SMITH*

## Purton Churches Together – Can You Help?

The Partnership Enabling Group (PEG) of Purton Churches Together needs a secretary, the appointment to start from September this year. The PEG group helps to move forward shared ideas, plans and ecumenical events and is made up of representatives of the Methodist Church and St. Mary's as well as representatives of other denominations. PEG only meets three times a year and the secretary circulates the chairman's agenda for the meetings, takes the minutes and, in turn, circulates these to members, and does any necessary correspondence. This will be a yearly appointment, so you don't have to feel that you will have the job for ever. No particular knowledge of Church affairs is needed and the job takes up very little time – and it is a friendly committee to work with!

If you are interested and would like to talk about it, give Jane Smith or Sheila Price a ring – they would be so pleased to hear from you.

# PURTON PLACARD

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

Saturday, 5th June 2004

## ***D-Day Anniversary Social Evening***

At 7:30pm

In Purton Village Hall

Tickets £4.00 on sale now,  
if any are still available

Contact 771091 or 770397

## BRAYDON CHAPEL CAMP MEETING

will be held on  
Sunday 11th July at 6.30pm  
in a marquee in field adjoining Chapel

Speaker – the Rev. ADRIAN SMITH  
and Mr ROBIN PHOENIX-STONE will preside

The St Leonard's Church Music Group  
will lead the singing

Refreshments at the close

A warm welcome to all

## Purton Silver Threads

Friday 18th June at 6.00pm

**BOOKS & BANGERS EVENING**  
at Red Lodge, Braydon

A lovely evening in a beautiful  
country garden setting.

Books; White Elephant Stall;  
Raffle; Sideshows; Food.  
What more can you ask for?

Tickets: 50p  
includes a "cuppa"  
Minibus available

– contact Pauline –

## *St Mary's Church Social Events 2004*

Saturday 17 July  
Barbecue at Red Lodge

Friday 17 September 7.30pm  
Black Sea Don Cossacks Choir  
at St Mary's Church

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



## Activity Week

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

**10:00 – 2:30**

**For Purton Children aged 7-11**

\*\*\*\*\* WE NEED YOU \*\*\*\*\*

Unless further volunteers come forward to help with activities during this week we will have to limit the number of children we can take each day. The activities will be based on the talents of the helpers and the talents of the children.

**So do you have a hidden talent you can share??**

**Can you spare a few hours for one day or even for the four days??**

**If so then please contact Jacqui Lay.**

## Coffee Morning at 63 Ringsbury Close

A few of us in the village are very appreciative of the MS Therapy Centre in Cheney Manor, Swindon where we go "DIVING" up to three times a week! No! we don't go underwater but we read for an hour in a Hyperbaric (pressurised) Chamber, whilst receiving medical oxygen to relieve our symptoms.

As a result, I am holding a Coffee Morning with Stalls on **Thursday, 8th July from 10.30am onwards** in my garden. Any donations welcome. Please call in and help raise funds for this very worthy cause.

Thanks in anticipation,

**DEBBIE WALTON**

## Wellbeing and Giftware Show

**Sunday 13th June 2004**

**Purton Village Hall, Station Road**

**10.30 am to 5pm – Free Admission**

A one day show, focussing on your personal wellbeing and gifts to buy for those special people in your life, takes place on Sunday 13th June at Purton Village Hall, Station Road.

Whether it be aromatherapy, Indian head massage, reiki, reflexology or colour analysis, there will be a way of achieving a more balanced mind, body and soul. Taster sessions are available on the day.

Stalls include bath and body, natural beauty, makeovers and image, crystals and gems, candles and photo frames plus lots, lots more...!

For event details, more information or if you are interested in having a stall at the show, please call Debra Wright on 07788 596840 or e-mail [enchantmentretail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:enchantmentretail@yahoo.co.uk).

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## Purton Diary Page – June 2004

### June:

- |       |    |         |   |
|-------|----|---------|---|
| 1     | Tu | 7.30pm  | Purton Age Concern Committee meeting at Silver Threads Hall                             |
| 2     | W  | 10.00am | to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat in Silver Threads   |
|       |    | 7.30pm  | RAOB Excelsior Lodge at the Ghost Train   |
| 4     | F  | 9.30pm  | Age Concern Concessionary coach to Swindon  |
| 5     | Sa | 1.30pm  | Historical Society Walk - meet at Village Hall car park                                 |
| <hr/> |    |         |   |
| 6     | Su | 8.00am  | Holy Communion at St Mary's   |
|       |    | 10.30am | Family Service at St Mary's - all welcome   |
|       |    | 10.30am | Holy Communion at Playclose Methodist Church  |
|       |    | 6.30pm  | Evensong at St Mary's   |
| 8     | Tu | 2.00pm  | Silver Threads Club - Mr Perry entertains   |
|       |    | 7.30pm  | Purton Yacht Club   |
| 9     | W  | 10.00am | to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads   |
|       |    | 2.30pm  | Pram Service in Methodist Church  |
|       |    | 2.30pm  | Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Rev. Steve Cullis from Wootton Bassett. |
|       |    | 7.30pm  | RAOB Excelsior Lodge at the Ghost Train   |
| 12    | Sa | 6.00pm  | Treasure Hunt - leave from Lay-by   |
| <hr/> |    |         |   |
| 13    | Su | 8.00am  | Holy Communion at St Mary's   |
|       |    | 10.30am | Holy Communion at St Mary's   |
|       |    | 10.30am | Service at Playclose Methodist Church   |
|       |    | 10.30am | to 5.00pm: Wedding and Giftware Show at Village Hall                                    |
|       |    | 6.30pm  | Evensong at St Mary's   |
| 15    | Tu | 11.00am | Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House   |
|       |    | 7.45pm  | Royal British Legion at The Red House   |
|       |    | 8.00 pm | NWR: A Walk Around Malmesbury (led by Julia)  |
| 16    | W  | 10.00am | to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads   |
|       |    | 2.15pm  | Pram Service at St Mary's   |
|       |    | 7.30pm  | Purton Evening Women's Institute - Japanese Culture Evening at Purton Village Hall      |
|       |    | 7.30pm  | RAOB Excelsior Lodge at the Ghost Train   |
| 17    | Th | 10.30am | Songs of Praise at the Cedars   |
|       |    | 7.00pm  | Cricklade Town Band Concert at Village Hall in aid of Purton Guide Dogs Appeal          |

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**\*\* Remember 18th-26th June is Carnival Week! \*\***

- 18 F 10.00am **Carnival Coffee Morning** at Silver Threads Hall  
6.00pm to 12 noon: Books & Bangers Evening at Red Lodge, Braydon  
in aid of Silver Threads
- 19 Sa 9.00am Historical Society Outing  
9.00am to 12 noon: **Carnival Mile of Coins**  
7.30pm **Carnival Quiz** at Village Hall (teams of 4)
- 
- 20 Su 8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's  
10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 20 Su 10.30am Service at Playclose Methodist Church  
Afternoon Car/Walking Treasure Hunt starting at The Ghost Train  
6.30pm Evensong at St Mary's
- 21 M 7.30pm **Carnival Concert** at Village Hall
- 22 Tu 2.00pm Silver Threads Club - Sing along with Mrs Knowles  
7.30pm Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall
- 23 W 10.00am to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads  
2.30pm Pram Service at Methodist Church  
7.30pm RAOB Excelsior Lodge at the Ghost Train  
7.30pm **Carnival Bingo** at Village Hall
- 24 Th 1.30pm to 2.30: **Teddy Bears' Picnic** at Village Hall  
3.30pm to 5.30: **Junior Disco** (5-11 years) at Village Hall  
7.30pm Fashion & Beauty at Village Hall
- 25 F 12.00pm to 2.00: Carnival Lunch at Silver Threads Hall  
7.30pm **Carnival Darts** at Working Men's Club
- 26 Sa 2.00pm **Carnival Fete Opens** - Fete Field in Vasterne Hill off Witts Lane  
2.15pm **Carnival Procession** - ending at Fete Field
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- 27 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
- 30 W 10.00am to 12 noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads  
2.30pm Pram Service in Methodist Church  
7.30pm RAOB Excelsior Lodge at the Ghost Train

**July:**

- 4 Su 10.30am Parade Service at Playclose Methodist Church  
11 Su 6.30pm Camp Meeting at Braydon - see panel on page 26

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

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## Purton Bowls Club

We began our Wilts League campaign with two good wins against Marlborough and Chippenham Park, in spite of the cold stormy weather.



Our friendly matches begin on Friday, June 4th at 2.30, when Bere Alston visit us during their tour. Then on Saturday 5th we visit Victoria Park, Stroud. On Sunday 6th we play our Mixed Club Triples, and on Saturday 12th we entertain the Post Office. On Sunday 13th, Avon Melksham visit us. On Wednesday 16th June we shall be hosts to our own County of Wiltshire, when they entertain the County of Kent. Saturday 26th, the Wiltshire Ladies play their 2-Wood competition and on Sunday 27th we look forward to the visit of Fairford. Visitors are very welcome to all our matches.

*SID WALKER*

## Purton Cricket Club

Congratulations to Purton Football club who have just completed a most successful season. Of particular note was the achievement of the first team in finishing the season unbeaten. Well done!



It was very satisfying to be part of the crowd watching the matches where the league was won and where the season was completed unbeaten. Purton's manager, Alan Clark, relaxes in the summer by watching Purton's cricket teams. We would be more than pleased to see some of the football supporters join him this season in encouraging our teams.

The club would also like to congratulate Aaron Lee who has been selected for the first two matches of the U13 North Wiltshire team.

The season started with a win in a friendly against old rivals Wootton Bassett with several players showing good early form. The league season started with the first two weekends' matches being cancelled because of the atrocious weather. We are all hoping for some sunshine soon!

*JOE GARDNER*

### ***June Fixtures at Purton Cricket Ground***

Saturday 5th June	1st XI v Bath Civil Service	2.00pm
Sunday 6th June	U15 v Chippenham	2.00pm
Tuesday 8th June	1st XI v Grittleton	6.15pm
Thursday 10th June	Midweek XI v United Churches	6.15pm
Saturday 12th June	2nd XI v Devizes III	2.00pm
Sunday 13th June	Sunday XI v Burbage	2.30pm
Saturday 19th June	1st XI v Collingbourne	2.00pm
Sunday 20th June	U13 v Swindon	2.00pm
Thursday 24th June	Midweek XI v Motorola	6.15pm
Saturday 26th June	2nd XI v Warminster III	2.00pm
Sunday 27th June	U15 v Westbury	2.00pm

## 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 Surgery	771869
<b>Schools</b>		
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239
Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570

## Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



A short month to report on this time due to the Easter break and May Bank Holiday.

Rainbows celebrated St George's Day by looking at a real England flag and then made small ones to take home. They've also planted marigold seeds to grow on at home.

Firefighters from Cricklade Fire Station have visited both 1st Purton Brownies and the Guides to give talks on fire safety. For the Brownies this is as part of the Fire Safety badge. Both units are now preparing for visits to the Fire Station itself.

2nd Purton Brownies have been learning their alphabet – or rather the phonetic and finger spelling versions of it. These skills will be used for the unit's participation in the Children's Marathon Challenge, which is a fundraising event in aid of Children with Leukemia, whereby the girls are challenged to do 26 of something of their choice, so the alphabet and its 26 letters fits nicely.

Look out for us in the village this month – we'll be assisting with the Helping Hand Mile of Coins on 19 June, up at the "top shops", so do come along with some coins for the girls to put down.

*JO SULLY, Braydon District Commissioner*

## Purton In Bloom 2004

Plans are well in hand now for this event over the weekend of 10th and 11th July. Programmes will cost £3 and these will allow you to enter any of the gardens open on either days. Since last month we have had some encouraging news, with five more gardens wanting to join us, so we are nearly up to our usual number. More details next month.

*TONY PRICE, Chairman*

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## Purton Guide Dog Appeal

Our stall at the Cricklade Scouts' Table Top Sale made £24.31 taking our annual total to £2534.93.

This month brings the culmination of our year when we hand over the funds we have raised and receive another Working Guide Dog photograph to add to all the others in the Village Hall. This time we shall be doing it at the beginning of the evening before the Cricklade Town Band Concert on Thursday 17th June at 7pm – doors open at 6.30. In return for giving us a free concert (on their normal practice night) we asked them to choose the dog's name: they have suggested Jazz which I'm sure will be acceptable. Tickets for this event are £4 and can be obtained from The Spar Shop or Sue Matthews. There will be a light buffet, stalls and a raffle. Please let Sue know if you require the minibus.



VAL DAVIES  
*Purton Support Group*

## Playclose Methodist Church

During the last two years I have been carrying out the necessary alterations in the Chapel to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. As I am now at the final stages, I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to Roy Crouch of Lydiard for his specialist help and advice. Also to Holland Handling for donating the R.S.J. required for the alterations to the kitchen area and sending two men with it to help lift it into place. With the Loop System in the pipeline, we shall soon be totally accessible to everyone.

BRIAN DAVIES  
*Playclose Property Steward*

## 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 DISCO not SALSA it's clear  
My second's in RUMBA not TANGO I fear  
My third is in BALLET, in TAP we don't see  
My fourth is in the WALTZ, by STRAUSS we agree  
My fifth's found in LIMBO, IRISH JIGS have it too  
My sixth is in CANCAN and COUNTRY for you  
My whole is a city, it's culture renowned. Poets,  
musicians and playwrights abound  
Where am I?

Answer in next month's issue  
*Compiled by Bookworm*



April's Riddle  
The answer was:

**Derby**

# 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.*



I would like to say "Thank you" to all those people who kindly sent me cards, flowers and gifts when I recently went into hospital for an operation. It is so helpful to know people are thinking of you. I am slowly making progress with the support of my family. I hope it won't be too long before I am fit and well again.

Thanks again

SILVIA PRATT

I would like to thank Inez Gale for organizing a visit to the El Greco Exhibition at the National Gallery, London. Inez rightly saw that a visit to this distinguished exhibition would draw a positive response from Purtonians. She was correct. Within days of advertising the event, coach seats were booked and a reserve list had to be opened.

We set off on a beautiful spring Monday (April 26) and enjoyed a pleasant journey to the capital. We arrived without incident.

The exhibition certainly lived up to expectations. It occupied three rooms and had examples of the different styles in which the artist painted. What should we make of those elongated forms? Some critics have seen them as signs of madness. Others believe these are a result of an eye defect. Whatever the truth they are certainly moving. We were also able to see the full range of the colours used by El Greco. As might be expected the Gallery displayed the paintings to their best effect. The experience was greatly enhanced by a personal audio commentary. The importance of Toledo to this Greek artist was explained in a short video presentation. The religious intensity of his work indicates a past age many of us had thought gone forever. We may have to reconsider this in the light of recent events.

So thanks again to Inez and may she organize something so worthwhile for us again.

PAUL BOOY

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## Cricklade Open Gardens - Cancer Research UK

On Sunday 13th June, a number of Cricklade gardens will be open to the public from 2pm to 5pm. The tour starts at Brook House at the bottom of the High Street where the entrance fee of £3.50 will be collected. Refreshments will also be on sale at Brook House. All proceeds from the afternoon will go to Cancer Research UK.

## A Hunting We Will Go...



'Wellies' on, preferably green with buckles at the calf, yellow 'Marigold' rubber gloves, torch with spare battery, plastic bucket with 1" of beer in the bottom. All set, so off to the battlegrounds. Slugs and snails, we are coming to get you!

One hour later my tally, three snails which have been trained in 'Houdini' escape techniques, six assorted slugs floating belly up but happily drunk and gone to the slug heaven beyond. The hunter, back bent and aching, feet cold and with the socks disappeared into the depths of the wellies. There has to be a better way! Me to visit the Internet and see what the rest of the world is doing to beat the enemy.

After visiting Hawaii, Australia, Alaska (you would have thought the slugs would be frozen like ice-lollies), Germany and Wiltshire. The most popular weapons seem to be coffee, either instant or ground, copper collars, and fences made with fiendishly shaped edges to defeat the mountaineer's. So which to try?

First ground coffee, only the best of weapons for me. I collected a large tin full of used coffee grains. Apparently it's the caffeine in the coffee that does the trick; just 2% of the chemical is sufficient to put the slimy enemy out of action. Unused instant coffee is OK but has a lower caffeine content and is expensive. Making up a liquid spray also works but the caffeine is thought to be detrimental to friends in the ground, such as earthworms, so that could be considered a WMD. The coffee grains are spread around the Hostas in an unbroken circle as a test area; unfortunately recent rain partially destroyed the weapon, but was easily repaired.

Next, the copper collars, apparently the underside of the snails and slugs are sensitive to the metal. I had some thin copper sheet from which I cut strips about one and a half inches wide and formed into circles so that the ends overlapped, the edge of the copper is pressed into the surface of the soil. The delphiniums are now wearing dog collars.

Finally to the gymnastic devices. There are several types of these available and all work on the same principal, but they all cost money. The enemy has to climb up and over a fence which is designed with curled or folded edges in such a way that the snail or slug is left hanging upside down. Without being able to make further progress, it falls back to earth, and has to start its climb again. Futile, but you will have snails and slugs with big muscles. Some of the large plastic garden pots that have a curled rim, designed to add rigidity to the pot, may also act as a trap.

So, to the result of my two experiments. Both appear to work, the coffee ring had nobody eating supper from my hosta, and there was just one slug, possibly on a 'caffeine trip' that had been demonstrating on the paving slabs the art of 'break dancing' and then departed to a better slug world. The copper rings showed no evidence of any 'breaking and entering'. So do these traps work? Does it mean an end to the nightly torch hunt? Or as one Australian gardener put it "I still reckons the sole of a large 'wellie' is the most effective way."

*DIGBY*

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## Purton Historical Society



After Brian Edwards' talk last month we now know that there is a lot of trouble concerning Silbury Hill with all the after effects of previous digs into the site, mainly caused by not effectively infilling the excavations. He suggests that we write to English Heritage asking them to act to save our Hill. There is an online petition at [www.heritageaction.org](http://www.heritageaction.org) or if the magazine is out early, which it often is now, there is a 4th anniversary protest at Silbury on 29th May.

There is no actual meeting this month, but plenty going on.

*Walk:* For June 5th, Roy Hobbs and Andrew Rudden have arranged this year's historical walk through Down Ampney, Driffild and Poulton, where we will be taking in Ermin Street, the Roman road. We will meet at the village hall car park at 1.30 p.m.; hopefully we will be able to car share. There is a second meeting point at Down Ampney village hall car park, on the left after the village school, at 2.00 p.m. They tell me that it will be a leisurely stroll of about 7-8 miles across level open countryside, and will take about 4-5 hours. Bring sandwiches for the halfway break.

*Outing:* On June 19th, Helen Dixon has arranged for this year's outing to be to the Commandery at Worcester, the Headquarters of Charles II at the Battle of Worcester. After his defeat he had to be smuggled across country to the Continent. Then there will be free time in Worcester before we travel to the museum at Elgar's birthplace, after that it's time for afternoon tea at a local garden centre. The cost is Adults £15, Seniors £13.50. The coach leaves The Old Scout Hut at 9 a.m, then the Lower Square 9.15 a.m., and Cricklade if requested. Contact Helen if you require further details or to book.

*Cricklade Historical Society:* June 16th. Take no notice of the spelling of the name (*Boohy*) on their programme - its just one more to add to our collection of variations on the spelling. Paul will be talking to them on *The English Civil War* with special reference to Wiltshire. 7.30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

*Wootton Bassett Historical Society:* They have an outing to the Weald & Downland Museum on Sunday 11th of June – tickets are £16.00. Departs Wootton Bassett at 9.15 a.m. Contact Marilyn Roberts on 855227 or me for leaflets.

*Tour of Local Churches:* July 24th. This year our tour will start with Swindon's Christ Church, Old Town. We will meet in the church car park at 10.00 a.m. Further details next month.

EVE BOOY, Secretary



Lilian Rose Clayton

would have been 100 years old on April 29th.

The church was floodlit on days leading up to and after this date.

Remembered by her loving children

Daphne, Brian and Len, and John in Australia

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## Perambulator



IT IS NO GOOD JUST SAYING spring is in the air. It is infusing our blood and bones, it is in the sights, smells and sounds that assail our senses and to an extent that exhilarates the very feel of just being alive and part of existence. They seem to have festivals for almost anything nowadays; why not, I wonder a Festival of Cow Parsley? Just now, shoulder high or even higher, it festoons hedgerows and woodland glades like some divine ornamentation of the world, which of course is what it is. Its delicate white petals, like a lacework of languid grace poised to enchant the eye as it gently sways on slender stems in response to any slight passing breeze, might be the heavenly *corps de ballet* on a crest of some exposition of the triumph of virtue and innocence, made glorious over the mordant forces of some dark winter of discontent. As it salutes the sun, the light and the warmth, it greets the world anew.

And then the open green fields, carpeted with white and gold, buttercups, daisies and dandelions, all in transient shade or sun from lazy-scudding clouds above; there is the scent of the paradise of fresh growth in ones nostrils and the sound of glory unlimited in the heavenly song of the birds in ones ears. One passes through those handsome new kissing gates from Church Path and follows the footpath through a verdant pasture of a veritable paradise of loveliness and gives thanks anew for having simply been born to the privilege of enjoying such splendour.

THE BISHOP OF BRISTOL, in his first visit since enthronement last year, preached on unity at the installation service of Jane Haslam, our new vicar. Perhaps he had in mind the quite distinct camps in the parish of those who attend the 8 a.m. Sunday service and those who belong to the 10.30 service, to say nothing of another distinct camp only seen at evensong. Or perhaps not. I am rather curious about this concept of Church unity, since the idea of all Christians everywhere being united in a single global body is apt to give me the shudders. (Who would run it? And how?) Perhaps the existence of so many varieties of Christian belief all doing their own thing in so many ways already expresses the spirit of unity that scripture envisages. Do they not all seek to follow the same spirit? It is curious how all religious faiths, and not least that of our Muslim and Jewish friends, tend to promote division as though it is a law of nature, and in this they mirror the variety of species of God's creation. What a boring world it would be if there was only one standard apple, or dog or tomato.

Anyway, it was a most impressive service. It is not every day we greet a new vicar; the church was packed, all the village somebodies were present as well as lots of lesser folk like me, and a score or so of visiting clergy from neighbouring churches. I wonder what the collective noun for them must be? A flock of vicars? A bevy? A team? Perhaps we should run a competition on that for the best answer. But both Jane and her ecumenical officer priest husband Michael, who

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will assist her, can be in no doubt of the warmth and strength of their welcome. They are going to need all the help they can get in these difficult times, especially when an Anglican bishop is declaring that at its present rate of decline the church may not even exist in another generation. If that is not enough, whilst Purton can boast a very handsome vault in its churchyard containing the remains of the 18th century Astronomer Royal, the present A.R. is now saying that because of global warming (i.e. your car, cooker, dishwasher, T.V. etc and mine) the odds of human survival at the end of this century are only 50 – 50.

HOW DO WE FEED OUR PETS THESE DAYS? In my institutional boyhood one lad went round the dining room and collected all the scraps from thirty plates; bits of gristle, cabbage stalks, unwanted potato and so on, and gave it to a morose looking ginger tom who wolfed it down as though there was no tomorrow. Nowadays I give Tempé and Ezzy delectable dishes of fresh mince or chicken and they sniff and walk away as though about to summon the RSPCA. I used to wonder if the butcher was somehow doctoring the stuff, but I suspect there is another ball game in progress here. I used to give them the much more expensive tinned pet food; it seems that is what they really hunger for, I am sure the stuff is drugged up with something they can't resist and I can't help wondering what it is.

But perhaps affluence has made us all much more pernickety about our food likes and dislikes. I have a fair flow of guests at my table and whenever I am told with breathless, shuddering finality that he or she can't *stand* eggs, or fish, or some other dish I find myself recalling a reported incident in one of Stalin's infamous Arctic labour camps in the thirties, when one luckless inmate murdered another in a starvation fight over a handful of rotten potato peelings.

THERE IS SOMETHING IMMENSELY SAD to see our bus service so little used. How much longer can the public purse afford to run large 32 seat buses every hour carrying only two or three people? Why not have smaller buses more frequently? Better still, why not do the inevitable and reopen Purton Railway Station? That endless progression of cars through our High Street, frequently carrying just one person, can surely not go on for ever, although no government would stand any chance of being elected if it proposed to stop it. There are over 24 million vehicles on our UK roads. Add to them those in other countries, add to them the way China and India are rapidly building car factories to churn out even more millions of vehicles, and all guzzling away our rapidly diminishing oil reserves and one does not need to be an Einstein to see why oil experts are warning that oil production will peak in the current 2004 – 2014 decade, (and why indeed some are asserting it has already done so). Although the car boom was based on plentiful oil, we are entering a period of acute oil scarcity. If I were a gambling man I would wager £100 that Purton Rail Station will reopen before 2020.

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## Dragons at Widham!

For many years I have been fortunate to have many different types of wildlife visit my garden. For the past 6 years or so a very special visitor keeps coming back – the Water Dragon!!

Looking like a cross between a dinosaur and a dragon, these creatures don't breath fire or dwarf the garden with their size but live in my garden pond. Commonly known as the great crested newt, or warty newt, this shy nocturnal creature is hard to see during the day, however its presence is known by the air bubbles, by the trail it leaves in the mud and the occasional glimpse of its ridged crest. At night time, with the aid of a torch, it is possible to see them, sometimes as many as a dozen, moving slowly across the pond.

I also have a vast number of other newts, both palmate and smooth, which are easily seen during the day. They appear more sociable as they dance and twine themselves around each other, almost like eels, and dart about in the water and mud. Both of these species are very similar, with the palmate newt being about 9cm long, with webbed toes and a very thin, almost hair like filament at the end of the tail. Its web feet give it its name, as the skin between its toes look like the palm of a hand. The smooth, or common newt, which is slightly bigger, about 11cm long, has a crest during breeding times and a vivid yellow and red belly in the male and often is confused as being a great crested newt. Adult newts shed their skin up to once a week.

Why the newts like my garden pond so much is a mystery, as they are normally very fussy. They like ponds to breed in, but spend most of their life cycle on land, travelling up to 500 metres to forage for food in long grass and hedgerows. They don't like tarmac or gravel and prefer a damp area with rough grass around the breeding pond. They live up to 15 years, hibernating in the winter, and most are in the ponds by the end of April. The male great crested, grows his crest to impress the females only in the breeding season and attracts her by 'dancing' in front of her. She then lays about 250 eggs, mainly on plant leaves, folding each one in with her back feet. If there are no leaves then they will use anything available – black bin liners and bags and even old socks!!! It takes three years for a great crested newt tadpole to become an adult and return to the pond to breed

Newts do not like fish! As an adult the newt has a type of poison in their skin that burns the mouths of predators, but the eggs and tadpoles don't have this, hence they are often eaten by fish. The adults have the ability to 'smell' if there are fish in a pond and they will go somewhere fish-free if they can. The heron must therefore be the newts' friend at Widham, as they have fished the pond to empty, thus the newts have taken over.

Great crested newts are about 17cm long, have warty skin, a silver tail stripe, are bright yellow with black spots on the tummy and yellow striped toes and are a magnificent sight. The females are the same colouring but without the crest. The tadpoles are more like fish, with feathery gills and black spots on their tails and

*continued overleaf*

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grow their front legs first unlike frogs and toads which grow the back legs first.

Great crested newts are very rare. They are strictly protected and you need a licence to catch them. There has been a rapid drop in numbers over the last 100 years as their habitats are destroyed by change of farming methods and an increase in the building of houses and roads. It is all very well to protect the ponds they live in, but, to allow the numbers to grow, we need to increase the habitats with new ponds and protect the areas around where they need to forage.

So what is all the fuss about a few amphibians. Surely if they were allowed to die out this would not be a disaster – but would it? It is known that a healthy amphibian population indicates a healthy environment. If there is an environmental problem which will affect us, it will affect the amphibians first, in that they become abnormal, growing extra legs etc. Toxins and increased levels of UV-B are suspected to pose a risk to many natural ecosystems. Therefore you could say the newts are like canaries in a mine, in that they are indicators to us that our environment is safe.

More info: [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)

JACQUI LAY  
Widham, Purton

## The Lydiards Twinning Association

Future activities include:

The annual Barbecue at Hook Farm, by kind invitation of James and Jane Woolford and originally arranged for August 7th, will now be held on 31st July. It is also hoped to arrange a Balloon Race.



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|----------------|--|
| 16th September | A General Meeting and Quiz at The Suffolk Arms, Brinkworth.  |
| 7th October    | A Harvest Supper at Lydiard Millicent Village Hall.  |
| 25th November  | General Meeting at Lydiard Millicent Village Hall with guest speaker Nigel Sharp taking a musical trip Down Memory Lane. |
| 16th December  | Christmas Social at Lydiard Millicent Village Hall.  |

There are still a few seats available on the D Day trip to Normandie – 3rd to 6th June inclusive. Accommodation will be with French hosts. Contact our Chairman, Bob Penfold.

The Association was greatly saddened by the sudden death of one of its popular Members, Pat Webber. A large congregation, including many local Association Members and a group from Domjean in the Tessa Canton in Normandie, attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for her life. This included a warm and emotional Tribute and Appreciation by Mr. Terry Richards, a very long-standing and close friend of Pat and Clive.

JOHN WHITTAKER

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## Carnival 2004: 18-26 June

Have you sent in your Entry Forms? If not, contact Pauline Ward.

# Carnival

Programmes and Draw Tickets are on sale throughout the village telling you all about the Carnival Week. Come along and enjoy yourself and in turn help us raise funds.

### Saturday 6th June:

The Fete opens at 2.00pm running to 10.00pm. This is a family activity with stalls, sideshows, entertainment and plenty of fun and games/competitions for all the family. Pedestrian admission to the field is *FREE* – car parking is available at £1.00 per car. The Fete will be at Carnival Field in Vasterne Hil, off Witts Lane.

Procession starts at 2.15pm from the top of the village and will finish on Carnival Field. We still urgently need help to put up and dismantle equipment on Friday and Sunday, as well as marshals and people to man stalls or sideshows. Please contact Pauline Ward with offers of help or queries.

Minibus available for Coffee Morning, Concert, Bingo and Fashion & Beauty Evening – phone Pauline Ward if required.

Do come along and enjoy yourself and the family. In the meantime, say a little prayer for fine weather!

*PAULINE WARD  
Carnival Secretary*



*Registers*

## From the Registers

### *Baptisms:*

21 March	Scott Carson
	Lauren Carson
28 March	Darcy Goddard
	Henry Crispin
2 May	Connor Wilson
	Freya Clark

### *Weddings:*

13 March	Joanne Patience & Nicholas Ash
27 March	Savita Ankiyah & Simon Dawes
27 March	Katie Savage & David Sheppard

### *Burials:*

18 March	Edith Frost
23 March	Margaret Wells
26 April	Daisy Smith
28 April	John Lindsey

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## From Cricklade Fire Station

During April crews from Cricklade attended 14 emergency calls as follows:-

- 04/4/04 at 0522 – Automatic fire alarm, residential home, Purton
- 07/4/04 at 1610 – Standby duties, Swindon Fire station.
- 09/4/04 at 0825 – Rubbish fire, Chelworth Road, Cricklade.
- 10/4/04 at 1015 – Road traffic accident, persons trapped, Lower Pavenhill.
- 11/4/04 at 1300 – Shop fire (make pumps 5), Castle Street, Cirencester.
- 15/4/04 at 0210 – Car fire, Chelworth Road, Cricklade.
- 16/4/04 at 1403 – Road traffic accident, persons trapped, A 419 Blunsdon.
- 16/4/04 at 2132 – Chimney fire, private residence, Braydon.
- 21/4/04 at 2205 – Bonfire out of control, Leisure Centre, Cricklade.
- 23/4/04 at 0703 – Automatic fire alarm, residential flats, High Street, Purton.
- 29/4/04 at 0846 – Standby duties, Swindon fire station.
- 29/4/04 at 0903 – Automatic fire alarm, retail premises, Orbital Retail Park.
- 29/4/04 at 1626 – Chimney fire, Calcutt Street, Cricklade.
- 30/4/04 at 1200 – Fire in scrapyards, South Cerney.

We hope to be holding car boot sales during the summer months but no dates are fixed as yet. Please watch for information on the Station Notice board and posters in the local area.

If you would like to book a home safety check 'free of charge' or would like to arrange a fire safety talk or just want fire safety information, then please contact any of the personnel below. The same personnel can also be contacted if you are interested in becoming a retained firefighter or a fire cadet.

<i>Sub Officer Neil Vigor</i>	<i>07971 547069</i>
<i>Leading Firefighter Rob Milican</i>	<i>751482</i>
<i>Leading Firefighter Brian Francis</i>	<i>750535</i>

### Fire Safety Advice: Candles and Tea Lights

- Always place candles well away from curtains, furniture and drapes and always out of draughts.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from hair and clothing.
- Always place candles upright in suitable holders, which cannot fall over easily.
- Always make sure that candles are properly extinguished, especially before going to bed.

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## Purton Parish Council News

### Results of Local Plan Questionnaire relating to possible development sites:

- 68 responses have been received and analysed.
- 38% of all those responding say they want no further development in Purton.
- Of the 62% of respondents who indicated a preferred site:
  - a) sites 1 and 4 are most popular – Restrop Road, just beyond Red Gables Close and Land off Station Road to the rear of the recent developments.
  - b) sites 2 and 3 are least popular – Widham Farm/Widham Grove and Land off Witts Lane behind Jewels Ash

As might be expected, among the major concerns expressed by residents are: *traffic, parking, sewage problems, flooding, the need to keep Swindon away from Purton and vice-versa and the maintenance of the rural buffer, the maintenance of the village form, character and spirit, the effect of development on schools, medical facilities and power supplies and the need for affordable housing.*

Various alternative sites were put forward including: *some infill sites, the area between Battlewell and Restrop House, the area between Upper Pavenhill and Hogs Lane and the Poor Street allotments. One respondent, perhaps somewhat 'tongue in cheek' suggested Chippenham, Wootton Bassett, Devizes and Salisbury!!*

A big thank you to all those who responded to this Questionnaire. Further consultation and information events are planned – some in conjunction with Ps & Qs. WATCH THIS SPACE!

### The following Planning Applications have been approved by North Wiltshire District Council:

**N04/00333/TCA** – *Stable View Cottage* – Fell 4 Leyland Cypress Trees and 1 Yew Tree

**N04/00467/FUL** – *15 The Fox* – Ground floor rear extension and conservatory

**N04/00452/S73** – *Land at 24 Upper Pavenhill* – Renewal of 99/01579/FUL – replacement dwelling

**N04/00594/FUL** – *8 Witfield Close* – Extension/Dormer Window

**N03/03160/FUL** – *Land South of The Manse* – Erection of dormer bungalow and single garage with turning area

**N04/00564/FUL** – *Land Opposite Purton House* – Erection of building for vegetable storage, packing and egg grading

**N04/00402/FUL** – *Rowen House, 13 Widham* – Rear single storey extension

**N04/00474/COU** – *4 High Street* – Change of use from complementary health clinic to domestic dwelling

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**N04/00512/FUL** – *Alwynds, Upper Pavenhill* – Extensions and alterations

**N04/00481/FUL** – *Battlewell Lodge* – Detached double garage and store

**N04/00340/COU** – *48 Station Road* – Conversion of rest home to 6 flats

*How to contact the Parish Council:*

Telephone number 01793 771066 / Fax 772646

Email address: [clerk@purtonparishcouncil.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonparishcouncil.fsnet.co.uk)

Website [www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil](http://www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil)

## Village Hall/Institute Trustees News:

### The Institute Clock

This clock has rung out over Purton since the Institute was built in 1879. In its early days when domestic or personal time pieces were relatively rare and only found in the grander residences and on the persons of the rich and influential, it was the only way that the ordinary man in the street would be aware of the regular passing of time. It was made by J. W. Benson of Ludgate Hill and last given a major overhaul by Brian Broad in 1966 who over the years has faithfully wound it. There has, however, been no major work on the clock since then and a recent survey reveals that although the works of the clock are still in good order – a tribute to the skills and craftsmanship of the maker – it now requires a complete strip and clean. In addition the bell hammer is at present resting on the bell after striking causing a duller note and creating the risk that the bell might crack. The dial which is of course subject to the full effect of the weather also needs complete restoration. Our surveyor also says that the numbers V and VII are upside down although this is identical to Big Ben! It would also be good to install an automatic winding system.

In his report our surveyor concludes, “You have a very good clock on the Institute which if given a complete restoration will serve the people of Purton for many years to come”

Restoration will cost in the order of £7,000. The trustees would be very grateful for any donations towards this from either individuals or organisations to help ensure an early start on this work and to ensure that this clock rings out over Purton for at least another 125 years. The Secretary of the charity is Teresa Hartshorn who can be contacted on 01793 771066 (same telephone number and address as the Parish Council Office).

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