

Purton Magazine



March 2005

45p

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
6.00pm 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 Editors

Roy Blake will have been known to many readers and his recent death had a sad inevitability following the development of his painful illness several months ago. The timing of his departure has meant that we have only been able to include a rather hastily compiled tribute to our former vicar.

We do very much look forward to receiving many of your personal reflections and memories and it would be very appropriate to publish them next month because the very existence of this magazine owes much to Roy. Shortly after his move to Purton, and with the help of the then Methodist minister, he expanded the St. Mary's church magazine with its limited circulation and set the foundations for the publication you are reading today.

We have also lost Gerty Holland in the last month but we are able to publish a very caring tribute from Matt, one of her sons, with some most interesting information about his parents' early days.

This month we have further evidence that Purton is a very caring community. The irrepressible Tony Richardson tells us of the highly successful rock concert held in the Village Hall which raised a cool £2,446 for the tsunami appeal – as he says, 'not bad for a night's work'.

Age Concern's fund-raising continues – but perhaps not quite so loudly – and recently they received a donation with the message "I was told to give this to you but I mustn't say who it's from". A community donation of a different type appears on our front cover. It is the last of three memorable monochrome photographs kindly provided by Chris Pocock and shows a dramatic 'cloudscape' as seen at Purton Stoke.

As last year, we understand that all three originals will be available for auction at the Purton Artists' exhibition in November. Next month we start the trio of illustrations by Brian Coe. Elsewhere in this issue, you will see that Purton is described as "a small village with a big heart" and many of us will be able to think of more examples in addition to those mentioned.

During the last month we have also heard about the engagement of Prince Charles to Camilla Parker Bowles. Whatever people may think about the constitutional contortions concerning the crown, it always warms the heart to see a couple so clearly happy and at ease together. We look forward to publishing your comments and reactions especially after a local edition of the Bristol Evening Post simply used the headline "Tetbury man to wed".

Finally, it has been said that the size of Ellen McArthur's heart matches the size of her achievement. But having got her trimaran called B&Q safely round 27,354 miles in just 71 days, a customer has apparently written to B&Q asking why it has taken them nearly 80 days to deliver his kitchen when he lives only 27 miles away from their warehouse – and on dry land.

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S-Hit 5 Tsunami Evening

The fund raising evening for the Tsunami Appeal organised by Purton band, *S-Hit 5* was a resounding success. I've not seen the village hall so full in years. The event was a complete sell out – there was a great atmosphere and everybody was out to enjoy themselves.

There were three live bands, a band with no name (that's not their name, they just haven't got a name yet), *Kolakoca* and *S-Hit 5* (Purton's very own boy band) who organised the event. There was an excellent and extensive raffle and a prestige auction, with all prizes and auction lots having been donated. A quiz, compliments of Len Page, a casino – thanks to PESTs and Len for running this – a lot of people up dancing and a lot of help clearing up afterwards. Oh and as well as all that, we raised £2,446 clear profit for the Tsunami Appeal. As the saying goes, not bad for a night's work.

On behalf of *S-Hit 5*, I want to thank everybody who helped out, the other two bands who also performed for free, all those who donated items for the raffle and auction, those who donated money and of course everyone who attended and helped make it such a good evening. Now then, what shall we do next?

TONY RICHARDSON



S-Hit 5 in full swing

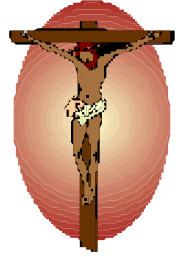
Cancer Research UK Cricklade Branch

Big Breakfast Thursday 3rd March 2005

From 7am until 12noon a cooked breakfast, toast, and cereals etc will be available. Then from 12 until 2.30pm light lunches will be served. Cakes and preserves will also be on sale. Do join us for breakfast or lunch in the United Church Hall, Calcutt Street, Cricklade.

All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK. For further information call 01285 860000.

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Church Activities



Lent Groups: Life Attitudes 7

Get together with others to consider some of Jesus' sayings.

7.45pm - 9.15pm followed by drinks and light eats.

Further information from David Martin

- 14 February: Living well, The Vicarage
21 February: Living openly, 18 Church Path
28 February: Living purposefully, Huntersbrook House, Hoggs Lane
7 March: Living Lovingly: Callards, New Road
14 March: Living the image: 25 Restrop Road

Lent Lunches

Wednesdays from 9 February to 16th March from 12.00pm - 1.15pm at the Methodist Church. Soup, ploughmans or jacket potato and cheese + drink for £2.40. Money goes to Tearfund. (Cake stall too!)

Special Services at St Mary's

13 March, 7.30pm: Time of Passion

20 March (Palm Sunday), 10am Procession with donkey from Village Hall

24 March (Maundy Thursday), 7.30pm Sung Communion

25 March (Good Friday), 9am Walk of Witness, 2pm-3pm The last hour vigil

27 March (Easter Day), 6am Lighting of the New Fire, 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung Communion, 6.00pm Evensong

Activity Morning

10.30am-12pm on Good Friday – Activity time at St Mary's Church. This replaces the activities on Maundy Thursday. For further information see Jane Haslam (770210).



St. Mary's will be floodlit on 16th March
for Margaret Joan Wells

on the first anniversary of her death.

Always in our thoughts.

Stephen and Judith, Simon and Sandra.

St. Mary's Church will be floodlit on 21st March
for the 29th anniversary of the death of

Charles James Wells.

Always in our thoughts.

Stephen and Judith, Simon and Sandra.

Holocaust Memorial Day in Purton

The meetings of Purton Historical Society are held on the third Thursday in the month, but in January an extra meeting was held on the fourth Thursday. This had been arranged to coincide with Memorial Day which marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi extermination camp of Auschwitz.

The meeting was attended by more than 50 members and visitors who were welcomed on a solemn and significant occasion by the chairman, Jean Thomas. She then handed over to Paul Booy who gave an introductory talk on the general history of anti-Semitism leading up to the mass extermination of the Jews in Nazi Germany. He pointed out that although anti-Semitism had been used to devastating effect by Germany, it had not been instigated by Germany and had been rife throughout Europe for many centuries.

The guest speaker, Frank Strange, then gave a graphic description of his recent visit to the Auschwitz concentration Camp in Poland. He described the grim reality of the buildings which are still standing just as they were left at the end of the war, and his own personal emotions of being in the very same rooms as the condemned prisoners. His talk was illustrated with many photographs both of the camp as it today, and also with aerial photographs to show the size of the camp during the war.

The talk was followed by numerous questions and comments from the audience, and the meeting was closed by Brian Coe who added his own reflections on a previous visit to the same camp. He thanked both Paul and Frank for their talks and suggested that on such a serious occasion we should replace the usual round of applause for the speakers by a short period of silence in memory of the Holocaust.

JOHN BELT

Prayer for Purton

The Churches pray week by week for the village, its organisations, businesses and people. In March we are praying specifically for:

Restrop View, Restrop Road, Bagbury Lane, Battlewell, The Masons

Everyone in these streets should receive a card through their letter box inviting them to request any prayers they'd like included in Church on Sunday and throughout the week.

Requests can be sent to Revd Jane Haslam at the Vicarage, Hyde Lane, Purton, Wiltshire, SN5 4DU (Tel: 770210 or email: jane.haslam@virgin.net) or to Revd Jan Partridge (email: jan@gordon-partridge.freeserve.co.uk). Requests can be completely anonymous or you can talk to us about your concerns and requests.

However, please don't feel you have to wait until it's your street's turn. If there is something urgent please feel free to contact us at any time.

Purton Museum - Exhibit Of The Month

After The Bell Boy

The death of Canon Roy Blake prompted me to check the Museum's archives to see what we had related to him and his time in place as Vicar of St Mary's. Not a lot was the surprising result. Not even a photograph.

In his obituary on page 30, brief mention is made to his time in Uganda working with Bishop Yokana Mukasa. Canon Blake wrote a diary of his time there entitling it *After the Bell Boy*. He gave a copy of it to the Museum in 1999 and I fear it has sat in a box in the storeroom ever since.

In the book, he refers to his early days in Purton:

"From an Anglo-Catholic seminary I went to an Anglo-Catholic first parish, where I had a tough time with an austere vicar and learned my priestcraft. Very thoroughly – I remember he spent three months of weekly staff meetings teaching me how to say mass. Later came the most fulfilling time of my life: nine years in an inner-city, multi-racial parish. My new doctor told me he had 44 nationalities on his books. Most were Jamaicans, many Punjabis, but there were Hungarians, Cypriots, Italians, Ukrainians and a surprising number of Latvians. I had a late-Victorian church I could have hugged, it was so beautiful and yet so homely. Five altars, three shrines. People who'd been abroad would say it reminded them of old-fashioned pre-Vatican 2 continental Catholic churches, with its Stations of the Cross, rood figures, statues, votive candles and lingering smell of incense.

"And now, six years in a country parish in a Wiltshire village, and a church Catholic enough, in Anglican terms, for us to wear vestments and use incense, though I'm no longer called Father, but Canon, and few cross themselves or genuflect to the blessed sacrament.

"For the first year or two I was lost. Coming from a parish where I was almost as much a social worker as a priest, serving on the Community Relations Council and opening up the church halls to a housing clinic and a free legal advice centre, starting playgroups and a community carnival, rushing battered women to Casualty and helping to set up a refuge for girls escaping from prostitution – where I met my wife, I didn't know what to do in a village with more than sixty different organisations which seemed so self-sufficient.

"I missed the steel house behind my Victorian vicarage, the West Indian men sitting on their doorsteps, calling 'Hi, Vic' as I passed, the smell of goat curry, the sharp crack of dominoes slammed down on pub tables and the miniskirted girls along the main street in the afternoons, who said with a sly smile, 'Do you want a bad girl, Father?'

"But now I'm at home in my country parish. At home in the seven-bedroomed vicarage. At home in the garden where I grow my own vegetables and we eat our own eggs and drink our own goat's milk. At home in the village, where for six years I've christened, married and buried, so that there's hardly a family in the village that I don't know, and where I can't walk straight in at the kitchen door."

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer



Roy Blake being made a Canon of Mityana by Bishop Yokana Mukasa , March 1981

Time of Passion

13th March, 7.30pm at St Mary's, Purton

"Time of Passion is a café, a time of worship, a space to be silent, a time to talk and discover and create; it's multi-media and experimental; it's about discovering and worshipping God."



Join us and find out more. More info from jane.haslam@virgin.net

Purton Evening W.I.

Our Christmas and 39th birthday party was a very good event with a superb meal and entertainment from Dennis Shakespeare and his saxophonists. Maybe the Spirit of Christmas took over and I apologise for missing the February magazine. Anyway, we raised a good sum of money by signing a joint Christmas card to each other and putting a donation in the box for the Prospect Hospice.



Tea, tea, tea, tea, tea! was the subject of January's meeting. Ian Green from The Wiltshire Tea Company told us the history of tea which was much more interesting than anyone could suspect. Did you know that tea is grown in 26 countries throughout the world, roughly in a band between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, but also in the UK in Cornwall. Three conditions are required to grow *Camelia sinensis*, the tea tree: high rainfall, sunshine and acidic soil. Some 800,000 tons of finished tea are produced per year in India alone. Never store your tea in a plastic container. But enough of history! Ian brought along over 40 varieties of tea so we had a chance to taste some of them. The competition of five biscuits was won by Marlene Slee.

Members are reminded that volunteers for the Silver Threads tea rota are required for 7th June and 27th September. This involves one afternoon to serve tea to our senior citizens at their meeting. Please search your diaries to see if you could do this.

Our next meeting is on February 16th. When Commodore Ian Gibb will tell us about "From Cadet to Commodore". The 16th March is our AGM and I would also ask members to search your hearts as to whether you could serve on the committee. Many hands make light work and it really is quite fun. If committees are not your thing at all, ask yourself whether you could do a job – just to lend a hand. Once again, new members will be very welcome in our WI. Do come along and give us a try. If you live in the village you will know many of the members anyway so there is no need to be shy. Third Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE - PURTON CARNIVAL

Purton Evening Women's Institute will be running a cake competition on Carnival Day, Saturday 25th June 2005. Full details later. This is an open competition so men and women of Purton – start honing your baking skills now!

VERONICA GARSIDE

Gerty Holland - tribute to a mother and a village.

Mum first came to Purton in 1961, by bicycle, up Pavenhill from Lydiard Plain, in search of schooling for four of her six children and paid work to support her family, all eight of whom were living in a tied cottage linked to her eldest son Peter's work on a local farm. Mum found schools for her youngest children and a job at Northview Hospital, while her second son John found a job in Malmesbury. Within five years she had also found a little house for her big family on the Common in Purton.

This was the start of more than four decades of life in a village that Mum and her ever-expanding family grew to know and love. Now Mum is gone but memories of her live on, as does her husband Leslie, her five surviving children, John, Matt, Luke, Andreas, and Ruth, all middle-aged parents in their own right; and her growing family of grandchildren and great grandchildren, both near and far, all of whom are grateful for the home, friendship, and support they have found in Purton.

Mum was born in Vienna in 1912 but had to leave her homeland in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution. Separated from her family and, as a refugee, living with uncertainty about the length of her stay in England, she took up a post as trainee nurse at a hospital in Ealing. There she met Leslie, a penniless but talented artist. They married and, for a honeymoon, walked out of London with their worldly possessions in two rucksacks.

They headed west, doing casual farm and garden work on the way. This honeymoon hike produced many stories that in years to come became family favourites. For example, one day in the mid 'seventies, as we were walking down Oxford's Cowley Road, Dad pointed to an old red telephone kiosk and exclaimed, 'See that? Your mother and I spent the third night of our honeymoon propped up together in there!'

For a good few years of her early married life, Mum got well used to this level of luxury. With Dad working as a market gardener, Mum made home in a gypsy caravan in Evesham, where their first son Peter was born. When the caravan was swept away by river floods, they moved into an old cricket pavilion, which burnt down when they were out shopping one day. Life together was proving to be both challenge and adventure.

It became even more so when, on a trip to Ludlow, they had a life-changing encounter that also led to improvement in their living quarters. Dad, who sported a bountiful bohemian beard, spotted a couple of men across the street with similar expressive growths. Mum and he discovered that they were members of a group called the Bruderhof (German for 'place of brothers') who were attempting to live out a Christian ideal, as described in the Sermon on the Mount: to live and work together, as sisters and brothers, with love, and to share possessions and have all things in common; to live in community.

So they went to live on a farm in Shropshire, with scores of other people who longed for the same way of life. The farm outbuildings had been converted to big communal dining rooms and family homes, and the old hen house had become a

much-used maternity unit. In the relatively safe, secure, and supportive environment of the Bruderhof Community, they soon had five more children. In 1953 they were asked, by the Bruderhof, which now had an outpost in South America, to travel to a new home in Paraguay. This involved a 3-week trans-Atlantic trip by ocean liner, third class, during which Mum spent a great deal of time running round the decks looking for her lively brood of six small children. She has described finding them 'hanging through railing, swinging on anchor chains, and climbing up masts'!

Her childcare worries only increased when the family settled into their idyllic but primitive home in rural Paraguay. Tropical diseases were rife and native fauna, though always colourful, was not always friendly. Surprisingly, it was not Mum or her children who usually got bitten but her husband!

After almost a decade of adventures and acclimatisation in this tropical paradise, Mum and Dad left the Bruderhof and brought their five boys and one girl back to England. Their experience of life in one community had come to an end but was about to begin in another. Purton gradually became their new home, and home too, in many and meaningful ways, for their entire family. Mum especially enjoyed her regular shopping trips in the village, getting to know shopkeepers in her own special way, as she sought to get good deals on all manner of groceries for her big and hungry family. Thus friendships were made, all around the village, something that anyone running family errands could see from the kind and respectful way that the people of Purton spoke of our Mum.

While we all mourn her passing, we are also filled with gratitude for her long and eventful life, and the life and friendship – and wonderful support in recent weeks – that we, her family, and Mum herself, have been able to enjoy in Purton.

MATT HOLLAND

A Big Thank-You

I cannot thank everyone enough for the good wishes and offers of help received during my recent illness. To say 'overwhelmed' at all the offers of help and assistance is understatement! Thank you, Purton: small village – big heart!

GRAHAM TURPIN

I found this note in his bedside drawer after Graham had passed away on 4th January 2005. We would like, also to say thank-you for the lovely cards and support we received and thanks to Tony and Sheila Price and all on the minibus, who give a lot of their time for Age Concern to make us more mobile.

PHYLLIS TURPIN



St. Mary's Church was floodlit
on 22nd February
in memory of Ray Suddaby
on the 9th anniversary of his death.
Loved always by his wife Pat.

Old Farmhouse B&B

At last we have a 5 diamond AA rated bed and breakfast in the area at The Old Farmhouse, Purton. The only one in the Swindon catchment area. And, according to Jan at the Swindon Tourist Information, 'an unheard of achievement for a newcomer to the business', as many Swindon bed and breakfasts have been trying for years to attain this accolade.

We have recently converted four Cowstalls into luxury bed and breakfast suites with the help of many talented tradesmen in Purton.

My husband Graham and Joe Broadbank made a wonderful job of the building. Joe, as well as being an expert builder also has a tremendous sense of design and put some wonderful finishing touches to the stalls - receiving much praise from the building inspector. Ian Derham has produced some amazing oak windows and doors. Mike Lawrence served us very well with putting in all the electrics and Kevin Brown plastered them out a treat! Thanks very much to all of you.

Chunky exposed beams, old brick walls from bricks which originally lined the floors of the stalls, and wonderful vaulted ceilings, set a characterful scene. Joe made a truly amazing designer kitchen in the large relocations suite, from off cuts of beams, a few old bricks and some huge slabs of tumbled slate. I wanted the interiors to be unique. I utilised many of the objects left discarded around the farm. Hayracks became magazine racks, cow-cups made fantastic up lighters, one of the taps sprouts from the centre of an old millstone and old galvanised containers made lovely planters.

The soft furnishings also had to be special. I spent nearly three years acquiring one by one, monogrammed antique linen sheets from various chateaux in France commissioning many antique dealers from Cirencester and Tetbury to find these for me as well as other interesting and unusual objects. Andy at Original Reclamation (featured in a programme on BBC2 Thursday nights) sourced about 40 lovely antique iron radiators for us – just so that everything in the rooms oozed ambience and took the occupier on a very gentle trip back in time.

We had an incognito visit from the AA inspector in January. He stayed in The Crib - based on a very romantic French theme (all four stalls have different themes). A slightly saucy pair of French silk knickers are one of the unusual items decorating the walls, with monsieur's hat pegged up with them - another is an old French village hall notice box dated 1940 – that probably had a few stories to tell!

The following morning when the inspector announced himself he said he didn't want to vacate his room, his bed was so comfortable and there were so many extras for him to look at and do (videos, books, magazines, games). He awarded us with an unbelievable 5 diamonds and a commendation for breakfast.

What did he eat? I shall never forget! Freshly squeezed orange juice and a fresh fruit salad. A cafetière of full roast coffee. A platter of Wiltshire ham, Havarti breakfast cheese and black Kumato tomato with a blueberry garnish. He finished with a selection of homemade marmalades, jams and jellies with crusty brown bread and warm croissants straight from the Aga.

CHRISTINE SAUNDERS

Purton And District Age Concern



We have lost two lovely people from Purton during the last month and also, sadly, unknown to me, a lady died around Christmas time who had lived at Quarrydene. She was a lady in every sense of the word, always smartly dressed with the accessories to enhance her appearance if she needed it.

I don't think she did as she was an elegant lady with lovely hair and the personality to go with it. Mrs. Halstead really loved it in Quarrydene – I know in years gone by, along with others from Quarrydene, she would come on our mystery tours and attended other functions we ran. We did miss her when we went to Quarrydene carol singing at Christmas. We would like to thank the family for money in lieu of flowers coming to Age Concern.

Mrs Holland was another lovely person, so hard working but always very appreciative of what was done for her. She was born in Vienna and attended the University of Vienna. However, she came to England as a refugee and trained as a nurse. It was in those days that she met that well known character and artist, Leslie, her husband. They moved around quite a bit, not only in this country but further afield, before settling in Purton. By this time, they had six children and, my word, how proud she was of her family and their achievements. What a contribution they have made to the village. I believe Mrs Holland was one of those angels that worked at Northview, cycling up from Braydon to get there. In later years, Mrs Holland benefited from our minibuses and how she appreciated them, and, I might add, was very generous towards our funds. She was a remarkable lady who, with Leslie, raised a remarkable family, and was an example to us all in the way she went about her life.

The other person who died was Mr Davis from Highridge Close who was perhaps not that well known, but was another lovely person. Mr Davis has, I believe, lived at Highridge Close ever since it was built. His wife was a great contributor to Age Concern. She was always doing things and making things for us. Mr Davis was another of those people who appreciated what was done for him but with a certain amount of independence. I know when he was picked up and taken to Luncheon Club, he would always insist on walking on down to the Post Office, although all the drivers offered to take him. When I tell you that he had a job to walk, apart from being nearly blind, it shows you the nature of his character, appreciative of the help but not wanting to overburden people who were kind enough to help him. Mr Davis was the type of person we would all like to be like in later years, or even now. We have received money in lieu of flowers in memory of Mr Davis and we thank his family for this, and to all the family and friends of these three people we offer our deepest sympathy.

People are polite and kind – like when I was talking about the Toc H in last month's magazine, a lady said 'where was the Thistles in the High Street?' She knew and I knew when she said it that I had dropped a clanger, as it was the Sissells where the Toc H first met – sorry about that!

We continue to be on the receiving end of people's generosity. Keith and June

continued overleaf

Mobey had another fantastic display of Christmas lights and decorations, with a box outside for Age Concern. We thank them most sincerely for this, as we do Bim and Marlene Herbert, our street wardens in Purton Stoke, who also had a very nice display of Christmas lights, with a box outside here again for Age Concern. So our thanks go to these kind and enterprising people and, of course, to the people who put money in the boxes. While on about Bim, or should I say Alan, as that's his proper name, may we wish him a long and happy retirement. I am sure he will not be sitting in the chair with his feet up all day, but I do know he will be missed at Jubilee Gardens, where he has been a great asset to them all.

We have had another of those lovely anonymous donations. Sheila came home from one of her groups one day and said 'I was told to give this to you but I mustn't say who it's from'. Inside the envelope was a very generous donation, so our thanks go to this kind lady – I assume it was a lady, as it was a ladies' meeting. Another lovely surprise we had was that one of the local traders refused to take any money for the Christmas vouchers he had taken – many thanks for that.

Another pleasant surprise was a cheque for £150 from Wootton Bassett Rotary Club. As we cover Hook, Greatfield and Greenhill, they felt we could put the money to good use. Well, they can rest assured we can certainly do that. It was so nice of them to think of us, especially as they do so much good, not only in England, but throughout the world, and I am sure there would have been plenty of other uses they could have found for it. The money came from their Christmas street collection. It was very kind and greatly appreciated and long may their good work continue. Last, but not least, we have received a donation from the Revd. Miles Charity, who distribute money in the Lydiard and Hook areas. For several years now they have given us a donation after they have distributed money to people in the area. We really appreciate their kindness in thinking of us.

Don't forget our concert at St. Mary's Church, Purton, on Thursday 10th March. The entertainment is by Encore, a group of talented singers and instrumentalists, directed by Geoff Walters, and it should be an enjoyable evening. This event is kindly being sponsored for us by In Touch Services and we are very grateful to Rick and Helen Dixon for this. Tickets are £5 available on the door. We would like to thank St. Mary's for allowing us to use the Church, as it is such a marvellous venue. The minibuses will be available for this – ring John and June.

Our annual auction will be on Saturday 5th March with the doors open from 9.00 am. to 11.30 am. to receive items to sell. There is a limit of 250 lots, viewing is from 12 noon to 1.00 pm., with the sale starting at 1.00 pm., under the hammer of Roderick Wightman. As soon as we have 250 lots, we stop taking any more items. We don't accept beds, settees, armchairs or anything that is upholstered that hasn't got a fire safety warranty with it, useless items, old gas or electrical appliances over two years old, without a safety warranty, clothes, poor quality items or faulty items, or books (except specialist books). We reserve the right to reject anything from the sale. You get 75% of the selling price.

Our first mystery tour of the season will be on Wednesday 6th April, with a 10.00 am. start with lunch provided, fare £9.50, outsiders £12. We will still be subsidising these trips considerably as the cost of meals and of the coaches has increased.

Once again we were given a very good evening's entertainment by PADS. at

their annual pantomime. There was some excellent acting and the costumes would not disgrace the London Palladium (is it still open?). As I have said, it was a brilliant show, but I must just mention Chris Compton, who played Tonkerbell. As soon as he appeared, you couldn't help but laugh. He played the part so well and his costume and hairstyle had to be seen to be believed. So thank you PADS for giving us so much pleasure.

Let's finish on a happy note. I am talking of the social evening we had at the Angel for all the people associated with Age Concern in one way or another. We had entertainment provided by the Jolly Roger from Cheltenham and he was in tip top form as usual and very funny. The buffet was excellent which all added up to an enjoyable evening, so thanks here to the Jolly Roger and Tommy and Cathy, the hosts at the Angel, for helping us to have a very nice evening.

TONY PRICE

Purton Scouts: The Community Challenge

There is an important award in Scouting that we try to get all the Scouts working towards, called the Community Challenge. Since November, the Purton Scouts have been working enthusiastically towards this badge, and have completed a variety of activities.



For Remembrance Day, all the Scouts made a concerted effort to attend the parade service in Purton at the War Memorial. Then a fundraising evening followed, and the Scouts had a non-uniform evening, paying to come to Scouts in their normal clothes. During the evening, they also took part in a sponsored assault course, as well as getting the chance to throw soaking wet sponges at the three Young Leaders that the troop has! Additionally, for the week before, they had been trying to fill (empty!) tubes of Smarties with small coins. This evening raised a total of £250.

After seeing the interest that the Scouts showed after Remembrance Day, we invited two members of the Purton Royal British Legion, Mr Berry and Mr Verity, to come in and talk about what the RBL does and how it helps its members. Mr Berry also talked about his time in the Navy and of how his ship was destroyed. Following this he was captured by the Japanese and then sent to work in a camp. The Scouts were sobered to think that events like this could have taken place.

The £250 raised during the fundraising evening has been split into two: £150 for the RBL, and £100 for Children in Need. At the beginning of February, Mr Berry, along with another member from the RBL came back into Scouts to be presented with the cheque, which the photograph shows.



Our Scout Group website, www.plscouts.org.uk, has lots of pictures from the Fundraising evening, available in the Scouts >> Pictures section. Why not have a look?

ANDREW TEDSTONE, Young Leader

Michael Raper, 1927 – 2005

My father was not known by many in this village as he lived in Surrey where I was bought up. His death came as a complete shock to all of us, having just spent Christmas with him on holiday and he looked so well, however he has left behind many memories of his kindness, enthusiasm and generosity to all those who knew him. He was a great family man and found time for his children and his grandchildren, being my girls' father figure for 15 years. I am who I am because of him.

Our family were really touched and overwhelmed by all the wishes of condolence that we received from people in this village, caring for us in our grief. This village is such an amazing place and I am privileged to feel part of the community.

I am glad that I had so much time with him over the years and thank you Dad for all the lessons in life you taught me, from the basics of appreciation of the natural world around me, to joining in and taking part within a community where ever I lived. We have your example to live to and we hope you will be proud of all our achievements in life.

JACQUI, JENNY and MICHELLE LAY

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

“CITY OF TRURO” WEEKEND Sat/Sun 5/6 March 10am to 5pm
Special visit of this famous Swindon built locomotive. Tickets for the train ride cost £6 for adults, £4 for children and seniors and £18 for family of two adults and two children.

HOT CROSS BUN SPECIALS Fri/Sat 25/26 March (diesel) 11am to 4pm
Tickets £4 adults, £2.50 children and seniors and £12 family ticket. All to include hot cross buns.

EASTER EGG SPECIALS Sun/Mon 27/28 March (steam) 11am to 4pm
Tickets £4 adults, £3.50 children including Easter egg, £2.50 seniors and £13 family ticket.

Steam trains will also run on Mothers Day, Sun 20 March.

Blunsdon Station is on Tadpole Lane, two miles from the Abbey stadium, towards Purton or approx. 2 miles south east of Cricklade near Crosslanes crossroads.
Enquiries 01793 750335 or 771615.

Pete Simpkins

Unfortunately due to ill health our Dad, Pete Simpkins, is no longer able to live in Reids Piece or the Cedars.

He had a small stroke followed by pneumonia and was in hospital for a couple of months. Happily now though he is fully recovered and living in a nursing home in Swindon.

He would love to see family and old friends in his new surroundings.

"The Last Supper"

It's hard to believe that by the time this article appears in the Purton Magazine it will be almost a year since "The Last Supper" returned to St Mary's. It looks out on us like a very old friend who has come home after a long absence yet it is as though it had never been away.

But there's one more thing to do to show this lovely painting at its best and that is to light it properly. Plans are well advanced to do just that and to do it in such a way that the casual visitor will be able to view the picture as well as the regular worshipper. The surplus to the Picture Fund is being put towards the cost of the lighting and so is a generous donation from Andy le Poidevin from the sale of his original drawings for last year's magazine covers at the Purton Artists' Exhibition. There's a little more fund raising to do but it is very much hoped this project will be completed by the summer. A further update will be given in the Purton Magazine in due course.

HECTOR MCLEAN

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
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239
Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are always welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this magazine – especially with those recognisable in any photographs. It follows that opinions expressed in the magazine are solely those of the respective contributors.

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

PURTON PLACARD

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

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

PURTON BRANCH

Presents their
ANNUAL CONCERT
at the



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL
SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2005 at 7.30pm
with
THE CRICKLADE BAND
and
THE JANICE THOMPSON CONCERT
CHOIR

Price £5.00

Tickets available from Legion committee
members or at the door.

RAFFLE and LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

St Mary's School PTA

Pop Quiz

(Teams of 6)

Date - Friday 11th March

Time - 7.30 PM

Location - St Mary's Upper
School Hall
Licensed Bar

also

Bingo on Friday 15th April in the
Upper School Hall at 7.30 PM.

The Western Hollywood History or Myth?

Purton Historical Society's
Fourth Film Night

Friday 18th March 7.30pm.
St. Mary's Upper School Hall
Cost £5

Speakers Dr. Miles Booy and
Simon Brown M.A.

Further Enquires:
Mrs Julia Cook

St Mary's Church
Saturday 9 April
Pub Games Evening
6.45pm
Silver Threads Hall

Everyone Welcome

- teams of 4 -

Tickets £5 to include supper



Guide Dogs for the Blind



Purton Support Group
Social
&



Thankyou Evening
7.30pm, Saturday March 19th
Silver Threads Hall
All welcome
Entertainment Stalls Buffet

PURTON AGE CONCERN ANNUAL AUCTION

at the Village Hall, Purton
on Saturday 5th March

viewing from 12 noon – 1.0 pm.
Sale starts at 1.0 pm.

Auctioneer – Mr. Roderick Wightman.

The Cricklade Band **Table Top Sale**

Sat 2nd April
2.00 - 4.00pm

To be held at
Cricklade Town Hall
Tables £5.00 each
Book now

Forthcoming Table Top Sales

Sat 12 March in aid of Silver Threads
Sat 9th April in aid of Helping Hand Club

Both at Village Hall – 1.30pm
Admission 20p (children free)

Tables £6.00 each.
Telephone Pauline
Book now before it is too late.

Raffle and Refreshments

PURTON AGE CONCERN PRESENTS

*'Encore' in concert
a group of talented singers and
instrumentalists
directed by Geoff Walters
sponsored by In Touch
Services*

at St Mary's Church, Purton
on Thursday 10th March
at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £5 on the door

Purton Diary Page – March 2005

March

1	Tu	2.00pm	Ecumenical Choir - Silver Threads Club
		7.30pm	Committee Meeting at Silver Threads Hall
2	W	10.00am	to 12.00noon: Coffee & Chat at Silver Threads
		10.00am	Eggleton Auction Sale at Hook Village Hall - details: tel 536388
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		11.00am	Prayer group at St Mary's
		2.30pm	Pram service at Purton Methodist Church (for Pre-School children)
		7.30pm	Easter Quiz at Bradon Forest School (tel 770570)
		7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train
4	F	9.30am	to 3.30pm: Open Day at Meadowpark Preparatory School
		9.30am	Concessionary Coach to Swindon
		7.30pm	Junction 16 Theatre Group at Village Hall: <i>Farndale Ave. Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery</i>
		7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer service at Toothill Church
5	Sa	9.00am	to 12.00noon: Open Morning at Meadowpark Preparatory School
		1.00pm	Age Concern Annual Auction at the Village Hall (viewing 12noon to 1.00pm)
		7.30pm	Junction 16 Theatre Group at Village Hall: <i>See Friday 4th</i>
6	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service at St Mary's (no service at Purton Methodist Church)
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's
<hr/>			
8	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at the Angel
9	W	10.00am	to 12.00noon: Coffee & Chat at Silver Threads
		11.00am	Prayer Group at St Mary's
		2.30pm	Pram service at Purton Methodist Church (for pre-school children)
		2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill - Mrs Rachel Dowling on Susanna Wesley
		7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train
10	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
		3.00pm	Communion at Quarrydene
		7.30pm	Concert at St Mary's with Encore
11	F	7.30pm	St Mary's PTA Pop Quiz at St Mary's Upper School Hall
12	Sa	1.30pm	Table Top Sale at Village Hall (by Silver Threads)
13	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's
		10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong
		7.30pm	'Time of Passion' at St Mary's
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15	Tu	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove (for pre-school children)
		2.00pm	WI Choir - Silver Threads Club
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
16	W	10.00am	to 12.00noon: Coffee & Chat at Silver Threads

	11.00am	Prayer Group at St Mary's
	2.15pm	Pram service at St Mary's (for pre-school children)
	2.30pm	Mother's Union at Purton Methodist Church
	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at the Village Hall
	7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train
17 Th	10.45am	Communion at White Lodge
	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society AGM at St Mary's School Upper Hall: <i>The Berkeleys & the Battle of Nibley Green</i> - Peter Fleming
18 F	7.30pm	Former NWR meal at <i>The Maharajah</i> - phone Avril on 771542
	7.30pm	Historical Society Film Night "The Western" at St Mary's Upper School Hall
19 Sa	7.30pm	Social Evening at Silver Threads Hall in aid of Guide Dogs
20 Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.00am	Procession with Donkey from Village Hall to St Mary's for 10.30am
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church
	6.30pm	Ecumencial service of Confirmation at St Mary's

21 M	7.45pm	St. Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church Hall: A devotional talk by Mike Haslam
22 Tu	6.30pm	Holy Communion at the Cedars
	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Mr J. Witham - <i>Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens</i>
23 W	10.00am	to 12.00noon: Coffee & Chat at Silver Threads
	11.00am	Prayer Group at St Mary's
	2.30pm	Pram service at Purton Methodist Church (for pre-school children)
	7.30pm	First night of Historical Society Spring Course "The Era of The American Civil War" at St Mary's Upper School Hall
	7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Ghost Train
24 Th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion at St Mary's
25 F	9.00am	Walk of Witness
	10.30am	Activity morning at St Mary's
	2.00pm	Last Hour vigil at St Mary's
27 Su	6.00am	Lighting of the New Fire service at St Mary's
	8.00am	Easter Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Easter Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's

28 M	7.30pm	Purton Helping Hand Club at Silver Threads Hall - new members welcome
29 Tu	2.00pm	Dorcan Choir - Silver Threads Club

April

6 W 10.00am Age Concern Mystery Tour

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included, let us know:
Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@intouchpurton.co.uk

Roy Blake 1925-2005

Vicar of Purton 1974 – 1993

Roy was appointed vicar of St. Mary's Purton from St. Agnes' church in the multi-racial area of St Paul's in Bristol where he enjoyed referring to his congregation as the "United Nations at the alter rail". There he will be remembered for starting the St Paul's Festival which has become Bristol's answer to the world famous Notting Hill Carnival in London.

Here in Purton he followed Canon Willis, the vicar who had the living in the parish for some 47 years and many Purtonians wondered what changes he would bring to a country parish from the city life in Bristol. His first challenge was to co-ordinate a large restoration project for St. Mary's building. As was to become one of his fund raising 'trade marks' Roy led the appeal by sitting in the lower square on a cold, snowy day. Villagers responded most generously, usually commenting that "if he's prepared to sit there all day, it's up to us to support him" and money was raised to repair the stonework and part of the roof as well as to install new leaded light windows on the South side – all of which took almost three years to complete.

This magazine owes a debt of gratitude to Roy because, with the support of Anthony Keast the then Methodist minister, he changed the St. Mary's church magazine with its limited circulation into a magazine for the whole village. His relationship with the Methodist church locally was greatly helped by his wife Peta, a Methodist Deaconess, who was later ordained Deacon in the Church of England. He took the church to neighbouring Braydon and Purton Stoke and Braydon Methodists regularly invited him to preach after his retirement from St. Mary's in 1993.

His next project was to change the hymn books and the prayer books – the latter being the bigger challenge because most other churches had long since moved away from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and the 1928 service. His solution was typically positive. He introduced two new versions at the same time, enabling the congregation to choose between a traditional style and a more modern version which were used at alternate services.

Old buildings seem to have a habit of needing urgent attention just at the wrong time and during one of Roy's evening services, leaks appeared in the heating system pipe work, spraying water high into the church rather like an ornamental fountain – but indoors! More fundraising and a new heating system was the result and soon afterwards Roy initiated a full cleaning of the interior of St Mary's which revealed the ancient wall paintings which are now properly



preserved and admired by many art historians from around the country.

Other internal elements were updated or improved during his tenure including refurbishing the chapels, dismantling and cleaning the organ as well as adding two more bells to make a peal of eight. He also added the external toilet, again memorably raising the funds by sitting on a lavatory all day in the lay-by opposite College Farm House.

In parallel with looking after the fine old building, Roy was always looking for ways of involving many different groups of villagers. He introduced the Christingles service and set up the activity week for children during the summer holidays – both of which are still very popular decades later. Concerts by visiting musicians were encouraged and the local artists used the church for their annual exhibition that has now expanded into the Village Hall.

His horizons extended beyond the village as he organised and led several parish holidays to the Holy Land, Syria and to the Millennium Passion Play in Oberammergau. Indeed, he and his wife Peta spent the winter of 1980/81 in Uganda helping Bishop Yokana Mukasa in his difficult and dangerous work and on their return, Roy became the Co-ordinator of the Uganda link with the Bristol Diocese as well as advising other dioceses about setting up similar links.

He was also a chaplain at Princess Margaret's hospital and remained chaplain of the local Royal British Legion until his illness forced him to relinquish the position less than three month's ago.

Roy was born in December 1925, the second of four children in Lambeth Walk, London but spent his schooldays in Hornchurch, Essex and the first part of the war in Derbyshire. Aged 17, he joined the Army as a volunteer and was trained as a radio operator in the Royal Signals. In 1945 he was commissioned in the Sherwood Foresters and served in Palestine until 1947 as Welfare Officer at Northern Palestine District HQ.

After demobilisation in 1947, he served with the YMCA until he joined a training course at Chichester Theological College in 1953. He was ordained in Bristol Cathedral in 1957 to a title at Westbury-on-Trym and after four years he served a further four years as priest-in-charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Bishopston before being appointed Vicar of St Agnes' church in the St. Paul's district of Bristol.

These recollections have been hastily assembled for printing and are based on contributions from Roger Lawrence and Sidney Hinkes from Malmesbury to whom grateful thanks are recorded. Roy will be remembered by many people in Purton whose lives he touched in so many different ways and at so many different times – whether sharing the celebrations of births and marriages or commiserating discomforts and departures. Many of his achievements and contributions will not have been included in this article and readers are encouraged to write their own personal memories of this special man for publishing in future editions of this magazine that owes much to his outlook on life.

The Street Bible Live!

'First off, nothing. No light, no time, no substance, no matter. Second off, God starts it all up and WHAP! Stuff everywhere!' Genesis 1:1.

It's creative. It's colourful. It's the Bible as you've never read it. In this engaging new paraphrase, the actors render the Bible in the language of the modern urban reader. Using vivid contemporary dialogue, they lend fresh perspective to familiar stories and sayings. For new and seasoned readers alike, the Street Bible takes the message of the Scriptures into the 21st century. It creates the impact it had in the 1st century.

The Street Bible is being performed as follows:

2 March 7.30pm at Greendown School, West Swindon

3 March 7.30pm at New College, Parks

4 March 7.30pm at Warneford School, Highworth

Tickets are £4 (£1 for students) and can be bought on the door.

I've seen it and it's a wonderful show. If you'd like further information see Jane Haslam (770210).

Pram Service

Pram service for Pre-school children is on 2 March, 9 March & 23 March at 2.30 at Purton Methodist Church and on 16 March at 2.15pm at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome to these ½ hour times of songs, prayers & activities. Further information from Revd Jane Haslam (770210).

Purton Guide Dog Appeal

Since last writing we have received the contents of two of our regular collecting boxes. Bassett Petshop's held £18.14 and The Angel's "dog" contained £30.43. We are most grateful for your small change - it really does mount up, and brings the current total to £1748.56.



Our proposed February event never materialised so we arranged a Quiz Sheet instead. If you haven't had one already, they are on sale at several outlets in the village or from Sue and myself. Each entry costs £1, all the answers are Breeds of Dog and the closing date is March 16th – which brings me on to our next event. The winner of the quiz will be announced at our Social & Thankyou Evening on Saturday March 19th. This will be held in the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm and will include some entertainment, a light buffet, various stalls and a raffle. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The bags of foil keep on arriving almost daily, and most contain the correct items. However, some carriers still have COFFEE and CRISP bags and/or TABLET PACKS in them and these all have to be separated out and discarded. PLEASE do the "scrunch" test – if it doesn't STAY screwed up it isn't foil and we don't want it – sorry! But all non-magnetic (ALU) cans are useful, preferably crushed. Many thanks for your cooperation.

VAL DAVIES, GDBA Support Group

Purton Historical Society



We had a very busy January. We had our meeting concerning the American Railroad that was very much enjoyed by our members. This was followed a week later by the talk on Auschwitz by Frank Strange; John Belt's report on that meeting is elsewhere in this magazine.

Meeting: On Thursday 17th March we have our Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Peter Fleming. He will be telling us about "The Berkeley's and the Battle of Nibley Green". It was the last private battle in England and it happened near Wootton-under-Edge in 1470. We meet at 7.30pm in St Mary's Upper School hall. Talking about the AGM – have you ever thought of joining the committee? New blood and ideas are always wanted.

Film Night: "The Western, Hollywood – History or Myth?" our fourth film night is on Friday 18th March at 7.30pm in St Mary's Upper School Hall, price £5. This year Miles Booy and Simon Brown explore "The Western in the Cinema". Extracts from several films including: *Stagecoach*, *High Noon* and *Dances with Wolves* will be shown. We shall see that early westerns were based almost on current events. The almost mystical partnership of John Wayne and John Ford will be discussed.

Spring Course: The course will be held for six weeks starting on Wednesday March 23rd at 7.30pm. The first meeting will be at St Mary's Upper School hall; the rest of the meetings will be at the Silver Threads hall next to the Cenotaph in the High Street. The theme will be "The Era of the American Civil War 1861 – 1865" All meetings start at 7.30pm, the cost is £15 and further details can be obtained from Mrs Julia Cook or myself. The course will begin with a detailed look at the problems between the Northern and Southern states, particularly the issue of slavery. We shall see how such tensions arose and that civil war became the outcome.

Recently I was handed a book for the Museum called "Homewords" which contains pages of Purton's parish magazine. In the entry for January 1894:-

The following gratifying Report has been received from Canon Awdry (one immediately thinks of Thomas the Tank Engine – is he related to the author?)
Diocesan School Inspection

Report of Purton Infants School, visited October 24th, 1893

"The same thoroughly good teaching is observable as in all previous years, and the answering in each group was bright and ready. The tone and order continue to be very good"

Purton Mixed School

"The general result of my examination both orally and in written work, showed that good work had been done during the past year in Holy Scripture and the Catechism. A very fair proportion of the children both in the Upper and Lower Schools answered satisfactorily, and some instruction had been given in the order for Morning Prayer".

So school inspections are not a new idea. Back to Victorian values.

EVE BOOY (Secretary)

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 Sir/Madam,

Being a member of a family evacuated to Purton during the war and often being labelled a “Cockney Git” and told “go back to London” in my childhood years, despite having been born in a small cottage where Restrop View now stands, I believe I qualify for being a fully paid up member of the “Purtonian” club.

Having shed my label, and cultivated a strong Wiltshire accent, (if you can't beat them join them) I became a proud Purtonian, bragging that this pretty village is my home. Hence opting to live in Purton after our marriage and not Cricklade from where my wife originates.

Unfortunately over recent years I have changed my view that Purton has that something that Wootton Bassett and Cricklade are lacking.

Not only is this my opinion but the opinion of individuals I meet during excursions around the village. I am fortunate in being able to regularly walk around the village having retired some eighteen months ago.

The infrastructure of the village appears to be breaking down for several reasons, expressed in various ways.

1. The lack of upkeep of roads, pavements, verges etc.
 2. Traffic congestion caused by inconsiderate and illegal parking. Police do not appear willing or able to address the problem as police have been seen driving passed or even parked near vehicles that are parked on double yellow lines, parked on pavements, parked on drop-down kerbs, double-parked etc, without confronting the perpetrators.
 3. Litter is deposited throughout the village especially around the Parade and Pavenhill areas.
 4. Dogs foul footpaths and grass verges. This appears to be more of a problem in winter when people do not walk the fields with their dogs.
 5. More and more children are being transported to Bradon Forest school from West Swindon and surrounding district, increasing the volume of traffic through the village. Unfortunately some of the children appear to have no respect for the village or its inhabitants, reflected in the willy nilly disposal of litter and the casual use of foul language no matter where or when. Young people appear to be re-introduced to the village during the evenings socially congregating around the village, mainly around fast food outlets. A possible cause for vandalism that appears to be on the increase in the village.
 6. Vandalism of varying severity.
 7. The village appears to cater for its fair share of young single people needing to be housed. Especially young people who do not originate from Purton. Many would possibly prefer to have been housed closer to their immediate families.
-

-
8. A recycling centre that now attracts people from an ever expanding geographical area. Worse still the dumping of toxic waste from an also ever increasing geographical area.
 9. Businesses that monopolise kerb-side parking spaces congesting and creating hazards for other road users. Mud and water washed from commercial vehicles across roads into kerbs that not only tread on the soles of shoes into vehicles, but can become a road driving hazard when turning to ice in the winter.

Could it be that Purton has become a dumping ground for anything or anyone no-one else wants?

I apologise to anyone who may find the above offensive and to those people in Purton who carry out many of the commendable charitable activities that take place within the village and congratulate them for their compassion and hard work.

In order to return to a neat tidy orderly village much of the above could and should be addressed by the appropriate council bodies and the police. With a concerted effort by some "locals" to change certain habits I am sure Purton could once more be a "Jewel in the Crown". A place where all of the inhabitants say with pride "I come from Purton".

Yours faithfully,
DEREK DOWNS

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank all the kind people who donated to the Bristol Baby-Care Unit instead of buying presents for my recent birthday celebration.

The Final figure was £348 and this will go a long way towards purchasing an incubator in memory of my little grandson, Sam.

Thank you once again,

JAN WALKER

Theo and Basil Marchant would like to thank family family, good friends and neighbours, together with the doctors and staff at Purton Surgery for all the cards and gifts, letters and telephone calls during Basil's latest illness. We are pleased to say that he is slowly making progress with support from you all. Many Thanks

Dear Sir,

Just a quick message to all those who donated money to Cancer Research during December when we decorated our house with Christmas lights. We managed to raise £30.

ANGELA and TRISTIAN HEAL,

Mabel Bunce (Auntie Mabel)

David, Iris and Davina would like to thank everyone who attended the service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, and to Rev Jane Haslam. Relatives and friends have been kind and generous with their donations which total £366.89, to be shared between Purton Silver Threads and Age Concern minibus funds.

Your kind thoughts, sympathy cards and letters of condolence are much appreciated by us all.

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 MIST, and in Fog never found
My second's in FROST, but in Ice there's no sound
My third is in RAIN, though in Showers it's a miss
My fourth look in FORECAST, and WEATHER for this

My whole is an island historically known
It's in the North West where monks made their home.

Bookworm

Q. Why did the mushroom go to the ball?
A. Because he was a fun guy!



Last Month's Answer
was

Dundee

Purton Tennis Club

In preparation for the new season we are holding a **Spring Clean** session at the Clubhouse on Sunday 20th February from 10.00am. Members will be warmly welcomed if they would like to come armed with cleaning materials, garden implements [trowels, rakes etc] and some degree of energy! We will keep everyone going with coffee, biscuits and encouragement. We aim to smarten up the clubhouse and courts so that they are a credit to us all.

When you've got over that excitement how about practising ready for the Selection Days (mornings really) when teams for the forthcoming season of the Swindon & District League will be chosen. The Club is determined to have a fair and open policy whereby players are assessed **ON THE DAY** and not just because they are known to team selectors. We are keen to field the best players possible again this year to keep up the high standard we are known for. So we will hope to see all members, keen to play in the summer matches, at one of the following times:-

Friday 25th March

Sunday 3rd April

Sunday 10th April

from 10.00am – 1.00pm at all these sessions

And don't forget our **Mixed American Tournament** at the **Delta Tennis Centre** on **Saturday, 19th March** from 6.00 – 10.pm. These evenings are always great fun. Tickets from Caroline.

We look forward to seeing you.

CAROLINE McLEAN

Purton Football Club



Four straight league wins for the Hellenic league side with victories over Ross Town, Winterbourne United, Trowbridge Town and Adderbury Park has seen them lift themselves out of the relegation zone but were eliminated from the Supplementary cup losing 2-0 at home in the 18th round to Winterbourne United.

Purton's Reserves and "A" teams in the Wilts Premier and Cirencester leagues still remain at the foot of their leagues but, although losing their games, improvement is taking place as they compete in very competitive leagues. The Reserves are in the semi finals of the Corsham Cup having received a bye the previous round.

At Youth levels the Under 16s are unbeaten in their league but went out of their cup competition while the under 13, 12,11 and 10s are in the lower half of their respective leagues. The under 9s, "A" and "B" teams in the minors league are both placed mid-table. The Under 11s are still in the Wiltshire under 13 cup now at the quarter final stages.

On Easter Saturday night at the Red House the club will be holding its Easter Raffle. Tickets are 20p each or a book of 5 for £1 are available from any club player/member so make sure you get yours before the day.

The current Chairman of the Club, Tony Brown and yours truly, Hon Sec have informed Club members that both will be standing down at the end of the current campaign. Tony Brown has informed members he will remain as a member of the Committee however and I have informed the members I will continue as Club President (if re-elected) at the AGM in June.

The club will also be looking for new committee members for next season so anyone interested in joining as a member or applying for the Chairman/Hon Sec posts can contact Tony Brown or myself for further information.

Still plenty of football left at all levels to be played so please keep up the good loyal support.

*ALAN EASTWOOD,
President/Hon Sec/Press and Programmes*

Activity Week 2005

Every year, during the summer holidays, 'Purton Churches Together' run the Activity Week for children aged 7-11 years, who live in the Village or go to the village school.

This year the theme will be **Arts, Crafts and Senses** and it will take place during the week of 25th - 29th July 2005.

For the week to be successful we need volunteers. Can you help? Do you have a hidden talent you can share? It doesn't have to be every day and it doesn't even have to be a full day. Please let me know as soon as possible whether you can help so that we can plan the week in advance. For more information please contact me - Jacqui Lay.

Purton Cricket Club



Pre season preparations continue apace and include the replacement of the tiles on the tea room floor which have given good service since the early 1970s. Work on trimming hedges, clearing ditches and undergrowth and maintaining the track to the field is also well advanced. Indoor nets have started and a large group of young players are benefiting from the teaching of the club's qualified coaches. We are running three under age teams for U15, U13 and U11 groups. At present we need to find a manager for the U11 team. If anyone is interested in this position please contact me.

Outdoor coaching sessions are scheduled to start on Friday 6th May and details of the arrangements for these practices will be available at the club's pre season registration evening to be held at the Red House on April 22nd from 7.30pm. Opportunities to purchase cricket clothing and equipment will also be available.

We still need offers of help with the provision and serving of teas and offers of support on the work weekend of April 2nd/3rd would be much appreciated.

The cricket season starts on Saturday 30th April when the 1st XI play Collingbourne at home. The 2nd XI is away at Bradford Town. I know how much our players would like the village to support the teams. Please come and watch - you may enjoy it!

From the Archive:

16 July 1927 - Bad day for Purton!

Tetbury 83 (J Haskins 6 for 23) and 112-0

Purton 14 (Cook 7 wickets for 2 runs, Prout 3 wickets for 10 runs)

JOE GARDNER



St. Mary's Church was floodlit
on February 22nd in memory of

Edgar (Ted) Sheppard.

7 years gone but always in the thoughts
of his daughter Tricia, wife Rene and grandchildren.



From the Registers

Funerals

21 January: Doris Margaret Hancock (89)

28 January: Gerty Holland (93)

2 February: Bobby Davies (93)

Baptisms

16 January: Mia Lilian Davies & Amy Annabel Holway

News from the Cricklade Aqueduct



It's a freezing January day, yet volunteers are chest deep in water unblocking the pump which will lower the water level enough to dig the sludge from the final culvert to be restored.

Since our last bulletin the collapsed central tunnel (culvert) and one north side wing wall have been rebuilt and the other has been dug out ready for rebuilding.

The proposed new route around Cricklade has been discussed at a public meeting at Cricklade Town Hall and residents were generally in favour. The canal will cross the Thames to link into the Thames and Severn canal to the east of Cricklade, with a marina proposed near the approach to the town. Detailed plans are being prepared by Riverscape.

Meanwhile the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust has purchased the lock at Hayes knoll, two miles from Cricklade. This has been cleared and fenced but restoration work cannot begin until engineering drawings and plans are ready. The Cricklade branch will rely on help and advice from other branches of the Trust who have already restored locks on the canal.

Our chief bricklayer has vast experience of rebuilding structures along the canal, and even now is helping with the final stages of the Chaddington lock at Wootton Bassett.

The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust has recently twinned with the Nantes a` Brest canal in western France. It lies not far from Cricklade's twin town of Suce Sur Erdre, so there should be opportunities for mutual canal visits.

Branch meetings are held at the "Bell" pub at Purton Stoke on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.45pm and friendly work parties are held each Sunday from 9am to 1pm. New members welcome, if only for support.

Please ring Dave Warren, work party organiser.

Carnival 2005

Plans are going ahead. I hope you are thinking very seriously about your Carnival float – theme "THE MUSICALS" – decorated shop/house, or becoming part of the Carnival Royal Party. You can be a big part to make the Carnival a success. All entry forms will be available from 1st March (tel. Pauline Ward). There will be plenty going on at the Fete Field including availability for car boot and organisation sites. We do urgently need your help – if you can spare a little time to help in some way please contact me on the above telephone number.

Carnival

PAULINE WARD, Secretary of Carnival Committee

Purton Tae Kwon Do Club

The Tae Kwon Do Association of Great Britain (TAGB) celebrates 30 years in the West of England this month and aims to raise £30,000 for local charities throughout 2005.



Founder, Master Michael Dew 7th Dan, started learning the art of Tae Kwon Do during his time in the RAF. When he returned to the UK in 1975, he had attained his Black Belt and wished to give others the opportunity to learn this art and experience the benefits he had gained.

The first club opened 30 years ago in Western Super Mare and, with years of dedication and determination, he has built the South West into the largest individual group within the TAGB as a whole.

To celebrate this massive achievement, all the South West Clubs are participating in individual ways to raise monies which will be given to predominately local Cancer Related Charities.

Cricklade, Purton and Wroughton Clubs will be entering into this with a range of events including a 'SUMMER SPECTACULAR' during June. A major demonstration from students of all ages, experience, abilities and grades, giving the public a chance to experience the full meaning of the Art of Tae Kwon Do.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event or would like information on tickets, please contact Instructor Miss Victoria Orchard.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

There were about 50 members at our Annual General Meeting held on 25 January.

The competition cup for the most points throughout the year was won by Mary Jones with Alice Matthews second and Geraldine Waldron third.

The David Herbert (Chairman), Mary Jones (Secretary) and Jill Herbert (Treasurer) were re-elected. The remainder of the Committee – Arthur and Maureen Griffin, Marjorie Shailes, Lorna Comley and Judy Preddy – were re-elected en bloc.

For our outings this year it was decided to go to Waterperry Gardens at Wheatley, Oxford on 7 July and possibly to the Malvern Show.

Raffle winners: Doreen Freegard, Richard Woolfrey and Jean Miles.

After the meeting we had a lovely American Supper and, of course, our usual tea and coffee. Thank you to all the members for providing it. It was delicious.

Our next meeting, on 22 March at The Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm, will be Ms J Witham talking on *Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, South Africa*. Competition: 5 daffodils. We hope to see you all there, new members are always welcome.



MARY JONES, Secretary

Parish Council News



Purton Parish Council and The Royal British Legion

This year marks the sixtieth anniversaries of two important events in the history of our country. VE day when Germany surrendered which was on May 8th 1945 and a few months later VJ day when Japan surrendered on September 2nd in the same year.

To mark these occasions a social evening similar to the D-Day evening will be held in the Village Hall on August 13th. Details have not been finalised but similar events have always been well attended and supported. On this occasion, as some of the members of Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion are survivors of the Second World War, it seems only fair that these people should have first call on tickets as and when they are available.

Councillors Bruce D'Arcy-Masters, who is a member of the RBL, and Susan Matthews will be co-ordinators of this event and more details will be available in the next month or two.

Mobile Skate Board Park – Over the past few months the Parish Council has been working with North Wiltshire District Council, Wiltshire County Council and other local councils to form a partnership to enable a mobile skate board park to visit the towns and parishes of those involved with the partnership. This has come about at the request of local youngsters.

From May 2005 the facility will be in Purton every Monday evening for a 3 hour session. The unit will be set up at the Village Centre and will be supervised at all times. We are continuing to look for other sites so that the unit can be moved to different locations. We hope this will prove to be a good facility. We appreciate that there may be questions raised about noise etc but we are committed to trying out this new venture and will be able to modify the equipment and times of its use to try and avoid too many problems. Like all new things until we try it we do not know how successful it will be. We do know that it has been on trial runs in Devizes and Calne and in each case has been very well received and considered to be a success.

Annual Parish Meeting – remember your annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 21 March 2005 starting at 7.30pm. Come along to find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year. Our District and County Councillors along with the Police have been invited to attend. Either just come and listen or ask any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st.

Footpath 94, Purton – Bagbury Lane – we have received notification from Wiltshire County Council that Mr & Mrs Neilson would like to divert footpath 94 away from their garden onto other land in their ownership. If you would like to comment on this diversion then write to Wiltshire County Council, Environmental Services Department, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 8JD by March 8th or phone 01225 713038 or email Alan Harbour alanharbour@wiltshire.gov.uk

continued overleaf

Tree Planting – Berriman’s Wood – You are invited to take part in a tree planting event on the 5th March at Berrimans Wood (access via lane opposite Collins Lane on the B4553, The Pry). Leaflets and posters will be in the village to advertise the event and will provide you with all the details you will need to take part. This is a wonderful project so please support it if you can.

Planning Awareness Event – thank you to all who attended the exhibition that Ps & Qs and the Parish Council jointly organised at Pavenhill shops on the 5 February. As many will know the deadline to comment was the 18 February. We realise this is a complicated process which is ongoing and that it is easy to ignore it for that reason. However it is important for us to do all we can to have our say in how we develop and not how somebody else says we should because they have produced some questionable figures for housing. We are heartened that even the Environmental Audit Committee are questioning the housing quotas that are being talked about by Central Government. They state “The Government’s housing policy is an alarming example of disjointed thinking in an area where joined-up policy is crucial. John Prescott’s new Five Year Plan still misses the key point: until the Government takes proper account of the strain which house building places on the environment, we will continue to create serious problems for ourselves and future generations.” There is no doubt that if the number of houses proposed are built in this area we will have some very serious problems to deal with and our quality of life will be affected.

North Wiltshire Visitor Guide 2005 – if you are looking for some places to visit and stay in North Wiltshire this visitors guide is very good, copies can be obtained from Tourist Information Centres or visit the North Wiltshire Tourism Website: www.visitnorthwilts.co.uk

North Wiltshire District Council has approved the following planning applications:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| N04/03307/FUL | <i>106 Pavenhill</i> – single storey rear extension |
| N04/03350/FUL | <i>Ashgrove House, 63 Station Road</i> – first floor extension |
| N04/03423/TCA | Recreation Ground at Village Centre – felling Leyland Cypress and Norway Maple trees. |
| N04/03458/FUL | <i>Cranleigh, 29 Upper Pavenhill</i> – single storey rear extension and rear porch |
| N04/03362/FUL | <i>Garage Rear of 49 Station Road</i> , Inclusion of one obscure glazed gable window to plot 11 and two obscure glazed gable windows to plot 13 (amendment to N03/02624/FUL) |
| N04/03382/FUL | <i>35A The Hyde</i> , Erection of single storey front extension. |
| N04/03449/S73A | <i>Common Farm House</i> , Construction of two dormers for loft conversion. |
| N04/03491/COU | <i>Land at Stoke Common Lane</i> – Erection of stables/haybarn and change of use to equestrian – amendment to 04/02287/FUL |

North Wiltshire District Council has refused the following Planning Applications:

N04/02949/FUL *Purton Industrial Estate, Hills Minerals & Waste Ltd – Concrete batching plant and related facilities.*

N04/03465/OUT *Land at 31-33 New Road – outline two dwellings – all matters reserved.*

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

Website: www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil

From Cricklade Fire Station

During January crews from Cricklade attended 12 emergency calls as follows:-

- 2/1/05 at 1906 Machinery and Portacabin fire, construction site, Fairford Lane.
- 4/1/05 at 1507 Automatic fire alarm, Surgery premises, High Street, Cricklade.
- 4/1/05 at 1832 Barn Fire, The Hyde, Purton.
- 7/1/05 at 1935 Road Traffic Collision, person trapped, A419, Cirencester.
- 8/1/05 at 1043 Emergency special service call, dangerous barn roof, Farm premises, Castle Eaton.
- 10/1/05 at 1112 Serious house fire, The Chipping, Tetbury, Glos.
- 15/1/05 at 1719 Classroom fire, private school premises, Ashton Keynes.
- 18/1/05 at 0715 Road Traffic Collision, A419, Northbound.
- 21/1/05 at 1822 Rubbish bin fire, underpass, Malmesbury Road, Cricklade.
- 25/1/05 at 1044 Child locked in car, private residence, Ashton Keynes.
- 26/1/05 at 2024 Automatic Fire alarm, residential school, Calcutt Street, Cricklade.
- 27/1/05 at 2042 Serious gas leak, Cirencester Road, Latton.

If you wish to book a 'free of charge' Home Safety check or would like fire safety advice then please contact any of the personnel below. These numbers should not be used to report an emergency!

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

Fire Safety Advice - Chip Pans

Chip pans are one of the biggest causes of serious house fires so please heed the information below:-

- Never have flammable items above or near your cooker.
- Never fill a pan more than one-third full of fat or oil.
- Keep cooking oil clean by filtering out spilt food.
- Change cooking oil regularly, dirty oil catches fire more easily than clean oil.
- Never leave the pan unattended when the heat is switched on.
- Before putting food in the pan, make sure the food is dry.
- If the oil begins to give off any kind of smoke, turn off the heat and leave the oil to cool.

SMOKE MEANS THE OIL IS JUST ABOUT TO CATCH FIRE.