

Purton Magazine



Sledging & Grazing
photo: Libbie Sheppard

February 2010

45p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Tues & Fri 2-5pm & 6-8pm Weds 10am-1pm & 2-5pm)</i>		
Police	Neighbourhood Policing	08454 087000
Post Office	Susan Budd	770346
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Richard Woodbridge	770862
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Schools and Play Groups:		
Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141
		or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

LOCAL CHURCHES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Contact: Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770210

Alan Woodward, tel 771572

Richard McCarthy, tel 770838

www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton

Services: See [Diary Page](#) in this magazine

METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister Rev Stephen Cullis, tel 853197

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

Services: PURTON See [Diary Page](#) in this magazine

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

Services: Holy Days Vigil 7.00pm Holy day 9.30am

Sundays 10.30am Mass

For times of weekday services please see Church notice board

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

Priest Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586

St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade

Holy Days 7.00pm Mass

Sundays 9.30am Mass

From the Editors

This month your magazine is full of challenges both in the past and yet to come. The long lasting snow has finally melted taking away the basic challenge of keeping upright when walking on icy pavements. Another challenge has been to keep going for as far as possible when sledging in the snowy fields.

Yet, throughout the difficulties our local shops have all risen to the challenge of keeping open and generally well stocked. A grateful Purtonian has written to the magazine to thank all concerned and we expect many others would agree.

On a global scale, the challenge of getting governments to sign up to a maximum 2°C temperature increase floundered at the recent Copenhagen climate conference and we have a postscript from our very own correspondent at the talks. With such cold temperatures here, talks about global warming presents the challenge of differentiating between weather and climate.

Two villagers are already training for their challenge of riding a tandem from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise money for Help the Heroes. But, as you will see on [page 17](#), it is no ordinary tandem as the riders are back to back. We understand that Dave will be the rear gunner - as it were - always looking backwards and without any handlebar to hold. While he will still be pedalling forwards - as it were - Dave will not know anything about hills or corners until they happen (or Neil tells him) not that he could do much from his reverse recumbency other than simply joining in the pedalling through 27 gears over 930 miles. Such deeds of derring-do (or downright daftness) surely deserve our support (or sympathy!).

Finally the challenge of keeping New Year resolutions might be down to the physical makeup of the brain rather than any character flaw. Apparently willpower comes from the pre-frontal cortex of the brain and can be improved and strengthened with exercise, just like a muscle.

An American experiment demonstrated that undergraduates given a random 7 digit number to remember were twice as likely to choose some gooey chocolate cake (as opposed to a healthy fruit salad) compared with those given only a random 2 digit number to remember. So, trying to do anything that requires conscious attention and greater self-awareness (such as maintaining a good posture) helps to increase our willpower over the long term. Until then, where are the cream buns?

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men back to back on
1 bicycle from Lands End
to John O'Groats
- see [page 17](#).

+2°C

climate change target
beyond the reach of
Copenhagen delegates
- see [page 26](#).

£2m+

raised in unclaimed
benefits last year by local
Citizens' Advice Bureau
- see [page 6](#).

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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' written in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

Magazine Committee

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey, Helen Dixon,
Rick Dixon, Sheila Fowler, Nigel Manfield, Francis Sheppard

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Distribution enquiries only:

[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

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Parish Council News



Christmas Lights – In last month’s magazine we mentioned that the Parish Council was going to trial some Christmas lights on one of the trees on the paved area near Pavenhill shops. Well, we have to say they were not a great success and if you saw them on you were lucky. It seems we did not have enough bright weather to recharge them as they were solar powered, hence we will have to go back to the drawing board to review this for next Christmas. We would however welcome your views on some Christmas lights in this locality bearing in mind that if we do not have solar powered lights we will have to tap into an electrical supply. Your comments would be appreciated.

Annual Parish Meeting – Your annual parish meeting will be held in Purton Village Hall on Monday 29 March, starting at 7.30pm. Please make a note of this date in your diary. This always proves to be an interesting meeting with a guest speaker who this year will be Richard Pagett talking about a Sustainable Transition Town Project. Richard recently gave a presentation to the Parish Council on this topic and it has to be said that we were wondering what to expect, but it proved to be a very interesting and enlightening presentation which we felt would have been of interest to a wider audience, hence the reason for inviting Richard to give a similar talk at the Annual Parish Meeting. We hope the Police will also be in attendance to give an update on local policing and to answer your questions. The Parish Council will present its annual report and will welcome your views and comments on any parish issues you may wish to raise. If you have any items you would like to add to the agenda for the evening then please contact the Parish Council Office.

Parish Council Vacancies – Why not start the New Year with a new role? - that of a Councillor. It is an interesting and rewarding way to give something back to your community. In terms of commitment, the Council has meetings most Monday evenings, however your attendance at these would depend on which Committees you might like to serve on. We have planning, finance, burial, rights of way and play areas committees together with trustees meetings for the Village Hall/Institute, Village Centre/War Memorial and Play Close charities of which the Parish Council is the full trustee. If you would be interested in giving some time to help run local affairs then please contact the Parish Council Office for more information.

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

- N09/01655/TPO *Red Gables, Restrop Road*, tree surgery to 3 horse chestnuts to include 30% crown reduction, crown raising for 1 tree by 4m and reduction in length of side branches by 2m for 1 tree.
- N09/01918/FUL *Collingdale, The Hyde*, change of use of barn to annexe
- N09/01540/REG3 St Mary’s School, College Road, erection of temporary classrooms on existing playing field; demolition of existing primary school and construction of two-storey, two-form entry primary school and associated landscaping, removal of temporary classrooms and reinstatement of playing field.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

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

Time on your hands? Care about people?

Want to make a Difference?

If the answer is yes...read on!

North Wiltshire Citizens Advice Bureau is recruiting new volunteer advisers to begin training in April in Chippenham.



North Wiltshire Citizen Advice Bureau is a charity, reliant on a team of volunteers and paid staff to provide information and advice to people in our local community. In 2008/09 we helped over 6492 households and raised more than TWO MILLION POUNDS in unclaimed benefits, employment awards, debt write-offs and other entitlements.

In addition to giving advice, Citizens Advice, all CABx use evidence from their clients to influence policies. We are concerned, for example, about the impact of Jobcentreplus changes and are using our clients' evidence to campaign for improved customer services for people who are incapable of work.

The work is interesting, challenging and rewarding. People visit the bureau at the most difficult times of their lives – when they are dealing with issues such as financial hardship, illness, disability, relationship breakdown, redundancy or bereavement. The advice and support we provide makes a real difference to people's lives.

We pay travel and carer's expenses and will provide you with the training and support you need to advise people so they can resolve their problems.

Interested? If you have 10 hours a week to spare on week days, we would love to tell you more about us. For further information about our training programme and volunteering in the bureau, please contact Ali Hender, on 01249 443054 or ahender@northwiltscab.org.uk.

For advice please ring 0844 375 2775 or look at www.adviceguide.org.uk



Ron Gunter

St Mary's Church will be floodlit on 13, 14 and 15 February,
in loving memory of Ron Gunter,
a Dear Husband and Uncle,
on the ninth anniversary of his death.
Loved and remembered by Betty and family.

Purton & District Age Concern



Here we are into the new year by a month so could I begin by wishing you all a happy and peaceful new year. To some I know it will not be a happy one. I can only hope the clouds will lift as time goes by and the sun will begin to shine again. We are thinking of you all. The festive season has not been a happy one for some families, two of which I am going to mention.

Peter Webber died just before Christmas. He was a member of the Webber family which goes back a few years in Purton. Was that his grandfather that lived in the house on the site of Hillside at the top of Station Road where they had a fire many years ago? It was burned to the ground. Peter's father Harry Webber had the hardware shop along Hyde Lane, where Hyde and Seek used to be. In fact, I worked there for a while when I left school but they would not give me Saturday afternoons off so I left. From this shop they sold paraffin, charged the old wireless accumulators, went out wiring people's houses, did bicycle repairs, sold new ones and it was the same with radios.

Peter started his schooling at St Mary's and then went on to one in Victoria Road, Swindon. I find it rather amusing that, when he did his National Service, he trained to be a physical training instructor, because I have never thought of Peter being the athletic type. In fact, I was talking to Bill Wheeler after Peter's funeral and he went to the same school and said that Peter would try to get out of any kind of sport if he could but, as I always say, life is full of surprises. After leaving the RAF he worked at Echo at Malmesbury, where I believe he met Joyce, his wife, and after they were married they lived in Jubilee before moving to the High Street. Peter, along with Joyce, took over the newsagents business from his uncle Eric.

Eric and Peter used to go down to the station and collect the papers from the train. Eric had a special barrow made – I'm not sure whether Peter used it or not. It was purpose built so that the papers could be laid out on top and things in the tobacco line were in a drawer underneath. It had a pair of bicycle wheels to push it with and I have often wondered whether they pushed the papers back up to the shop on it. Did Eric's brother Harry provide the wheels or who made it?

Peter was very thrifty insomuch, if the paper boys asked for a new battery because theirs' was dead, he would say 'Put it on the storage heater for a couple of hours, that will make it last a bit longer'. When it came to pay day the boys would hang around for Joyce to pay them, as she would give them a bit extra, a few sweets or a bar of chocolate. I said earlier that Peter did not have much interest in sport. Well that's not strictly true as he loved his speedway, going to the first meeting at the Abbey Stadium in 1947, watching the likes of Bob Jones and that leg trailer Mick Mitchell amongst others. Another of Peter's joys was music, especially big band and jazz and something else he enjoyed was sailing at South Cerney, but I would think that his greatest joy was flying – he took flying lessons at Oxford and liked nothing better than to go to an air show.

Peter retired in 1993 to look after Joyce and after her death he did his best to soldier on taking the money at the Luncheon Club and going on Age Concern

outings and holidays. When his health deteriorated and he could no longer stay in his bungalow, he went to White Lodge, where he was lovingly cared for. Peter was a quiet, hard working chap who loved his family, took pleasure in his friends and enjoyed his business life in Purton. Could we offer our deepest sympathy to Peter's family and friends.

Another sad loss to our village is Harry Bunce who, in days gone by, was a great sportsman. I don't know much about Harry's early life except that he was one of twelve brothers, sisters, half brothers and half sisters. This came about because uncle Bunce, as everyone called Harry's father (who, incidentally, always wore a bowler hat) lost his first wife and her sister came over from Brinkworth to look after uncle Bunce and his small family. They became fond of one another and married and started their own family, of which Harry was one, so hence the half brothers and sisters.

They all lived in Upper Pavenhill and, when Blacklands was built about 1935, they moved into the first house. I bet it made a difference going to school - it cut their distance in half. Harry represented the school at different sports but mainly football. On leaving school, Harry worked in the railways, in the R Shop. He was very enterprising and ran a little shop where you could buy almost anything. He could not have an apprenticeship because Cecil, his older brother, had one and that was a railway ruling - a person working in the railway could only have one son apprenticed free. If you could pay you could have other apprenticeships but this was quite expensive. However, the rules changed later on.

At the age of fifteen Harry joined Purton Football Club, or it might have been called Purton West End, as they used to play up on what was called the Platt, which was on the left hand side when you start to go down Braydon hill. Mind, there was another football club about at that time called Purton Athletic that played up by Harvest Water. I don't know whether they amalgamated but, in the end, there was only one Purton Football Club. I doubt very much if there is anyone in Purton who has won more silverware than Harry. This started in 1938-39, when Purton won the Wiltshire Senior cup and they went on to win this trophy four times. What an achievement! In between the first win and the other three Harry was amongst the first to be called up from Purton, along with Harold Durnford, and luckily they both returned safely.

The last time the team won the Senior cup, it was against Bulford, who had a lot of army players playing for them and Purton were the under dogs. Harry wasn't captain that day as he was injured early in the season and Graham Miles was captain. Graham said to Harry 'You're more experienced than me, would you like to say anything to the lads before we go out?' Harry said this - 'Our great friend Jack Gunter (he was secretary of the football club) is seriously ill in hospital with pneumonia. The best tonic we can give him is to win this cup. It will do him more good than any medicine, so let's go out and win it for Jack'. This is what they did and, as I said previously, that was Harry's fourth winner's medal - and Jack Gunter did get better.

The Wilts Senior cup was some trophy to be proud of in those days, as it was the top trophy to be won before going on to semi-professional clubs who mainly

played in the Southern League. Also, apart from winning the Wilts Senior cup four times, Purton also won the Wilts League three times. These are the teams they were playing against – Devizes, Swindon Corinthians, Westbury, Warminster, Swindon Vics, Pewsey, Calne, Wootton Bassett etc. These teams had some good players who went on to be professionals. There was the three Amors who played for Pewsey. One of them went on to play in goal for Reading. One of the most famous was John Ateyo, who played for Westbury, then signed professional forms for Bristol City and then played several times for England. We used to go and watch England play at Wembley midweek on a Wednesday afternoon. We would take the day off work and hire Frank Mapsons' coach and off we would go to London. We would often say that John Ateyo had an easier time out there than he did playing for Westbury against Harry. He didn't score many goals that's for certain. Harry was asked about turning professional by a Portsmouth scout who suggested he put his age back and sign professional forms but Harry wouldn't do that. I think he was happy in Purton.

As I have said, Harry was a good all round sportsman and, during the summer, played for Purton Tennis Club right from when they played in the front of the Red House where the putting green is now. That was before the road was altered. Here again, he won many trophies of one sort and another. Then there are the indoor sports, darts and skittles. He played for the Angel and the Football Club at darts and skittles for the Red House. Funnily enough, my first game of darts in the Purton League was against Harry and Basil Marchant who, needless to say beat Tony Smith and myself, also in the beer game – although they didn't let us buy the beer! With reference to darts I know a regular routine of Harry's was to go to the Live and Let Live on a Sunday night to have a drink and a game of darts. The procedure was to go in and put your name up, along with a mate, on the board. You did the chalks and, when you went on, if you won you would stay on the board until you lost, also winning half a pint every time you won. Harry would very often go through the evening without getting beaten.

At skittles he was one of those consistent players who would always get a good score. Here again, he won lots of trophies and he was the type of person you envied who was good in all he did. He was a very clever man, and could anticipate what was going to happen next in a game, which meant you didn't see him tearing about on the tennis court or the football field. In fact, nine times out of ten, he came off as clean as he went on but this didn't mean he hadn't done his stuff. In days gone by, when you mentioned Purton Football Club, the name that always came to the fore was Harry Bunce. Here are some of the things sports writers have said about Harry in the local papers in those times - 'a reputation for being a good sportman throughout Wiltshire', 'greatest personality in Wiltshire football', 'best in the county'. He also won many sportman's awards – wouldn't it be nice if all today's footballers were like Harry, instead of all this cheating.

Harry was a great family man, who always loved the time he spent with his grandchildren, enjoying every minute. Harry has been poorly for a few years but has been lovingly cared for first at home, where Edna, his wife, did all she could until the time came when Harry needed full time care. He went into Fitzwarren

House, where here again he was lovingly cared for. Could I just say here, and I am sure the village will agree with me, how much we admire Edna for the love, care and attention she has shown Harry, not only when he was at home but in Fitzwarren House, as there was never a day went by without she was there with Harry, also helping out with other residents in the Home. We would like to send our deepest sympathy to Edna, Carole, Teresa, Stephanie and their partners and families in the sad loss of a lovely man.

All our Christmas activities are behind us now and we had an excellent year in Age Concern pleasure-wise and work-wise. I have already mentioned the parties in last month's magazine and, following on from there, we had our market stall with sausage tasting of Andrew's marvellous sausages with several different flavours, so many thanks to Andrew and his staff for supplying these. I hope he sold some because everyone who tasted them was raving about them and let's not forget Robert Collis for providing the facilities to cook them. Another thank-you is to all the cake makers – we seemed to have an endless supply of cakes which was excellent, as people were coming and going all the time. Also thanks to the people who gave us things to sell on the stall and all you people who came along to support us. We made £276 on the stall plus we sold £103-worth of raffle tickets as well. We had 53 prizes in our Christmas draw – all given – and there were 800 books printed and, guess what, every book was sold, so here again many thanks to all who gave prizes, bought tickets and, of course, thanks to the ticket sellers.

Our annual carol singing under the Christmas tree outside the Institute seems to get more popular each year. We must have had roughly 150 adults and children there this year. Here we thank the Purton Band, formed by Graham New under the baton of his wife Mary, so our thanks go to them. We have already booked them for next year because their fame is becoming known wider afield – they had a prior booking this year! One of the features of the evening is always the hot punch and mince pies. The punch seems to get better every year so grateful thanks to Sheila, my wife, for this. She never gets to the carols as she is in the kitchen preparing the punch and tidying up afterwards. The Christmas tree and lights and the carol singing evening is a small token of thanks to the village from us for the way you all support us and, my word, you have certainly done that. The donations we have received are unbelievable. People have done all sorts of things for us to raise money, like making Christmas wreaths and having a collection box outside for people looking at their Christmas lights. The list is endless, so many thanks to you all – it is greatly appreciated.

Another big thank-you is to all our street wardens for delivering the Christmas vouchers and news letters for us. We have heard of one who delivered half a dozen fresh eggs with his vouchers – a little gift from him and his wife. The finish of Christmas was when we took down the tree and lights again. Our young helpers Nick, Adam, Ian and Mike took charge and it was done in about half an hour – they even took the tree away for us. Here again, this group has been booked for next Christmas - 28 November at 10.00am to be precise – so our thanks to them.

I will finish all this talk about our Christmas events by saying that we missed two of our committee members, namely Alan Webb and Mick Hull, our vice Chairman,

both of whom are usually in the thick of everything. Alan has been recovering from an operation and, I am pleased to say, is getting better. Mick has been poorly and, at the time of writing, is still in hospital, but we hope to find him much improved by the time you are reading this. Get well soon, you two, Age Concern isn't the same without you.

Now we come on to our fundraising. The first thing, which will have gone by when you are reading this, is our Burns night, which is a sell out – a very good start to the year. This is followed by a jumble sale on 13 February starting at 2.00pm. We would appreciate any good clean jumble or bric a brac and this can be brought to the Village Hall between 12.00 noon and 1.00pm. After that we have our annual auction at the Village Hall on 6 March starting at 1.00pm with our professional auctioneer Mr Roderick Wightman. Items for sale can be brought to the hall between 9.00am and 11.30am. You get 75% of the selling price and, of course, any items you would like to donate would be appreciated. We do not accept beds, settees, armchairs or anything that is upholstered that hasn't got a fire safety warranty with it, useless items, old gas appliances, electrical goods over two year old without a safety warranty, clothes, poor quality or faulty items or books (except specialist books). We do not collect any items. For further details give me a ring on 770696.

We do not issue door chains any more but, if you feel you would like one, we pass your name on to the Bobby Van, who will fit one and give you a complete security check. Contact your street warden with your name, address with post code, and telephone number as you do for the smoke alarms. They do not make a charge.

On a downward note, we got let down with the diaries. We went to a lot of trouble with photos and information to go in the diaries about Age Concern and we thought it would be fine, so I apologise for letting you all down. This will teach me to count my chickens before they are hatched!

With your Christmas voucher, you received a newsletter with your street warden's name and phone number on the top. Why I am saying this is, with the weather we have been having, we would not want you to be without anything and, if you cannot get out, you only have to get in touch with your street warden, who will help you. If they can't, they will know someone who can and really the system should be foolproof, but it is up to you to get in touch if you need anything.

I had an interesting phone call the other night from Dick Scott, who farms at Bentham with reference to my last article about playing football down Collins Lane and the railway container wagon we used to change in. Dick's father Leonard had fields along Collin's Lane and Dick was with him when the container came and could remember it being unloaded with a giant crane. The amazing thing is that, when the fields were no longer used as a football pitch, Leonard rented them with the container and, after a while, they moved the container to Bentham for a store. Guess what – Dick is still using it and it still has all the hooks where we used to hang our clothes. Dick could tell me that, when it was on the railway, it was used for transporting bananas. That was sixty years ago – they don't make things like that today! I expect there was a little bit of levering to make sure we had a good one, as Fred Comley was a charge hand in the wagon shop then and, of course, he was our trainer.

TONY PRICE

PURTON PLACARD

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

PURTON AGE CONCERN

JUMBLE SALE

at the Village Hall

Saturday 13 February 2.00 pm.

Jumble can be left at the Hall

from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm.

Lots of bargains, nearly new,

bric a brac, raffle

and much more!

Wootton Bassett Bowls Club
presents...

The Aldbourne Band

in concert

Memorial Hall, Wootton Bassett
on Sat 20 February at 7.30pm

Tickets £8.00 from

Crumps Family Butchers

High Street, Wootton Bassett

or phone

07923 650627 (mobile)

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE LYDIARDS AND PURTON BRANCH
OF THE
NORTH WILTSHIRE CONSERVATIVE
ASSOCIATION**

Will take place on

**MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY AT 7.30 PM
At LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH HALL**

After last time's sell-out event

St Mary's Church
will be holding another

Wine Tasting

on Friday 5 February 2010

with Francis Young

of The Pear Tree Hotel
in the Silver Threads Hall

7pm prompt

4-course meal

Tickets £20

available from 8 January 2010

Tel 772896, 770157, 770970, 771201



St Mary's School PTA **Family Bingo Night**

Friday 5 February 7pm

Upper School Hall

Evening of family fun

- all welcome -

Purton Evening WI **Soup and Sweet**

Monday 22 February

12 noon - 1.30pm

Silver Threads Hall

£4.00

Raffle and Cake Stall

Tea and Coffee provided
but you may bring your own
drinks

LENT LUNCHES 2010

Every Wednesday from
17 February to 24 March inclusive
at Purton Methodist Church
in The Playclose
from 11.45 am until 1.00pm
All are welcome

St Mary's Fellowship of Women
COFFEE MORNING
Friday 19 February
10am - 12noon
at 35 HIGH STREET
(Moira and Sylvia's)

Raffle Cakes Books Bric-a-Brac
ALL PROCEEDS TO
PURTON AGE CONCERN
MINI BUS FUND

Purton Historical Society
Read all about it!!

Murder in Purton

Get your copy of
The Bulletin now.
£3.00 from
David Sweet 770491
Paul Booy 770755

The Royal British Legion
Purton Branch
Presents their

Annual Concert

at Bradon Forest School
Saturday 13 March at 7.30pm
with

The Cricklade Band

and

The Swindon Male Voice Choir

Price £5.00

Tickets available from Legion Committee
members
or on the door
Raffle and Light Refreshment

PURTON AGE CONCERN ANNUAL AUCTION

at the Village Hall
on Saturday 6 March
Viewing 12.00noon - 1.00pm.
Sale starts at 1.00pm.

Auctioneer Mr Roderick Wightman
Further information – Tony Price
770696

Items for sale received
from 9.00am to 11.30am

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 26 February from 9 to 11am.

If you are interested in becoming a market producer (baking or growing) or wish to place an order for collection at the next market, please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Anne on 01793 750125 for more details.

Golden Wedding

Our apologies for getting the date of Ann and David Sweet's Golden Wedding Anniversary wrong in last month's issue. The date should have been 9 January 2010.

We extend our congratulations to them.

Purton Children In Need

Christmas seems such a long way off now. It was the first time that we had put on our Yuletide Festival at the Village Centre and we were well supported by people turning out to visit us despite the bitter cold. It was a great venue especially as The Red House Club was so easily available. The hot chocolate and the mulled wine were very popular on such a cold day and were both doing a very brisk trade most of the time. Santa arrived in style on his sleigh and we even gave him some fake snow despite having the real stuff falling out of the sky.

Live music was supplied by *True Blue*, a trio of ladies who were singing some very nice harmonies. They were to be followed by *S-Hit 5* and we were very pleased that a good crowd had remained to watch despite the freezing cold. Unfortunately we had a problem with the electric supply and had to stop after only two numbers.

It was certainly a worthwhile event and we are hoping to repeat it this year. As with many of our events there was a lot of work to be done in setting up, taking apart and helping at the event. This would not have been possible without the support and help we get from people outside the committee and so I want to say a big thank-you to everybody who helped or were involved. Also thank you to those who lent us generators, vehicles, lighting, straw bales and side shows etc. Also a very special thanks to the people who paid our site rent for us, a very generous gesture. Of course I can't finish without thanking everyone who turned up and supported us. We hope to see you all again, and more of you, this year.

At the time of writing this we have not had a chance to work out how much we made, nor what this year's events are to be, we'll get thinking of some ideas and I'll let you know as soon as we come up with something. Thanks again Purton for your support.

TONY RICHARDSON

Purton Guide Dogs

It certainly is a 'proper winter' as Val said people were saying last year, one consequence of this was that our January Jumble Sale had to be cancelled; we will try to re-arrange this for a later date. I have just finished doing the annual stock take of the Guide Dogs Trading Goods, which we sell at the fete stalls and country shows. Carnival, Cricklade, Brinkworth etcetera, and have posted off the inventory forms to Guide Dogs head office.



Hopefully here's to a happier year in 2010. Thank you all for your thoughts and help at this difficult time.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Lost & Found

The Parish Council Office has a purse that was found outside the Millennium Hall just before Christmas. We would like to give it back to the owner as it does contain some money – telephone 01793 771066.

PURTON POSTBAG

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



■ ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Just to inform you that the planning permission for the new primary school has been approved. I thought you may wish to broadcast the good news in your magazine.

Head teacher Ian Tucker will advise further details in the new term.

Andrew Winson

■ FRUIT SHOP

I noticed on your November 2009 Age Concern page a question as to there ever having been a fruit shop opposite the Angel car-park. As a boy I often visited my mother's family (Durnford) in the village. In the late 1920s I remember there was a greengrocer/fruit shop in the High Street in that location. I believe it was owned by an Arthur Leach. I think he also ran a door-to-door service. My aunt Mrs C. Shailes of Station Road, would have been one of his customers.

I keep up with news of the village via my cousin Glynn Shailes and the on-line magazine. Wishing all my relatives and villagers A Happy New Year.

*Fred Marshall
Redwood City, California, U.S.A*

■ KEEPING GOING

Hurray for the gallant people who managed to keep our shops and other services going throughout the cold spell in January.

Shops were open, deliveries made, the Health Centre was available as usual and the chemist was well stocked.

It is such a relief to know that, in our village, we can rely on such dedicated staff to keep us going in difficult times.

It is much appreciated. Thank you.

A grateful Purtonian

■ CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Thanks to everyone who came to the above event and made it a very successful and enjoyable morning. Also a big thank-you to my helpers and my husband without whose help I couldn't have managed. A cheque for £150 was given to Silver Threads for their funds. All being well I shall be having another one again this December.

Bernice Seviour

Poppy Appeal 2009

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal in Purton and Braydon.

A grand total of £6440.50 has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Special thanks to all the collectors who work so hard each year.

MRS J E BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Cricklade & Purton Neighbourhood Police Team

Priorities

The aim of Neighbourhood Policing is to have a dedicated policing team in your local community to help solve issues which are highlighted to the local community.

Please complete the information below highlighting the three most important issues that effect the area that you live. You can return this to the following places within Purton:

Parish Council Doctors' Surgery One Stop Shop
Spar Shop Veterinary Surgery

Name :

Address:

Contact Number :

Priority 1 :

Priority 2 :

Priority 3 :

If you prefer not to cut this page out of your copy of the Magazine, simply provide the details requested on a separate sheet of paper and deliver to any of the 5 places listed above.

Another Distributor needed

The Purton Magazine committee is looking for another distributor to deliver 15 copies each month to addresses around the top end of Station Road. If you would like to help us maintain our free delivery service to annual subscribers in the village and could spare less than an hour a month, please contact John Creasey on 771520 for further details.



Ian Freegard

The Church was floodlit on 5 January
for the 17th anniversary of Ian James Freegard.

Remembering Ian.

From Mum and Dad, Sandra, Helen
and family and friends.

Back to Back

Living between the 2 busiest RAF bases in the country and also in a county with a high Army presence, two local men from Purton are planning to complete a Marathon task in aid of 'Help For Heroes'.



The event is not original but the method is. To ride from Lands End to John O' Groats (approx 900 miles) in 10 days on a tandem bicycle but this bike is unique. It's a recumbent but the cyclists ride back to back, believed to be the only one like it in the world. This event will start on Thursday 27 May 2010 and they hope to finish 10 days later.

If you would like to support their effort and make a donation you can visit their 'Just Giving' website at www.justgiving.com/2men1bikebacktoback or there are donation points at various local outlets. If you would like further information please contact either of the cyclists Neil Saunders on 772146 or Dave Johnston on 778337. You can also contact their support team through Rob Milican on 751482 or 07881 662486. Many thanks.

Swindon and Cricklade Railway

Due to intensive track laying and maintenance, the trains will be running during the following times only between January and Easter:

January: No trains running.

February: Diesel trains only on Sundays from 11.00am to 4.00pm

March: Diesel trains only on Saturdays & Sundays from 11.00am to 4.00pm

Mother's Day wine & dine

On 14th March at 1.00pm in the Moonraker dining car. Why not treat her to a special experience in our beautifully fitted out coach hauled by steam. For details enquire on 750335 from mid-February.

There is a cafeteria, museum, shop and free parking.

Blunsdon Station is two miles from Purton village on Tadpole Lane. From Packhorse Lane carry straight on over the railway bridge. The car park entrance is then immediately on the right. Enquiries 01793 750335 or 771615.



Mike Gale

St Mary's was floodlit on 4 January
in memory of Mike Gale:

a special husband, Dad and Grandad.

Loved and sadly missed by Inez and all the family

Purton Diary – February 2010

4	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
5	F	7.00pm	Wine Tasting with Francis Young at Silver Threads Hall
		7.00pm	Family Bingo Night at St Mary's Upper School Hall (PTA)
7	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.30pm	Friends of Playclose Play Group at The Red House
		7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
10	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill: <i>Wartime kitchen</i> with Lynda Warren.
		7.30pm	Purton Historical Society: week 1 of Spring Course at St Mary's Upper School Hall: then on 24 Feb
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the village
13	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Village Hall (Age Concern)
14	Su		Valentine's Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Celebration of Marriage Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
15	M	7.30pm	Conservative Association AGM, Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
		7.45pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Dave and Bernice Seviour - <i>New Zealand adventure</i>
16	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
17	W		Ash Wednesday
		11.45am	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Communion with ashes at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Dinah Starkey - <i>Food in the Middle Ages</i>
19	F	10.00am	<i>12noon</i> St Mary's Fellowship of Women Coffee Morning at 35 High Street
20	Sa	7.30pm	Aldbourn Band in concert at Memorial Hall, W/Bassett
21	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

22	M	12noon	to 1.30pm: Purton Evening WI Soup and Sweet at Silver Threads Hall
23	Tu	2.00pm 7.30pm	Silver Threads Club : <i>Dorcan Choir</i> Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Duncan Coombs – <i>Spring Bulbs</i>
24	W	11.45am 6.30pm	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church Holy Communion at The Cedars
25	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society: Richard Gosnell - <i>History of the Wootton Bassett Mud Springs</i>
26	F	7.30pm	Wine & Cheese Evening at Silver Threads Hall
28	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Parish Communion and baptism at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church

March

3	W	11.45am	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
6	Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Annual auction at the Village Hall

Every week

Tu	9.15am 7.30pm	to 11.30am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am 6.30pm	to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
W	7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Red House
Th	9.15am	to 11.30am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, let us know:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

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

To advertise in this section please contact In Touch Services (address on page 4). Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

From the Registers

St Mary's Church

Funerals

22 December	Peter Webber
4 January	Marjorie (Madge) Slade (107) - Crematorium
18 January	Harry Bunce (91)



Purton Evening WI



As predicted, the December meeting, which was our Christmas party, was a great evening. Despite the hurry to get things done in just half an hour, the tables were whipped out at 7pm, and the Choir decorated them beautifully; and as members arrived, the centre table became loaded with the goodies – a fine spread, beautifully presented and everyone earned their mutual congratulations. We groaned as we helped ourselves to irresistible “seconds”, especially those scrumptious puds – the plumper ladies you see around Purton just now were undoubtedly at the WI Party.

The Entertainers were Ray Dance and Judith Sharp whose beautiful singing brought back memories of shows and films we have enjoyed in the past. They are celebrating their 25-year singing partnership raising money for charities, and at the moment are particularly supporting “Help for Heroes”.

Readers probably don't need reminding of another foodie event – Soup and Sweet, 12 noon - 1.30pm at the Silver Threads Hall on 22 February (Entry £4). It's no wonder Purton folk look warm and well-fed! And for our meeting of 17 February, Miss Dinah Starkey will be speaking on “Fasting and feasting - food in the Middle Ages”. The competition will be “A photograph of snow” and we look forward to a lovely show – no excuses this year!

Now, ladies who read this report and are not members of the Purton WI may not realise that food is only a small part of our concerns – nationally the WI carries weight with the Government of any colour and whilst we enjoy ourselves with singing, scrabble, rambling, skittles etc, we are part of a national and international organisation and have our say on important matters of governmental policy, such as reducing the impact of flooding. So – why not come and join us? We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall.

CONSTANCE REED

Going Wild In Purton

Purton Garden Watch November 2009 to Early January 2010

Once again Ps and Qs thought it would be interesting to observe the birds that visit our gardens. The sightings have come from Hoggs Lane, Widham and two gardens in Vasterne Hill. I would like to thank my next door neighbour, Neil Etheridge, for his contributions to this article.



November proved to be a very quiet month in all four gardens. The visits from small finches and tits were infrequent and yet the sparrowhawks were optimistic about finding meals in Vasterne Hill. The woodpigeons and doves (Stock and Collared) were regular visitors alongside the squabbling blackbirds. Possibly the smaller birds in Widham were finding plenty of food in the hedgerows.

The cold weather of December brought the finches and tits back to the garden feeders very quickly, one of the few advantages of icy winds and snow. The chaffinches and greenfinches are so colourful on grey days. Hungry long-tailed tits were to be seen in large groups in Widham but they have not been seen recently in the lower Hoggs Lane area which is unusual. These beautiful birds are so

elegant when they dangle to reach the nuts. The large flock of house sparrows that live in lower part of Vasterne Hill has not diminished since summer. They are visiting our gardens and those of Vasterne Close. The robin was regularly sighted in the three areas as was the wren.

Another unusual sight in Vasterne Hill this December has been the visits of bullfinches, both a male and a female. Like the blackbirds, they have enjoyed cotoneaster berries as well as seeds that have dropped from bird feeders. Sadly, a dead male bullfinch was spotted in Widham in late December.

A male blackcap has frequently visited two Vasterne Hill gardens in December and January. I sent two of Neil's photographs of this lovely bird to the Nature Detectives of the Woodland Trust to convince them that blackcaps are living in Wiltshire during the spring and winter. Prior to this time they would not accept my recordings without photographic evidence!

Groups of redwings used to be seen in Widham but now they have only been seen individually in Widham and along Vasterne Hill. Song thrushes and mistle thrushes, relatives of the redwing, are visiting the garden in all three areas, another advantage of the very cold weather. This awful weather has enticed a pied wagtail to my neighbour's garden and I have recently seen one foraging outside Sheer Success.

I must add a green woodpecker, a greater spotted woodpecker and a male pheasant to the visitors list to Vasterne Hill. Pheasants have been heard in Widham and so has the call of an owl. Foxes have been recorded for all three months and badgers have been seen in Vasterne Hill. Roe deer have been sighted regularly as well and of course the squirrels, in twos and threes. Finally, a vole has visited Vasterne Hill in the last two days to steal fruit from the birds. Very cheeky!

Please contact me if you would like to contribute to our garden watch articles. Also Ps and Qs would also like to know if there are any special topics that readers would like to see in the Magazine.

Compiled by Jane Smith for Ps & Qs

Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities

Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities

New members are always welcome

Contact: Jane Smith or Jacqui Lay

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

Purton in Bloom

Will there be one? After last month's piece asking if anyone was interested, the response has been pretty negative. In fact, only two people replied, with the possibility of perhaps two more. You cannot start making plans with that sort of number. If you are interested, please get in touch on 770696. Thank you.

TONY PRICE



Susan Morley

St. Mary's Church was floodlit on 28 and 29 January
In remembrance of Susan Morley;
whose birthday it would have been on 28 January.
Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

WHAT'S ON?

DOMESTICATED Exhibition: 5 - 27 February 2010

The Postmodern Gallery, ArtSite, Theatre Square, Swindon

Exhibition Opening Times: Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10.00am - 4.00pm

Exhibition Opening Event: Friday 5 February 6.00 - 9.00pm

Domesticated & *Artsite* are proud to present an exhibition of 7 contemporary artists work: Christina Bryant, Julia Douglas, Sarah King, Colin Pantall, Kate Peters, Jem Stiff & Menna Angharad in a stunning new exhibition of contemporary art about the home & the psychological nuances of that built environment.

Domesticated is a multi-disciplinary show including photographs, installation, mixed media works, sculpture & painting; each work realizes an aspect of this familiar reality. For example, Kate Peters (www.katepeters.co.uk) poetic photographs centre on the homes ability to evoke nostalgic and wistful longing while Jem Stiff's (www.jemstiff.co.uk) profound and emblematic approach reveal a for-granted quality of one of the most overlooked objects: pillows, beautifully rendered through wooden sculpture. *Domesticated* is independently curated by Callum Bell (www.callum-bell.co.uk), a Swindon resident and recent Fine Art graduate. The exhibition brings acclaimed new contemporary art to Swindon in an intriguing format. Participating artists are currently based all over the UK, from local Colin Pantall in Bath to Julia Douglas in Edinburgh.

Swindon Choral Society

Verdi's *Requiem* is being performed by Swindon Choral Society on Saturday 27 March 2010 at 7.30pm at Marlborough College Chapel. With West Forest Sinfonia accompanying, and solos being provided by Susan Young, Patricia Orr, Andrew Rees and Graeme Broadbent the concert is being held in aid of the charity BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development) which promotes partnerships between schools and communities in the UK and around the world.

Tickets are priced at £10, with accompanied children under 18 free, and are available from the Swindon Information Centre (ticket hotline 01793 466454) and the White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough (01672 512071).



The Hot Mikado at the Wyvern Theatre

11 - 13 March inclusive 7.30pm. Matinee Sat 13 March 2.30pm

The Swindon Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be making a huge break from tradition by presenting *The Hot Mikado*. This production will be a lively, colourful take on traditional Gilbert and Sullivan. The music is a mixture of jazz and gospel arrangements, complemented by exciting tap-dance routines; this will be a show for all of the family to enjoy.



Bradon Forest Theatre

Publick Transport Theatre Company presents...

The Department of Smelling Pistakes

at Bradon Forest Theatre: bradonforesttheatre.co.uk

Tuesday 2 March 2010 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 students, £6 adults

www.publicktransport.com

Following the success of *20,000 Leagues Under the Office*, Bristol-based *Publick Transport* returns with *The Department of Smelling Pistakes*, a new physical comedy two-hander.

Mining its trademark vein of absurdist humour and taking inspiration from Gogol and Bulgakov, Publick Transport presents this new comedy set in a Russian governmental office where two civil servants jostle for power, one a puffed up bureaucrat in search of a job description, the other an unidentified inspector, the purpose of whose visit remains frighteningly vague.

Reluctant to commit to specific thought for fear of showing ignorance of the party line - which changes hourly - they make idle conversation out of which is extrapolated the deepest meaning, while their attempts at political correctness only result in grammatical incorrectness.

A Bird's eye view of the snow



Snowy Purton from the air – photo by Steve Buckingham

From Cricklade Fire Station

During December, crews from Cricklade attended 18 emergency calls as follows:-



1/12/09 at 1926 chimney fire, Park Place, Ashton Keynes
4/12/09 at 1155 standby duties at Swindon Fire Station
6/12/09 at 0524 standby duties at Swindon Fire Station
25/12/09 at 1541 automatic fire alarm, business premises, Chelworth
30/12/09 at 2008 chimney fire, Chelworth, Cricklade
plus 13 co-responder calls, Cricklade

You will have noticed that we had 13 co-responder calls during December. Just by way of a reminder this is where we are called to assist the Ambulance Service as a first response to certain types of medical emergencies. We are not called to everything the ambulance service is called for. An ambulance and usually a paramedic car are also always mobilised but due to the distance they have to travel they may call upon our services as well. Most of the personnel at Cricklade Fire Station and indeed at other rural Fire Stations in the county, have received specific training and equipment from Great Western Ambulance service to deal with these types of calls. Therefore if you have a need to call an ambulance don't be surprised if you get the Fire Engine first but you should be aware our primary role for Fire calls will always take priority. We also only cover the parish of Cricklade for this type of service.

We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks for the donations and continued support for our events raising funds for the Firefighters Charity. During 2009 Cricklade Fire Station raised £1,385 surpassing last years total by nearly £400. Thank you once again.

If you would like any further Fire Safety information or are interested in becoming a retained Firefighter please contact us on 0800 389 7849.

Fire Safety Advice - Night-Time Routines

- Close all internal doors to stop any fire or smoke spread.
- Turn off and unplug all un-necessary electrical equipment unless it is designed to stay on.
- Check your cooker is turned off.
- Don't leave washing machines or dishwashers on overnight – they can catch fire.
- Put candles and cigarettes out properly.
- Make sure exits and potential escape routes are clear.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.
- Ensure everyone knows your escape plan.
- Never leave open fires stoked up and without a fire guard.

Purton Historical Society



I hope by the time you are reading this the weather has got a bit warmer or at least decided what it is doing. At the moment in early January you decide on an outing and the snow comes down.

The Oxon group of The Milestone Society are hosting a daylong meeting at Wroxton Village Hall on 27 February. Wroxton is 5 miles west of Banbury. The Society belongs to the Milestone Society; so if any one is interested in attending, please contact me.

Our meeting this month is on Thursday 25 February at 7.30pm in St Mary's Upper School Hall. Please note that this is one of the few months when we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Richard Gosnell will be telling us of "The History of the Wootton Bassett Mud Springs". In an article concerning the future of Wootton Bassett on the internet the mud springs are described as "unique in Britain and one of Wootton Bassett's most famous landmarks but how can we make the most of these mud springs?"

Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 11 February in the Civic centre at 7.30pm. The talk is entitled "Medieval Women - the Church, witchcraft and medicine" by Glenys Armstrong.

Cricklade Historical Society have their AGM on Wednesday 17 February in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

The Swindon Society will meet in the Broadgreen centre on 10 February at 7.30pm. Neil Lover will be giving a talk entitled "Swindon to Didcot - a Different Perspective".

If you go on the Internet to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community, a timeline for Purton has been added. Also they are collecting comments about life in school as it used to be, (thawing frozen school milk in a Chippenham school has been posted). They would also like stories about the buildings and views or additional information about architectural features. I thought as I was writing about the time line etc, I should check them out. So about an hour later... the time line is quite fascinating. In 1213 we had a weekly market on Thursday and a one day fair was held from this time. In 1690 the house of Margaret Shenniore at Purton Stoke was licensed to hold Quaker meetings. Also from Purton Stoke in 1844 the licensee of the Bell Inn was prosecuted for keeping a disorderly house. Who says history is boring.

I also learnt that the brass eagle lectern in St Mary's church was given to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The second Victorian course (The Victorians - home and abroad) will begin on Wednesday 10 February, the venue will be in St Mary's Upper School Hall at 7.30pm. The fee for the course is £20 on the night or £18 if registered earlier. Contact Inez Gale on 770138 for further details. The course will include a study of the British in India, a look at the Crimean War and the art of the age, particularly the Pre-Raphaelites.

*EVE BOOY,
Secretary*

So what was Copenhagen all about?

A postscript from our own correspondent

Although NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) and other observers were allowed a free rein in the approach to the closing days of the Summit, at the end only the negotiators and their entourages were allowed into the Bella Centre. Everything that could be said had been said many times, every sequence of the unfolding drama of climate change had been picked over endlessly, the pros and cons were very clear and the options and several of their variants were in play... there was no need for anyone else, just the official representatives of the countries to do the deed...

Delegates always like to find the positive in something, accentuate it and not let the odd bit of negativity spoil the party. Not this time. By reading a cross-section of the negotiators' comments after the final day you could tell that even the most



astute PR people were having a hard job. Some countries were quietly content; though not many. Several were spitting blood and most were depressed and/or very angry.

The British are brought up, of course, not to apportion blame as this is not productive – even though it makes us feel a little better sometimes. On this occasion we do need to get real, pussyfooting around is not helpful to figure out what to do next. We do at least need to point a finger...

The Chinese government was not to “blame” – they were simply doing what was right for their sovereignty. However, whilst they are not to blame per se, they were mostly responsible for the watered-down Accord. The US is not to blame ~ it could do no more because of the nature of its democracy. The EU and the rest of the world were really pretty irrelevant, in overall terms. The US, the EU and the rest of the world could have been a little more open and honest about the failure – sometimes diplomacy looks too shallow to be convincing, as it did on this occasion; the rhetoric was rather insulting to the general public, especially in Britain.

In brutal terms:

There was supposed to be hope that everyone could hold to a 2°C-world but with most of the allowable emissions already “spent”, and with China and India still intent on their economic, coal-based development strategy it is hard to see that keeping to 2°C is tenable. As there have been several expert conferences on a 4°C world, let's get real as 2°C is probably not going to happen (indeed, some argue that actually we are pretty much there already);

Gordon Brown should be praised for his heroic “General Custer Moment”; offering far more dosh than we can really afford. Even now, most developing countries cannot manage the aid flows that are in play – they simply do not have the governance, the systems or the traditions. The amounts of money needed for adaptation or cleaner technology are huge by comparison with current aid flows and could not be managed. Readers may remember that China appeared to be magnanimous in saying it wouldn’t want any financial assistance. That is simply because it doesn’t want the donor party poking its nose in to see what effect the assistance is having (and whether or it is reducing emissions).



There was to be a global cut of emissions of 50% and, for the industrialised nations, a cut of 80% by 2050; it had been pretty much accepted – except for China who would not accept that and sulked until it was removed; they did not want targets for anybody. A senior European negotiator said “If this is the way China is going to behave, we have problems...”; and, to quote an observer on the last day: “In a single day, in a single space, a spectacle was

played out in front of a disbelieving audience of people who had read and understood the stark warnings of humanity’s greatest scientific minds. And what they witnessed was nothing less than the very worst instincts of our species articulated by the most powerful men who ever lived”.

So what now? There is a meeting already planned for Bonn mid 2010 so it is likely that meeting could be used to confirm any outcomes from the deliberations that will begin again soon, and then a legally binding agreement could be signed at the next formal meeting which is already arranged for Mexico City in December 2010.

So where does that leave ambitions for aspiring low carbon communities and climate change groups generally?

At the forefront of the future: It is clear that politicians cannot be left to figure it out and take the lead themselves. Never before has there been a need to re-think and re-engineer the way things get done in the UK. Aspiring low carbon community and climate change groups have a tremendous role to play but will need to think much more widely and deeply than just ‘simple’ emission reduction and renewable.

We now need to think about

- how and from where we obtain our food,
- how we manage waste,
- where our water comes from,

-
- our approach to “work”,
 - how we deal with the need to travel, how we manage health care, education and welfare,

and much more.

One thing which is clear is that we do not have the time to bring every last person gently on board as nice as that would be: we cannot wait until the yawning chasm appears and for the final few to look into it... and understand.

Being realistic, the future climate of the world is not going to be determined by what we do or do not emit, it will be determined by others (mostly China and India). In just the same way that, I guess, most folks in the UK do not feel that their lifestyles are related historically to the consequences now being felt by Bangladesh, the Maldives and Tuvalu. It follows that the future big polluters will not lose sleep as our island begins to experience black-outs, fuel and food shortages, overcrowding and natural disasters.

Aspiring low carbon communities and climate change groups are now at the forefront of getting the UK prepared for the future, uncertain, new world. Good luck.

RICHARD PAGETT

Jane Haslam – Some of Our Memories

On 3 January The Revd Jane Haslam led her final service at St Mary’s Church – leaving to take up a position as Rector of a group of churches centred around the village of North Petherton in Somerset.

The Haslam family arrived here in May 2004. Jane was asked about the memories she would take away with her. She cited three. The first was of the community spirit that ran throughout the village in a whole variety of ways – from primary school to homes for the elderly - and so much in between.

The second was the help given by members of the congregation. She admitted to arriving here with a degree of trepidation. Could she do the job of a Vicar? This was quite different to being a curate. She soon began to really enjoy the position – paying tribute in the process to the church community.



'St Mary's isn't a place where everything gets left to the Vicar. People see needs and go about dealing with them.'

Thirdly she will remember St Mary's church building – standing for centuries as a base for people to explore and feed the spiritual side of life – at the same time over that period changing quite regularly to adapt to developing emphases. She had particularly enjoyed the last two years in leading the Church PCC to look at ways in which the church building can develop to meet ongoing needs and give a wider community opportunity to enjoy its beauty and inspirational quality in a way to which they have ready access.

So much for Jane's memories of us. What of ours of hers? A number were shared. Here's a selection.

We may remember Jane for : -

Establishing a new world record for the most family services planned around a kitchen table.

Being the first of 37 Vicars of Purton to utilize the power of Google for effective pulpit use.

Running a 'kettle always boiling' 'drink always on offer' vicarage.

Once in Church - delivering an inspiringly practical sermon with an 'I want mummy today' toddler tucked unimpairingly under the non microphone arm.

At diocesan level being astute enough to offer St Mary's to look after the first and only Archdeanery video projector – and to test it religiously - at the start of every month.

In discussions - being the first to recognise a good idea and bring others on board

In preaching - disarmingly piercing the defences of the most hardened sermon listener by admitting 'I find doing this really quite difficult' – how do you find it?

In leading - getting people to consider things positively they might have dismissed from their minds at least three times before during the last ten years.

In meetings - being the one who quickly put up the hand and said 'I can easily do that – It's really not difficult at all.'

In so many things - the one who gave confidence to others.

So often telling them what they were doing was 'really good'.

The one who showed us how to talk each other up – even when the fashion might be to talk everyone down.

The one who left us with an abiding message: That we might be called to do things which we alone can do. And they probably won't ever happen - If we don't do them.

These are some of the challenges you have left with us. We can only keep on remembering, listening – and say 'Yes'.

DAVID MARTIN

Purton Tennis Club

The club were very saddened to hear of the passing of Harry Bunce who had for so long been a stalwart member of the club. He contributed in so many ways to the life of the club and we send our sincere condolences to Edna and her family. An tribute to Harry will be found below.

Over the holiday period we were also very concerned to hear that Justin Miller, our coach for the past couple of years, had been taken into hospital with suspected pneumonia. He was extremely ill and for some time was on a Life Support machine. At the time of writing he is still in hospital but holding his own and we wish him a safe and speedy recovery. It was an extremely worrying time for the Miller family as Ruth, Justin's partner and Ethan, their son were also taken ill and spent time under observation and treatment at GWH. Fortunately they are out of danger but our thoughts are with them all.

You will gather that playing tennis has not been uppermost in our minds and indeed, if it had been, the weather put paid to matches straight after Christmas and we can only hope that by the time the magazine reaches you all the cold snap will be well and truly over and we'll be out and on the courts again. Fingers crossed!

CAROLINE McLEAN

The Club lost a much respected Life Member, Harry Bunce, on 2 January. He was already a talented footballer when he started to play tennis on the original grass courts at the Red House on leaving the army on 1948. I am told that he and Norman Mills were an unbeatable partnership in the early days and, in later years, he was quietly tenacious and successful when he played in the S. & D.T. Ass. League matches for many years.

Harry was a formidable opponent with his great racket skills and ability to volley from anywhere on court, but a tolerant, dependable partner.

He was interviewed for an Evening Advertiser report in February 2002 at the Club's 90th birthday celebrations, at 83 years old, when still enjoying playing once a week with his wife, Edna, and friends. When asked about his 'razor sharp instincts' he replied, "I was the same at football. I always seemed to know where they were going to put the ball and I was waiting for it. It's the same with tennis." Now we know why he won so often!

For at least 20 years, Harry was invaluable as an assistant with Junior Club coaching sessions, only retiring about 6 years ago. Now two of Harry's grandchildren, Stephen and Emma, are keeping up the tradition as junior members of the Club.

NORENE RICHARDSON



Purton F.C.



Sadly I have to start my notes this month with the news that in early January Harry Bunce, a former player with the club back in the 40s-60s, passed away. Club sympathy goes to his wife Edna, family and relations in their great loss.

Although I did not see Harry play for the Club, by all I have read and records I have collected over the years Harry was probably the best player Purton ever produced. In his playing career he collected Wilts League honours and Senior Cup honours and honours in other local cup competitions and also gained Wilts County honours in a long and distinguished career. Older villagers who support the club remember him well with great affection and I'm sure he won't be forgotten.

We also had bad news at Christmas when one of our current first team players Justin Miller, his wife and one of his children were admitted to hospital. Since then his wife and child have been released but Justin is still poorly and we wish him a speedy recovery from his illness.

The terrible weather has meant that we have had no football since before Christmas with the heavy frosts and snow we have all had to suffer. At present though the Hellenic team sit proudly at the top of their league a point ahead of Slimbridge with a 2 games in hand while the Reserves in the Wilts League lie in 10th place.

Stephen Avenall with 12 goals and Warren Fuller, 10, lead the way in the scoring charts for the Hellenic side while Dave Rendle is top scorer in the Wilts side with 5 goals.

The Youth and minor sides have also not been in action due to the school break and the weather and they like the Senior sides will be hoping the bad weather eases so they can get back into things.

There is still a lot of football still to be played so thank you to all those who support the sides, keep coming along your support is appreciated by everyone at the club.

ALAN EASTWOOD, President

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Our next meeting will be held at the Silver Threads Hall on Tuesday 23 February at 7.30pm. Duncan Coombs will be speaking about 'Bulbs for a colourful spring display'. Our monthly competition will be 'A vase of snowdrops'. Visitors are very welcome to attend.



MOIRA WHITE, Secretary



Val Davies

St Mary's church was floodlit on 14 January to mark the 1st anniversary of Val's death.

Love Brian

Purton Cricket Club



I am making a study of Purton cricketers from 1895 to 1900 and would be interested to receive any information on the listed players who appeared in various teams including Purton United, Purton Perseverance and Purton during these years.

J Barker, A Barnes, L J Barnes, R Barnes, H Beak, J Beak, F Bracewell, T N Bracewell, Hon Fitz Clarence, F Cook, J Cook, Dr Coombe, W Culley, F W Drew, F Dobson, P B Durnford, Jas Eatwell, John Eatwell, E Garlick, J Haskins, B Hill, N Hitchcock, J Kennett, A King, H King, N King, W Jefferies, W Lewis, A J Lovett, Rev Millward, A New, H Newman, A S Page, G Painter, Pole, N Ricks, W Ricks, A Sadler, E Slade, G Smith, JHD Smith, P Smith, C Shales, Shurey, Dr Stevens, B Staley, A Sutton, E J Webber, J Williams, A A Willis, B Woolford, E Woolford, F Woolford, H Woolford.

From the Archives:- The chief provision of the deed of conveyance of the Cricket Field presented to the parish by Mr James Sadler in 1911 stated:-

That the prime object of the gift was to benefit the Purton Cricket Club, and so preserve to them the use of the Cricket Field for all time!

JOE GARDNER

Purton & District Darts League

Thank you to all who came to the Darts League's Christmas Charity competition. You all made it a great success.



We would like to say a big thank-you to the winners and runners-up who gave back their winnings which were added to the amount raised: in total we made £260.00 for Purton Helping Hand.

Exhibit of the Month: A Railway Ticket

Well two half tickets really. They date from July 1957 according to the date stamp on the back and are the **Homebound** portions of 3rd class Half Day Excursions - hence the over-printed 'H' in the middle of the ticket. The outbound portion would



have been torn off at the exit gate on arrival at the destination and would have said: Swindon Junction (as it was then) to Weymouth via Melksham & Yeovil. 1st or 3rd class were the choices available - 2nd class had been abolished in the 1920s although it was re-instated in the 1960s and is now Standard Class. Tickets were pre-printed for common journeys but the combinations of destinations, class, ticket type, concessions etc would have been enormous just for one starting point, say Swindon.

On the back we note that the issuing authority was the British Transport Commission. The BTC was formed under the 1947 Transport Act which nationalised and amalgamated all Britain's railways, buses, London Underground, docks, ferries, canals, former railway hotels and long-distance road haulage into one organisation. It was far too cumbersome and abandoned in 1962.

There will be clearer pictures at www.purtonmuseum.com.

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

Bradon Forest School News

www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The traditional Bradon Forest Carol Service at St Mary's Church took place on 9 December 2009. It was an enjoyable evening that really 'showcased' the talent and teamwork of a large number of students, staff and peripatetic music teachers. Thank you to Reverend Jane Haslam and St Mary's Church for hosting the event. Our annual 'busking' event in the West Swindon Centre on 14 December - £200 was raised for the Prospect Hospice, who we support every year with our 'busking'. The Christmas Concert was held on 16 December 2009 at Bradon Forest and was also a great success. Many thanks to Miss Clements, Miss Groom, our peripatetic music team and all staff and students involved with the concerts, busking and our Christmas assemblies.

YEAR 12 PRESENTATION EVENING

On 1 December 2009 'last year's Year 11' students came back to Bradon Forest for their Presentation Evening. This was the final Awards Assembly of their five years at Bradon Forest. It was an enjoyable evening with many parents and relatives attending. This year our Guest Speaker was Nigel Robbins OBE, Principal of Cirencester College.



The evening provided an opportunity to celebrate a wide range of achievements of academic, sporting, cultural and community. It was also a pleasant social occasion and a chance for last year's Year 11 and their families to catch up on all their friends' news.

Students collected their GCSE certificates as part of the evening. In addition, each faculty was asked to nominate a small number of students who had excelled themselves in a particular subject through effort, commitment and achievement.

The evening was a great success and provided an opportunity to publicly thank and praise our excellent team of staff (teaching and support), parents and governors for all their hard work and teamwork that ensures Bradon Forest continues to serve its students so well.

ICT SUCCESS: 360 e-SAFETY AWARD

The e-safety work that has been carried out by the students at Bradon Forest School, has led to the school being presented with the first e-safety mark in the country.

Due to the success of our work in this area the school was invited to pilot the new 360 Safe Assessment Quality Mark. This was a detailed process that culminated in a visit by two external assessors who looked at all aspects of our e-safety work including interviews and discussions with students and staff. We were delighted to be informed that we had passed with flying colours. We were invited to attend the recent regional South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL)

Conference to be presented with our award. Head of ICT, Mr Wright, received the Award on behalf of the school from Tanya Byron (pictured above) and Mr Wright, SWGfL Adviser. Tanya Byron recently wrote the definitive e-safety report for the government. Well done to all students and staff involved, whose efforts have been recognised by this 'Quality Mark' Award. The Bradon Forest student e-safety team will reconvene in January to undertake 'Cybermentor' training and to lead various assemblies and events planned for national 'Safer Internet' week in February 2010.

DRAMA NEWS

"Mary Theresa's Cupboard" was performed on 2 - 4 December 2009, to very appreciative audiences. The play was devised and written by students and David Calder. The cast included students from Years 7 - 11. The banner on the programme summed it up well "With an amusing chorus of estate agents and a dance troupe of broken toys, 'Mary Theresa's Cupboard' is a timely story about consequences, other worldliness and childhood fantasies". The production was very enjoyable and thought provoking. The individual performances, staging and the concept of the play itself were very impressive and professional. Well done to all involved.

SPORTS NEWS: Continuing Basketball Success Brings RAF Sponsorship

Corporal Alan Shepherd and Flight Sergeant Dave Trembath attended the Year 10 assembly on 1 December 2009. They are from the RAF Motivational Outreach Team from Bristol and had chosen Bradon Forest as a school they wish to sponsor, because of the continued success our basketball teams have had at county, regional and national level. They put a case to their superior officers, who decided that



Bradon Forest would be the school they wished to sponsor and support. We were delighted with this sponsorship, which includes two sets of basketball strip and £500 towards the running of the school minibuses. Dave and Alan spoke to the Year 10 assembly and the Year 10 girls' basketball team were excellent sports and proudly modelled their new strip. We would like to thank Alan, Dave and their colleagues at the RAF for their generous support for Bradon Forest. It was a real pleasure to have the photo call in the gym, which now has a brand new sprung floor, refurbished changing rooms and has been fully re-decorated following the damage caused by drain/sewer problems during the very heavy rain overnight on 30 June 2009. Staff at the school worked closely with our insurers and contractors and the outcome certainly proves the old saying "every cloud has a silver lining"! We might not have a sports hall for any home matches for our basketball and other teams, but the new floor in the gym and the refurbishment do go a long way to provide much improved indoor facilities for our students and PE staff.

L SPIERS, Headteacher