

Purton Magazine



Promise of Spring
photo: Rick Dixon

March 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.communitagate.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

As the evenings lengthen, the front cover photograph could be an early sign that Spring cannot be too far away. Those readers keen on gardening must be looking forward to some slightly warmer weather to encourage them outdoors.

In this issue of your magazine there are 6 letters of thanks to many people in our community for their support and kindnesses, from readers who have suffered bereavements of loved ones and significant illnesses. It is a privilege to be able to publish these letters because they remind all of us how even small acts of kindness can be so helpful and much appreciated by friends and neighbours, especially in times of difficulty. Indeed, one letter highlights how welcome the writers were made to feel, living in Highridge Close, even when they were only there on a temporary basis.

Writing of a more general nature has been in the spotlight recently with the Book Trust launching a new web site (www.bookbite.org.uk) to encourage people to get much more out of their writing. There are lots of ideas to help budding writers, whether writing short stories for children and grandchildren or keeping a diary. There are even some suggestions to help on those difficult occasions when trying to write a thoughtful note in a card for a neighbour or friend.

For budding writers in Purton, this magazine has started a short story section this month and readers are invited to submit their stories for publication. Purely for practical purposes, there is a nominal maximum of 1200 words and stories will be published when space allows, subject to the usual monitoring for general interest, propriety, taste and decency. The first short story appears on [page 24](#).

Two recent pieces of research might provide some inspiration for a short story. Firstly, it seems that where a man wears his belt is an indication of his age. From a 12 year old schoolboy wearing the top of his trousers on his natural waistline, it takes just 4 years for him to become a trendy teenager with belts worn at their lowest point. From there, the waistband slowly climbs through suits for the first job back to the natural waistline between the ages of 27 and 39. The climb continues, reaching the highest point around 57, after which the shrinkage of old age apparently begins a downward trend back to where it all started.

The other piece of research suggests that women with blond hair – whether natural or out of a bottle – are more aggressive and determined than redheads or brunettes. The researchers (in California) suspect that blondes have existed in a 'bubble' where they had been treated better than other people for so long they did not realise that men, in particular, were more deferential towards them than other women. But while being blonde might boost social lives, other researchers have found that blonde females earn less, on average, than darker haired women.

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Purton
Magazine

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Magazine Committee

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

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tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Parish Council News



“THERE’S NOTHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DO” is a comment we often hear from youngsters and parents both in the nation at large and in our own community sometimes as a response to reports of anti-social behaviour and crime. Does this apply to Purton? Well there are many organisations and groups for young people of all ages in our Parish and this year having secured the funds from external sources the Parish Council will be installing a skate park in the village.

However your Parish Council is not complacent and would like to hear from both young people and parents (and others) what you feel about the provision of facilities for youngsters in the village.

In short - we want to know:-

What do young people want in the way of social activities which are not already provided by the current organisations and groups? Please send your ideas and comments to clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Don't put it off - do it now and help us to help you.

For existing organisations and groups go to www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/purtondirectory2009.pdf

where you will find details and contact information for the uniformed organisations, Church groups, sports opportunities and many others.

Annual Parish Meeting – A reminder that your annual parish meeting will be held in Purton Village Hall on Monday 29 March, starting at 7.30pm. 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. 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.

Waste Collection and Disposal – Wiltshire Council is about to embark on a consultation on waste collection services across the County. At the moment different services apply depending on which part of the County you live in. This was because waste collection was managed by the old District Councils. The object now is for Wiltshire Council to provide the same service across the County. The options are as follows:

1. Household rubbish collected one week, recycling the next + garden waste charges.
Annual average cost per household - £123 (collection and disposal)
Expect to recycle - 43%
2. Household rubbish collected one week, recycling the next + fortnightly collection of plastic bottles and cardboard.
Annual average cost per household - £131 (collection and disposal)
Expect to recycle - 44%
3. Household rubbish collected one week, recycling the next + fortnightly collection

of plastic bottles and cardboard + weekly collection of food waste.
Annual average cost per household - £148 (collection and disposal)
Expect to recycle - 54%

The Parish Council would welcome your views on the above options so that it can give an informed response to the consultation. Wiltshire Council is likely to put on some road shows and have questionnaires at libraries and council offices to get your comments. You can also provide feedback through Your Wiltshire magazine and on line at www.recycleforwiltshire.com. Your input into this consultation will be very welcome.

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council the Planning Authority:

N09/02069/FUL *Croft House, Pond Lane, Purton Stoke*, erection of solar panels on rear of garage

N09/02051/LBC *Crosslanes Farmhouse, Purton Stoke*, replace felt roof covering on rear of garage roof with an alternative material

N09/02138/FUL 45 Witts Lane, single storey extension and conversion of garage to habitable room

N09/02112/FUL & N09/02113/LBC *Restrop Farmhouse, Restrop Farm*, erection of single storey rear extension

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.

Purton in Bloom 2010?

Will there be one this year? So far the response to my notes in the magazine has been sparse with only seven garden owners responding and not all of these are completely sure they want to take part.

I would really like to see it continue, although Sheila and I will not be opening our garden this time, but what it needs are some fresh ideas. We are prepared to help all we can with the basics such as where to go to get what etc, but it really needs to move on, with new people at the helm. It is such a good fundraiser for charity and, over the years, we have been able to give a great deal of money to local causes.

We are going to hold a meeting at 16 Church Path on Tuesday 16 March at 7.30pm and anyone is welcome to come. The final decision will be made then on whether there will be an Open Gardens in Purton this year and, if there is one, what date that will be. If you cannot come along that evening but are interested, please give me a ring on 770696.

TONY PRICE

News From The Trustees

The Village Hall: Now that the Hall has been decorated and the new curtains are up the remarks have been very favourable, especially after the Burns Night that was held there where the colours of the decorations all blended in with the colours in the hall, so that was very nice. Don't rejoice yet as we are still having trouble with the heaters not doing what we were told they were capable of. We all feel very strongly about this as the two people concerned really put a terrific amount of work into this to make sure we had the right system. Still, I know we will succeed in the end but it is a lot of unnecessary work for those involved, which we greatly appreciate, so we apologise for any inconvenience the users of the Hall have had to put up with.

The finances at the Village Hall are not in too good a state. We were hoping to continue with the refurbishment work in the kitchen, ie a new cooker, which we felt was top priority. It is not all doom and gloom for we have a promise from a very kind couple who will pay for the installation of a new cooker and the cooker that was given to us can be sold with money going towards a new one. Unfortunately this cooker was not suitable as the ovens are too small. A new cooker which would be suitable costs just over the £1,000 and no, I am not asking for any donations, although they would be appreciated!

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre: Here things are moving better thanks to the landfill grant from Community First and Hills, which we greatly appreciated. It is nice to know we are moving in the right direction after the problems of the Millennium Hall. Still that is all behind us now and we are progressing.

As I write this, the perimeter fence is being done from the entrance, coming up Church Street round to just beyond the wicket gate where you cross the road to go to Church Path. The other project on the go is the refurbishing of the public tennis court which will make the centre so much better. It is being resurfaced and marked out, with new posts and netting around the perimeter, so it should look good. Of course, the problem here is that the court does not get much sun because of the trees on the south side. On enquiring from the experts as to how to keep the court in a good state, we are told that it will need spraying four times a year, but this will not be a problem as our groundsmen have the necessary qualifications to do this.

With the other grant money we received the front of the Red House has been resurfaced so, as you can see, we are moving in the right direction, but we are still keeping our fingers crossed that we don't get any problems like we have had in the past.

Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees



Raymond Herbert

St Mary's church will be floodlit on 7 March
in memory of Ray.

*Our hearts remember sunlit days,
where we all walked side by side.*

*Loved for ever; forgotten never
Jane and family*

Purton & District Age Concern



I would like to start with the good news but sadly we continue to hear of people we have lost who were not part of Age Concern but who have been very kind to us over the years.

The two I am going to talk about have connections with our Horse Show and also have been very generous in other areas. Mr Doug Barker of Purton House allowed us to have our horse shows there. We started off in the field by the house and, as the show got bigger, we moved to the other side of the road where the chickens are. We then needed two fields and we moved to the next one finishing up using the field behind the houses in the Fox which meant we were using three of Mr Barker's fields, plus one of John Cook's. Hazel Woodbridge still has her carriage driving show round there.

I remember when the committee decided to hold a horse show and they were looking for a venue. It was suggested that Purton House would be an ideal setting as, in years gone by, there had been horse shows there, even if the last one was around 1936. Mr Barker, who had just moved in to Purton House, was approached by Ray Matthews and asked if we could hold our show there as it was something we always did, but not adding that the last time was 1936! Mr Barker readily agreed and we held twenty-four horse shows there. It was such a good fundraiser for us over these year and everyone at Purton House was always so helpful which makes such a difference when you are running a function. They allowed us to put a container there to store our horse jumps and it just shows how kind people are because John and Pete Holland gave us the containers. The Barkers even ran a stall selling strawberries and gave us the proceeds. One of the things I remember was Mr Barker's interest in the work we were doing in Age Concern when he used to join us for a pint at the Foresters' Arms at Common Platt, where we used to go to discuss the horse shows and how to improve things. So to Mr Barker's family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy.

Another person who has passed away is Doreen Ovens, who was the wife of one of our main men of the horse shows, Eric. When you first met Doreen, she came across as a very strong lady with definite views and ideas but, when you got to know her, you realised what a kind, friendly person she was. As I said, Eric was one of the main men of the show, the other was Derek Evans from Common Platt, hence this is why we used to have our discussions at the Foresters. Doreen would always support anything Eric was connected with – they were a great partnership – and she certainly did this with our show. Doreen was one of the judges and, in any of the rings where she was judging, you would know that everything would run correctly and there would be no trouble. She was always very firm and straight to the point but very fair – the competitors knew exactly where they stood. It was the same at horse show meetings – she was always forthright with good comments making the meetings very progressive.

Doreen was a very hard-working lady, always prepared to have a go at anything and a very good organiser. She must have been a godsend to the people at Greenhill (the one the other side of Wootton Bassett) where she and Eric worked.

Doreen ran the house like clockwork and produced dinner parties for a large number of people at the drop of a hat. Over the years, the Horse Show has been our biggest fund raiser, bringing in thousands of pound. How many people would put the time in like Doreen, when she didn't even live in the village. I know she must have suffered during the last seven years of her illness, but I know she would have done it bravely. Doreen was a person I shall always admire and remember with great respect and affection.

Could I also mention a couple who are in our thoughts and prayers and they are Mr & Mrs Phil Bryant of Bentham Lane, who have sadly lost their daughter Janet after a brave fight against illness. Mr & Mrs Bryant have hosted such lovely coffee mornings for us at Bentham, along with their friends. We offer all these people and their families and friends, our deepest sympathy.

It is not all bad news as Mick Hull, our vice chairman, is home from Papworth Hospital and making steady progress, so we all wish him well. He has been truly missed, no more so than at the Burns Night, which was one of his ideas. The Burns Night was a great success from the comments we have had back and it is certainly in our programme for next year. The date, to be precise, is Saturday 22 January 2011. Our committee worked exceedingly hard that day, so congratulations to them and a special thank you to all who came along to support us. You were great. The caller said to me that he normally had a problem getting people up on the floor, but that night they were up and ready to go. Your enthusiasm all went to make it a good evening, so we hope to see you next year.

Once again I am sending out a warning to be careful of callers at your door – always ask for identification whether they have the uniform of a Company or organisation or not and don't let them in until you are sure or you have someone with you. Also don't give any personal details of any kind out over the phone. Bogus callers will say they are all sorts of things e.g. that they are the Police or 'you have won a holiday' or 'you have won some money'. If a caller at the door or on the telephone is genuine they will always ring again or come back when you have someone with you.

At our next meeting, we have a Fire Officer coming to give us a talk on safety in the home. It should be very interesting as things are changing all the time. This is open to anyone who would like to come and is on Tuesday 2 March at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall and will last about an hour, so just come along – we would love to see you.

The first mystery tour of the season is on Wednesday 7 April starting at 10.00am. The cost is £10, outsiders £12.50 with lunch included. We are a little bit concerned about what numbers we shall get this year as last year the numbers fluctuated quite a bit and we do subsidise these trips quite a bit. Why not join us – names to street wardens by 26 March please.

Don't forget our auction on Saturday 6 March starting at 1.00pm, viewing from 12 noon. If you would like to sell anything, you get 75% of the selling price and any donation of items would, of course, be greatly appreciated. The hall is open at 9.00am to receive items for sale, closing at 11.30am or before if we have the allocated number of lots which is 250.

Arthur Griffin and I spent a very pleasant day at RAF Lyneham at the invitation of Wiltshire Age Concern, who were celebrating 60 years. It was an honour to attend, especially being in the presence of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, so we thank Wiltshire Age Concern for the invitation and RAF Lyneham for their hospitality. Wiltshire Age Concern do tremendous work throughout the county, not like us who only look after our own so to speak and, what is important, is that they are always there if we need them.

People are still very generous towards us and we are still getting individual donations and also we have had a very kind donation from the Rev. Miles charity, which is a charity set up in the Lydiard Tregoze Parish with money left by the Rev. Miles in his will in about 1880 I think. So our thanks go to the trustees of this charity for thinking of us.

I often say it – we are so lucky in Purton and I am going to emphasise it again as it is never far from my mind. The Charity Commission were doing a survey on how Charities had been affected by the recession and I could honestly answer all the questions put to me that we had not suffered, which is down to the kindness of the people of the Purton area and beyond. I could say that we had even increased our vouchers that we give out each year from £7 to £8. I must add also that we have an excellent team in Age Concern so that obviously helps, so thank you one and all.

I will end by saying that I don't know whether I should be writing in the magazine or holding office in Age Concern or other various things I am involved with, in view of the latest Historical Bulletin, because the murder they wrote about was my great uncle and we have been trying to keep this quiet all these years! The trouble was that Nathan Price was always trying to rape Daisy, his niece, who was brought up in the same house as him and his brother Jack being the type of man he was could stand it no more and shot him. He certainly made a good job of it. In later years the ending was better for Daisy, as she became Mrs Dixon at Bagbury Green Farm and her mother, my great aunt, (as you can gather Daisy was born out of wedlock) went on to marry the Band Master of Eton College, which was quite good for me and my brother. When we went up there to stay and came down to a table beautifully laid for breakfast, we always had half a crown under our plates – this was a lot of money in those days, so it was worth behaving ourselves and watching our Ps and Qs (not the Purton ones!) The final part of this episode was when my father lived in Bagbury Lane with his father, mother and brother. They had a chance to move into Purton at Pavenhill and there was a petition got up to try and stop this unruly family moving into the village. It was knocked on the head when my grandfather threatened to take the organiser of this petition to court, so you have to put up with the Prices whether you like it or not!

TONY PRICE

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 26 March 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.

Purton Historical Society



This month we will be opening the Museum on the afternoon of Saturday 6 March. This will coincide with the Age Concern Auction in the village hall. So if you come to the auction, pop in to the Museum to see our exhibits. The museum will be staffed with volunteers from 1.00pm until 4.00pm. We hope to see you there.

Our meeting this month will be the AGM on Thursday 18 March. We meet at St Mary's Upper School Hall at 7.30pm. After the business part of the evening we will have a coffee break followed by short talk by Alan Kirton about Wroughton Science Museum. Then Paul Booy will be telling us of an aspect of the Dutch Golden Age entitled "Housewives and Hussies".

After last month's committee meeting and finding that we ran at a loss last year, we have found it necessary from this month's meeting to raise the charge for visitors to £2.50.

At The Swindon Society meeting on Wednesday 10 March, Bob Townsend will talk on the "Early days of Cycling". They meet at the Broadgreen centre at 7.30pm.

The Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 11 March in the Civic Centre at 7.30pm. Dr Alan Dodge will be talking on "Village Life and Government in the 18th century". One of the main aspects will be Poor Relief.

The Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 17 March in the Town hall at 7.30pm. Paul Booy will be talking on "Ladies and the Vote", where he will explain the difference between a Suffragist and a Suffragette. He will also tell the story of Edith New, Swindon's own Suffragette.

EVE BOOY, Secretary (tel 770755)

Purton Silver Threads

We still have space for new members of **60+ years**. There is a lot going on and you have an opportunity to meet some **very nice people!** We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays 2.00 to 4.00pm – there is transport available to and from the hall if required, and a nice 'cuppa' and homemade cake. Give me a call and find out more. Tel 770251

PAULINE WARD, Secretary



Golden Wedding of Audrey and Brian Broad

19 March 2010

Love and Best Wishes from
Elizabeth, David and George



PURTON PLACARD

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

Easter Fun Activity Day

7-11 year olds
Thursday 1st April
10am-2.00pm

St Mary's Church

Easter crafts, dance,
science experiments, cooking,
Easter hats plus lots more!

Bring a packed lunch & wear old
clothes. All children from the
village welcome. A donation of
£2.50 per child would be
welcomed to cover costs.

For more information
call Kathryn Bartlett

The Cricklade Band Table Top Sale

Saturday 13 March
2.00pm - 4.00pm

To be held at

Cricklade Town Hall

Tables £6.00 each

Book now on 771622 or 751896
Raffle, Cake Stall, Refreshments
Entrance 20p

General Knowledge Quiz

Purton Evening WI
Friday 16 April

7.30pm for 8pm

Silver Threads Hall

£5 per person

to include a ploughman's
cheese supper.

Please bring your own
drinks!

Barn Dance

13 March 2010
Purton Village Hall
Start 19:45

Dancing begins 20:00

Tickets £10 adults,
£6 Children

Supper included

I am a student at Bradon Forest School. I am running a Barn Dance to raise money for my expedition to Romania with World Challenge.

We will be doing community work in Romania (e.g. helping build a school) and some hiking and mountaineering; it will be a lifetime experience!

Contact Anna to book tickets



Friends of Playclose Playgroup Ceilidh

At the Village Hall
Saturday 24 April at
7.00pm

More details in next
Month's Placard

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

Purton Helping Hand Accordion Orchestra Concert

Thursday 11 March 8.00pm
at the Village Hall
Tickets £6.00 (£5 concessions)
Minibus available
Tel 770251

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

Collectors' Market

Saturday 17 April
10.30am - 4.00pm
Village Hall
Tables £10
Book now Tel 770251

PURTON AGE CONCERN Fire Safety in your home

A talk by the professionals
Tuesday 2 March
at the Silver Threads Hall
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Mothering Sunday Service
St Mary's Church 10.30am
Sunday 14th March
All ages welcome
Come & join
Guides, Brownies, Rainbows,
Scouts, Cubs & Beavers
for a Parade service



**MORE PLACARD
OVERLEAF**

PURTON PLACARD

– plus –

PURTON IN BLOOM 2010?

Meeting at 16 Church Path
on Tuesday 16 March 7.30pm.
If you are interested and cannot
make the meeting please
ring 770696. Thank you.

Guide Dogs for the Blind
Purton Support Group
JUMBLE SALE
Saturday 20 March
In the Village Hall
2.00pm
Raffle – Refreshments

St Mary's PTA **"Pub Quiz"**

Friday 5 March
7.30 for 8.00pm start
St Mary's Upper School Hall
£15.00 for a team of 6
There will be a Licensed bar
For further details please contact
Ruth Cook 01793771833
or Email
pta.purton@googlemail.com

Purton Helping Hand
Table Top Sale
Saturday 10 April
1.30pm
At the Village hall
Tables £6.00
Book Now Tel 770251

Lydiard Millicent Lunch Club
Invites you to a Concert given by
Cricklade Town Band
on Thursday 25 March 2010 at
8.00pm
at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
Tickets £5.00, Refreshments included
Raffle
Tickets available from
Peta Guest or Joan Redford



A Family service
all about temptations
Come & join us for
time to think, fun,
songs, cake &
children's activities
St Mary's Church
Sunday 7th March
10,30am

After Eight

For our first meeting of the year, we were at Jan's for another of her memorable Quiz Evenings. The competitive, serious 'first' quiz was based on events in the news during 2009, a year which she admitted she had found depressing to research. Nevertheless, we managed some laughter as we attempted to solve her challenging clues. Most of us, having begun in complete mystification, found some correct answers after struggling to remember precise details and names. As light relief, Jan presented mystery photographs of famous people, who, by combined effort, were all identified. The process was not helped by such tactics as providing pictures of Bruce Forsyth, aged 22, and of a man in a bath whom Avril insisted that she knew! It was a most successful evening with which to start our year's programme.



GWYNETH DATSON

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16 March when the subject is "Counties of our Birth" at Sandra's.

For further information contact Avril or Janet.

Purton Evening WI

The ice defeated me and to my disappointment I was unable to get to Purton Village Hall for the January meeting, and all I can tell readers is that the speaker (on Peru) was reported to be excellent and a good time was had by all. Members are thanked for the excellent response to the questionnaire, which will be of help in the preparation of the programme.

A date for your diary: there will be a General Knowledge Quiz on Friday 16 April at the Silver Threads Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm start, in aid of WI funds. Tickets, price £5 per person (to include a ploughman's cheese supper), are available from Mrs Barbara Compton and Mrs Gladys Legg. Please bring your own drinks!

The next meeting, 17 March, will be the AGM, followed by social time. Meanwhile, if it is available to you, please don't forget to use the website – purtonevewi.org.uk



CONSTANCE REED

Trials & Tribulations of Grandparents

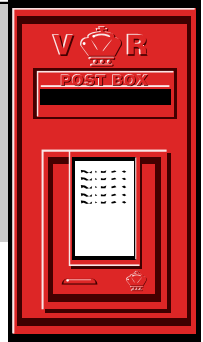
A grandson called to wish his Grandad 'Happy Birthday'. He asked how old he was, and was told 69. The grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked- "Did you start at 1?"

A grandson was visiting grandparents one day when he asked - "Granny, do you know how you and God are alike?" Granny mentally polished her halo and said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old" he replied.

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the railway station, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're finished with her, we just take her back to the station."

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.



■ HARRY BUNCE

My family and I would like to express our thanks to the many people who attended St Mary's Church Purton on 18 January to join us in saying goodbye to Harry, in a Service which we felt was both uplifting and indicative of the way in which Harry had lived his life. We were aware that he was a very special man but it was lovely to have it confirmed in so many ways. Thanks to Judith and Linda (Chaplain at Fitzwarren House) for their contribution to the Service – it felt so right to have Linda there as she had been part of the wonderful team which had cared so lovingly for Harry and me over the 22 months we were there. I intend to repay them by continuing my work there as a volunteer as I have made many very special friends amongst residents, their relations and members of staff.

We have been overwhelmed by the number of cards, telephone messages and letters of condolence which have contributed to help us in overcoming our loss. We appreciate too, the generous contributions to Research into Vascular Dementia and hope that one day there will be a greater understanding of this cruel and debilitating disease though my understanding, and hope, is that it is more difficult for the families than the person with the disease.

I would also like to thank my family, neighbours and friends who have supported me through the last very

difficult years and especially Norene Richardson for her almost weekly visits to Fitzwarren House. I know that Harry would want me now to get on with my life and I have made a start by playing his beloved game of tennis – though never to his high standard!

Thank you all very much.

Edna Bunce

■ JANET BRYANT

Joyce, Phil and family would like to thank everyone for their support, cards, prayers and kind words following the death of their daughter Janet.

Thank you all so much

Joyce & Phil Bryant

■ NEIGHBOURS

In October 2006, David and I rented a bungalow in Highridge Close as a “temporary” home while we looked for a house of our own.

Now, in January 2010, we've left Highridge Close with more than a slight pang of regret. What a smashing street to live in! We were made so welcome. It's always difficult settling into a different area but our new neighbours helped us so much. You know who you are, and a big thank-you to every one of you.

Sincerely,

Lynne & David Duncombe

■ SUPPORT THANKS

Tony, Anne and Jill and families would like to thank everyone for the kind messages, support and cards of condolence sent, following the recent sad loss of Peter just before Christmas. They were of great comfort to us all. Thanks also to the staff at White Lodge where Dad received excellent care during his time there and to all those who gave donations in his name.

Tony Webber



■ THANKS FOR KINDNESS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has shown kindness, support and help to Shirley, my wife, and me while I have been in hospital recently. There is no other place than Purton that you would get this. Thanks again.

Mick Hull

■ GOLDEN WEDDING THANKS

Anne and David would like to convey their thanks to all those who kindly sent cards and good wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Anne and David Sweet

St George's Day

On Friday 23 April, we are holding a Social Evening in Purton Village Hall with a concert by the Chedworth Band. Last year's event was a great success and I'm sure this one will be also. All moneys will go to *Help for Heroes* with a donation to Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Posters, tickets and further details will be available at a later date, but put the date in your diary now!

DOREEN FREEGARD

Women's World Day of Prayer

This is an Interdenominational service held on the first Friday in March each year, and takes place in churches all over the world. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cameroon.

This year it is Purton's turn to be host church for our area, which includes Toothill, West Swindon, Freshbrook and the Lydiards. The service will take place on Friday 5 March at 10.30am at Purton Methodist Church, and will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome - men, women and young people. For more details contact Linda Tinson 771282 or Gladys Legg 770375.

Bradon Forest School Reunion

A Reunion, for leaving year 1996 only, is to be held at the Hilton Hotel, Swindon, on 28 August 2010. The event will be a formal occasion, with a photographer available for the evening. The ticket price is a bargain at £20 per person and partners are welcome to attend. The evening starts at 7pm finishing late.

For more information please email steel09@ntlworld.com

EVEYLN STEEL (née Dunn)

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

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

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 14 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.

Tickets £25.00 per person for 3 course lunch with included glass of wine.

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.

Slot Car Racing

Sunday 18 April – 9.30am to 4.00pm at the Millennium Hall.

I represent a model car racing club called Four Lane Blacktop. We race Scalextric style cars but on large 100ft or so, 4 or more lane tracks.

Following the loss of our permanent venue in Swindon through arson we have been meeting in Marlborough. Unfortunately our regular venue is not available on Sundays and so when asked to host a round of a national championship we chose the Millennium Hall in Purton.

The event will include some of the best racers in the country but as at all EAHORC events the public are more than welcome to come along and participate.

The event would suit anyone with a passing interest in Scalextric, modelling, remote control cars or full size motor sport.

Please contact me for any further information.

MARC TOWNSEND, 07833 448762

Purton Guide Dogs

Stocktaking figures all finalised and accepted, I have received the end of year statement from the Trading Goods office. The organisers of the BOWOOD DOG SHOW and COUNTRY FAIR have sent us the application forms for a stall at this year's show. I've filled them in and returned them.



The Jumble Sale that we had to cancel in January, has now been re-booked for 20 March so hope to see you there. No news yet as to when we can start taking large quantities of foil to the recyclers again. I will still only be able to receive small quantities for the time being.

Once again thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

St Mary's Church Choir from a Kid's Point of View

What you have to do

We have to go to one practise a week on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. We go to two services on Sunday, one in the morning and one in the evening. We wear blue robes, and a surplice if you're a boy. Finally the children earn ribbons.

Commitment

We do hymns, psalms and occasionally anthems. The anthems we have done are: *Let all the world in every corner sing*, *Candle light carol*, and *Look at the world*. We are very busy at Christmas and have to go to every service.

Why choir is good

We enjoy the choir for a number of reasons. Sometimes some of the children get to visit different cathedrals from all over England. We also get to sing at weddings when people get married (and we get paid!). We are currently doing *Voice for Life* to get our ribbons.

What we've done recently

We have just finished our *Voice for Life*. Anna Haslam had to leave half way through her book. We would like somebody to replace her, if you think you're up to it.

CHARLIE WHELAN and MICHAEL HARRIS



3 members of St Mary's Junior Choir attended Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral in February to hear the Cathedral School Choir sing

Brinwell Singers

Brinwell Singers are now back in Brinkworth Village Hall on a Wednesday evening for their weekly singing. Having performed in Brinkworth Church before Christmas as part of Christian Aid's 'Big Christmas Sing' we are now looking for some new songs for a new year and maybe some new singers as well.

We are a friendly group and would welcome anyone who enjoys singing already – or would simply just like to sing. There are no auditions and you don't even need to be able to read music. For further information, please ring Gill Sherhod (01666 510666), Sally Bailey (01666 826623) or Roy Saunders (01793 750336).

Purton Diary – March 2010

2	Tu	7.30pm	Age Concern Committee Meeting at Silver Threads Hall – All Welcome: talk by Fire Officer on “fire safety in the home”
3	W	11.45am 7.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church 3 rd week of Victorian’s course St Mary’s Upper School Hall - then on 10, 24, 31 March
4	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary’s Church
5	F	10.30am	Women’s World Day of Prayer at the Methodist Church - all welcome
		7.30pm	<i>for 8pm start</i> : Pub quiz at St Mary’s Upper School Hall (PTA)
6	Sa	1.00pm 1.00pm	Age Concern Annual auction at the Village Hall <i>to 4pm</i> : Museum open - next door to Village Hall
7	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary’s Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Service at St Mary’s Church Evensong at St Mary’s Church
8	M	7.30pm	Commonwealth Day Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	11.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Sliver Threads Club: <i>WI Entertainment</i> Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
10	W	11.45am 2.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church Methodist Women’s Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Helen Croft
11	Th	10.30am 8.00pm	Songs of Praise at The Cedars Accordion Orchestra Concert at the Village Hall
12	F	10.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the village
13	Sa	2.00pm 2.00pm 7.30pm 7.45pm	The Cricklade Band Table Top Sale, Cricklade Town Hall Silver Threads Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall Cricklade Band/Swindon Male Voice Choir, Bradon Forest Sch Barn Dance at Village Hall - see page 12
14	Su		Mothering Sunday
		8.00am 10.30am 1.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary’s Church United Service, Family Communion & Parade, St Mary’s Ch Mothers’ Day Wine & Dine at Swindon & Cricklade Railway Evensong at St Mary’s Church
15	M	7.45pm	St Mary’s Fellowship of Women: Devotional Meeting at the Methodist Church
16	Tu	7.30pm 7.45pm	Purton in Bloom meeting at 16 Church Path Royal British Legion at The Red House
17	W	11.45am 2.00pm 7.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church Holy Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening Women’s Institute at Village Hall:

18	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society at St Mary's Upper School Hall: AGM followed by Paul Booy - <i>The Dutch Golden Age</i>
20	Sa	2.00pm 2.00pm	Jumble Sale in aid of Guide Dogs, at Village Hall Purton Helping Hand Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
21	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Parish Communion at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
23	Tu	2.00pm 7.30pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Co-operative Choir</i> Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: <i>Growing from Seed</i> - Lyn Miles
24	W	11.45am 6.30pm	<i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church Holy Communion at The Cedars
25	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
27	Sa	7.30pm	Swindon Choral Soc: Verdi's <i>Requiem</i> , Marlborough College
28	Su		Start of British Summer Time - clocks go forward
		8.00am 10.30am 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Procession with Donkey from Village Hall to St Mary's Parish Communion at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
29	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Village Hall - everyone welcome
31	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars

Every week

Tu	9.15am 7.30pm	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am 6.30pm	<i>to 12noon</i> : 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	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

To include your Club or Organization's Events in the Diary Pages, contact
Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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.

OFFERED: Headboards - Can anyone use a pair of olive green, Dralon headboards for 2 three feet single beds? Telephone Val Walker 771201

OFFERED: Are you moving house? We have approx 36 medium and tea-chest size boxes free to collector. Tel 01793 778165.

Exhibit of the Month: Purton Moonrakers

It was 100 years ago this month (26 March 1910) that the Purton Wiltshire Moonrakers were inaugurated. The photo that we have of them is a large one high up on the Museum wall - look upwards if you don't want to miss it!

The Moonrakers story in Wiltshire is an interesting one. There are variations on the legend of the Moonrakers and the location is claimed by many places in Wiltshire and a few outside.

Detractors say that a traveller came upon some drunken Wiltshire men one moonlit night, trying to rake a round glowing object from a pool. The rakers said it was a large cheese they were trying to get, but the traveller said it was obviously a reflection of the moon.

I prefer the more obvious story! A band of smugglers saw an Exciseman (revenue agent) on the road ahead of them on a bright moonlit night. They dumped their kegs of smuggled French brandy into a nearby pond so he wouldn't see what they were up to. When the Exciseman left, they used hay rakes to try to get the barrels back out of the water. But the Exciseman came back and asked what they were doing. They said it was obvious. They were raking the big cheese out of the pond. The Exciseman exclaimed they were stupid - it was only the reflection of the moon. He rode off leaving the "moonrakers" to laugh at the Exciseman's naivety and they continued to recover their kegs!

Variations include the smugglers coming from Bristol, Bishops Canning and elsewhere but Devizes seems a popular place for the enactment. The period tends to be "a while ago", which is usually acknowledged as being the 17th or 18th century when high import taxes meant that foreign luxuries like spirits and tobacco were very expensive if bought legitimately.

So what were the 1910 Purton Wiltshire Moonrakers? A band of smugglers? A secret society? A cheese fraternity? None of these. They were formed at *The Hope* beerhouse in Station Road - the building now operated as Elm Grove Saddlery - and, although they probably enjoyed a brandy occasionally, they were a group of Swindon Town football supporters who would dress up in smocks and carry rakes to Town matches around the country. You could get locked up for that these days!

The Exciseman is now Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and we endeavour today not to get locked up by them either.

There will be a better photo at www.purtonmuseum.com.

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

The Museum is located above the library and open during library hours:

Tues & Fri: 2-5pm & 6-8pm Wed: 10am-1pm & 2-5pm

News from The Cricklade Band

2010 has started in fine style with our engagement list for the year very promptly filled up. You can see where we are and what we're doing either online at www.thecrickladeband.co.uk or at the Leisure Centre or call in for a copy on Thursdays evenings at The Club at Cricklade.

The weather was relatively kind to us over the Christmas period, no snow but very cold during our traditional carol playing in and around Cricklade. Thank you all for your kind donations to our collecting boxes - we'll be making our usual sizeable donation to the Prospect Foundation as well as paying for some of the band's running costs (which is why the band originally began the carol playing thing over 100 years ago).

Staying with Christmas, the many people who came to see our annual Christmas Show had a new venue to attend. That was probably as big a surprise to you as it was to us ... we had just two weeks to book into the Leisure Centre and many thanks go to Gary Walker and all the Leisure Centre people for their helpful co-operation.

We turned the Leisure Centre into a rather grand theatre for the evening – have a look at the pictures on the website. You all sang lustily, joined in with the offbeat humour of our X-mas-Factor feature and enjoyed the festive mulled wine and refreshments. Of course it wasn't all plain sailing. You would have liked it to be a bit warmer and our stage lighting wasn't quite as 'London Palladium' as had been planned. On balance though, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. All the teething troubles have been sorted out now so watch out for details of our Hogtoberfest III where there will be plenty of tickets to go round this year!

March 2010 also sees a makeover to what we've called 'Training Section' for the past 30-ish years. The band has been justifiably praised for the way in which we offer tuition to people of all ages to play brass instruments and percussion. We thought that 'Training Section' didn't quite do justice to the achievement of proficiently playing a cornet, horn, euphonium, trombone, tuba or a variety of drums. So the Training Section will become 'BandAcademy' from the beginning of March and will include some manageable music theory (not compulsory!) and certificated attainment of the stages of learning - all in a friendly, welcoming environment and still at the unbelievable fee of just £1 a week.

Just turn up at The Club at Cricklade any Monday evening at 6.30 or have a look at the contact details on the website. Of course, if you're already a proficient musician we welcome your interest too - our performance and repertoire nods far more in the direction of entertaining dance music than the staid 'Brassed Off' image, oh - we have a varied social programme too.

It doesn't actually matter if you're not interested in taking a musician's role in the band, you could still be a non-playing member of our envied 'Crew', that's our uniformed support team.

So, however you'd like to get involved with the band's involvement in Cricklade then come and see us at the Club or contact us through the details on the website - you'll be very welcome.

PAUL HEWER

SHORT STORY

Purton Magazine welcomes short stories up to 1200 words. The author's name can be withheld on request. We will attempt to publish stories when there is space but no guarantees can be given. Stories will be monitored for general interest, propriety, taste and decency. The Editors' decision is final. If you wish to submit a story for the Magazine, contact details are in the panel on [page 4](#).

One Size Fits All

Perhaps the delayed departure played a part, but there was none of that pushing and shoving that David often said justified his business class ticket. No one else seemed at all anxious – instead they just looked a bit crumpled and droopy shouldered after all the waiting and she drew strength from their indifference.

If she was going to face this fear, now would be a good time to start. With a determination that even she found surprising, she bent down, got her hand luggage airborne and strode towards the gate to do the same with herself.

The ramping roar of the engines and the thrust in the small of her back certainly quickened her pulse and she glanced around the cabin rather anxiously. But as everyone else seemed completely oblivious to anything untoward, her thoughts turned to David as the plane swept steeply into the sullen skies over Somerset.

Fears began to resurface but not with regard to the flight. What would he be doing right now? What about her connecting flight and Lola's fingers perhaps connecting with her husband? She was staring so intently at the trailing edge of the antimacassar in front that the landing in Holland hardly registered.

The onward flight to Milan was only memorable for two things – simply stunning views across the tops of the snowy Alps and the sad scheming that she convinced herself was simply preparation for what was to come, just in the same way that she prepared her canvasses.

In the workshops behind the main catwalk in Milan, David's welcoming embrace contained all his usual length, strength and comforting warmth. "I hoped you would come" he said softly. "Things seem a bit different this year but I don't really know why." Before she could enquire he continued, "And there's another thing, Lola has arrived when I thought she couldn't make it". Was he really this good an actor?

The security at the main hall had been even more rigorous than at the airport and substantially more severe than she had ever remembered from



past shows. Indeed, heavily built men in equally severe black suits and dark glasses strolled around at regular intervals. It was from behind one such specimen that Lola appeared with her red hair helping to make her look as though she had stepped straight out of a gossip magazine.

Ursula's senses were frantically fishing for clues but David hardly seemed to react. However Lola appeared really quite disorientated as she tried to introduce Luciano, whom Ursula had initially thought was just another guard.

"I've only got another half an hour to do this evening" David said "and then the four of us can get something to eat." Luciano took his leave and David returned to his work, leaving Lola with a look of indecision. Her whiny voice attempted a couple of pleasantries but Ursula was not going to help, concluding that even small talk might be too big for Lola.

Ursula settled down comfortably and gazed approvingly at the industry all around her. Everyone was going about their business with great energy. Ursula imagined she was watching a well ordered platoon of ants moving quickly but rarely bumping into each other as though following invisible tram lines. Her mind was wondering how much easier shopping would be if there were tram lines for pedestrians in Oxford Street.

Then it happened. The pandemonium seemed to appear through the far swing doors. Voices were panicking. The tram lines disappeared as people bumped into each other.

David was flushed and angry. The tone of his voice suggested an emotion Ursula couldn't easily recall, even from their long life together. "Some Versace dresses have been stolen from the premiere collection and they're my fabrics" he told her "and the designs could have easily have been copied by now."

His voice tailed off as he turned away to see the large room steadily filling up with people now without their previous energy or intent. No more rushing about. There seemed to be a force from behind. It was the police.

Most people could be accounted for, even some that were not there. But when it came to David, his original team of 7 should have become 8 with Ursula's arrival, but Lola was missing. It was only when Ursula mentioned Luciano that the atmosphere changed. Lists were re-checked. Frowns grew deeper and David volunteered that today was the first time he had seen him. Others agreed and the security supervisor was called.



He quickly confirmed by radio phone that all his security staff were on duty and inside the building. It soon became apparent that Luciano was not on anyone's list. It seemed that only David and Ursula had actually even met him and the police closed in for questioning. David was clearly preoccupied with the likely losses but Ursula's mind was clear and cool. "Just like the models", she said, "security men

look mostly the same”, thinking that one size would fit them all, “but let me try and show you how much I can remember about him.”

A cartoonist’s approach was definitely not for her. Back home, her portraits were precious and precise but soon she was rather sheepishly showing her sketchy efforts to the police. The reaction was amazing. Nothing was said in English as the leading policeman headed quickly for the door. His interpreter thanked Ursula and then had to run to catch up. Soon everyone was allowed to leave for the night. That evening, Ursula couldn’t find any red hairs in the hotel bedroom.

The police arrived at the hotel during breakfast. Ursula’s drawing had been sufficient for a small squad to raid a warehouse not far from the San Siro stadium and recover all the dresses. “Luciano” was really Diego Basso and he was, not for the first time, now helping the police with their enquiries.

Returning to the workshops, Ursula seemed to have found her moment of fame as the story of her sketch had circulated widely. All the clamouring was, at first, even a little pleasant as people she hardly knew wanted to talk to her and even jostled for her attention a couple of times.

But soon the novelty was wearing off and she longed for the anonymity of her painting smock when David asked if she had seen Lola. She hoped his concern was purely professional even though it was all too easy to suspect a little bit of longing in his voice.

“But surely you had planned for her not being here in the first place,” Ursula said, trying to bring his attention back to practicalities, “and the rest of your team have clearly been invigorated by the return of the dresses.” “Oh yes, but she is such a wonderful seamstress and really great to work with” he said, almost in defence of his evident feelings.

After a short but uneasy silence, David said rather wistfully, “I sometimes wondered if she was just too good to be true.” A bit like her breasts, Ursula thought, and one size certainly would have trouble fitting them – but perhaps that was the point. It was her turn to be a little wistful, if only fleetingly.

JF

From the Registers

St Mary’s Church

Funerals

- 21 January Douglas Ivan Barker (76) - followed by committal at Purton Cemetery
- 27 January Anne Goodwin - followed by interment at Purton Cemetery
- 28 January Doreen Ann Ovens - followed by interment at Purton Cemetery.

Purton Methodist Church

Funeral

- 14 January Mary Catherine Sharp (89)



Edward Haskins

When looking through some old photos I started to think of my father, and what a string of chances it takes for any one of us ever to be born. The words “what if” come to mind.

My father’s name was Edward Haskins. He was born at 12 The Hyde, Purton on 22 March 1900. He was a small weak baby. The doctor later told my grandmother that he wrote out the death certificate, just leaving the date to be filled in, but little Ted, as he was called, survived.

For his first outing he was wrapped up warmly, put in his pram and given to his elder brother and sister to take for a walk. His siblings soon began to quarrel, they let go of the pram, which trundled off down the hill and ended up in the war pond. They fished him out and took him home. My aunty always remembered the “good hiding” which followed, but still Ted survived.

He went to the village school and left at 14. His father had secured him a job in the GWR where he and his elder brother worked. Ted caused many family rows by refusing to go. He obtained a job as errand boy at the Co-op in the High Street. He was provided with a bicycle and delivered groceries round the outlying villages.

Sometime when he was still 17 he joined the Royal Flying Corps. He was posted to a training camp somewhere on the south coast. When he saw the list of flying instructors he noticed the name Robert Haskins – he spoke to him and they discovered they were first cousins. Ted’s father Thomas was the youngest of a large family and his mother died soon after his birth. His father remarried, and several of the older children left the village. Robert’s father was one of these. Robert and Ted arranged a date to meet up and catch up on family news.

A few days later Ted went for a flying lesson which was due at 11.00am. A mate of his turned up and asked him to exchange slots as he was scheduled for the afternoon and wanted to go out then. At first Ted refused, but the other boy kept asking and in the end they exchanged times. Ted stood on the airfield and watched the plane take off. It flew into a bank of cloud, and collided head on with an incoming plane.

The two occupants of each plane were killed. Ted went to the other boy’s funeral. He was an only child whose parents were devastated. He said how guilty he always felt as it should have been him. Ted never got to meet his cousin Robert as he was killed in the other plane.

Ted later was in 120 Squadron RAF and spent some time in France. He was made an officer, but said this was only because men were being killed so quickly, making for speedy promotion.

After the war he left the air force, later taking a lease on a grocer’s shop at The Circle, Pinehurst, where he worked until retirement. He lived a long and healthy life, dying on 1 January 1986.

It is a strange thought that if he had not changed places on that long ago day none of our family would ever have existed.

J E YOUNG

Climate Friendly Purton

Reflections on the Copenhagen Talks

This will sound like a sermon, so apologies for that, but I'd like to share some thoughts about what we can still do, as individuals, to secure a good future for our children.



After trekking up to London for the Blue Wave, we were obviously disappointed and angry at the weakness of the 'Accord' finally agreed by world leaders. It was never going to be easy with 120 governments trying to find a solution to such a complex problem. But we are running out of time.

One thing we must not do is give up on our efforts to influence the rest of the world. We may not be one of the great world powers any more and a reduction in UK emissions alone will not solve the problem. But the UK can play a vital leadership role.

It's tempting to think, what will my little effort achieve? It will achieve a surprising amount. Family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances are all influenced by what we do. None of us are perfect but doing little things like taking bags shopping, buying local food when we can, conserving energy and cutting down on car use gives one another confidence to try and do the same. In this matter, the little things really do add up.

It is the same with countries. If the UK simply sits back because they can only contribute a small fraction of the solution, what will be the message to China and India who want to follow in our footsteps and develop their countries to our standard of living? This problem of climate change, which is only the most urgent of many global issues arising from human wastefulness, will only be solved by leadership. And leadership starts at the very bottom of the scale with us as individuals.

I don't pretend to understand much about politics and world governments and I know that China had a lot to do with watering down the Accord. However, the USA failed to play a crucial leadership role and this was not down to Barack Obama but to his people. He knew that he had nothing to put on the table as it would have been thrown out by Congress when he got home. We in the western world have fought long and hard for our democracies which give us freedom to live our lives as we wish. With this comes a responsibility – it is down to us, as individuals, to show leadership in everything we do and say which will scale up to allow our Governments to lead the way for the rest of the world.

It is important that we keep up the pressure on our Government (they have actually asked us to) so that they know they can push for the agreements between nations that we so desperately need. Richard Pagett sent me this website to sign up to: www.stopclimatechaos.org. Or please write to your MP: James Gray, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, at 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA.

Please also ask the candidates as they start to knock on your door closer to Election time.

KATE ROBINSON

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The units rounded off the autumn term with celebrations: Rainbows had a traditional party, 1st Purton Brownies went out carol singing organised by Erin and Imogen who had reached the end of their time in Brownies, 2nd Purton Brownies held a pyjama party organised by Kirstie, Isobel and Anna who were moving on to Guides, or moving out of the village in Anna's case. Guides had finished a week earlier with ice-skating.

Mid January saw 2nd Purton finally delivering their Christmas gifts to Lunch Club, delayed due to illness and snow, but the calendars were nevertheless well received.

The units are now in full swing with Adventure 100 challenges - our centenary challenge:

Guides cooked a meal for one-hundred 2p coins – even stretching to two courses! They also explored the dark by star-gazing (although it was a bit cloudy!) and played games in the dark.

2nd Purton Brownies have made snowy picture frames, drawn pictures of what they thought a Brownie would look like in the year 2110 (100 years time) and also spent an evening wearing fluorescent clothing and learning how to be seen in the dark. For a performance challenge they made sock puppets, then wrote and acted out their own six puppet shows, which were excellent!

1st Purton Brownies found out about life in very cold climates and made bead penguin keyrings. Another evening was a celebration of Burns Night, with most Brownies tasting haggis and a large number asking for seconds! Their performance challenge was a line dancing session and it has to be said that, apart from Daisy who was leading the session, the Brownies were much better at it than the leaders.

At the beginning of February, 130 Guides and Senior Section, including representatives from Purton Guides, gathered for 'Let's Dance' a County-wide dance bonanza. There was the opportunity to learn a range of dance styles (jazz, morris, jive and line to name but a few) and put them into practice at a disco at the end of the night. As this was a Centenary celebration, there was also a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday to us' and cake!

For more information about Guiding in Purton contact Gill Woodward or Jane Templar.

Green Tips: Transform Purton Parish

During the last year or so there has been the occasional reference to something called Transform Purton Parish. A small group, including Ps and Qs members, have got together to discuss what the future holds and what we need to do; not just about climate change but also about potential resources; food, energy, water and so on.



As we wait for our politicians to continue the dialogue that began in Copenhagen, at Bonn in a couple of month's time and Mexico at the end of the year, there has never been a better time for re-thinking some of our basic assumptions. Meanwhile there has been quite a lot of chat in the media about

climate change. Fascinating as that is, the distraction that it provides does mean it is possible to miss the point about the availability of all the things on which we have come to rely; the flow of resources to this country.

We do 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.

That might seem like a daunting task. At the invitation of the parish council, one of our members was invited to discuss the issue in some depth and it proved to be an interesting exchange. Ps and Qs has also met the new unitary authority, Wiltshire Council, which has offered some assistance.

Basically, Transform Purton Parish is about getting ready for some new realities that are facing us. Our proposal is to bring together some interested folk in the Parish together with local government representatives and some technical experts from outside to look at some of the challenges of the basic premises for the future. Challenges would include energy supply, food production, water supply, waste disposal, education, health and security, and community growth and development; how large would the parish need to be to support the number of residents, or what proportion of land within the parish should be dedicated to housing, commerce, agriculture, woodland to support the number of residents; some really interesting and challenging concepts.

We propose to test the waters on whether or not it is feasible to establish a sustainable basis for the Parish: to establish the level of response required, timeline needed, and relevant community practicalities. The first step is to scope the entire challenge, to identify what resources in kind and in money may be needed, and to develop a work programme with initial resource budgets and timescales.

Richard Pagett of Ps and Qs has been invited by the parish council to give a presentation on this at the Annual Parish Meeting at the end of this month (Monday 29 March). We hope you find it interesting and want to be involved or kept informed.

P.S. we need to keep up the pressure on our politicians about climate change and a good way to do that is by registering at www.stopclimatechaos.org.

Compiled by Richard Pagett for Ps & Qs
Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities
Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities
New committee members are always welcome
Contact: Jane Smith (772422) Jacqui Lay (770704)
or via our web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk



St. Mary's church will be floodlit
on Sunday 14 March
to celebrate all mothers everywhere on
Mothering Sunday



St Mary's Church now ...

Now we have said a sad goodbye to Jane Haslam and family you might be wondering what is happening in the church.

Church life and its patterns of services will continue much as usual using visiting clergy and members of the congregation. Our usual regular visits to care homes, home communions and school assemblies will continue with help from Judith Wells, Gladys Legg, Steve Cullis, Beth Trendell, Val Walker and others.

We will do our best to be there for anyone who needs our practical or spiritual support and any such concerns should be directed in the first instance to one of our pastoral assistants, Gladys Legg on 770375 who will also arrange baptisms.

Anyone who would like to arrange a wedding at the church should contact: Mary Nettleton – Email: marnettleton@hotmail.co.uk.

... and the future

Under Ecclesiastical law, there has to be a vacancy following the departure of the priest of at least six months.

There is a three-stage process appointing a new priest. Stage one is working with a representative from the Diocese of Bristol who meets with various members of our congregation and village with the purpose of gauging the type of church we are, how well we are organised and integrated into the community or if we have any specific problems, etc. This is now complete.

We understand that there could be one of three results – that we are in such poor shape that we have to be closed down; that we have problems that need to be resolved before taking matters forward; or that we can proceed to stage two, which that of vacancy development.

We are thankful to learn that we fall into the latter category earning such remarks as we are “a thriving concern” and we “care for a wide range of ages and worship styles”.

During the next six months the PCC will continue to work with the Deanery Leadership Team. This is a time for us not only to continue the day to day running of the church, but also to consider whether we could do things differently or better. Our vacancy – remembering that Jane's post, as was Brian's before her, is a part-time one – will then be considered together with the Deanery's overall needs with the aim of providing a full time post.

Eventually the post will be advertised, applications sifted and candidates interviewed – this latter process being with representatives not only from our parish and the Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), but also from other interested parties including the Deanery and possibly the Diocese. The new appointee will then have

to give notice where he or she is currently working.

As you can see, this is a long and complicated process, much of it out of our hands. Realistically it could take a year or more before we have a new priest. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the PCC.

In the meantime we are continuing to carry forward work that has been discussed by the PCC (Parochial Church Council) for some time now. We aim to have a church that provides quality worship with, among others things, space to enable and encourage new approaches and activities. Anyone who witnessed Thamesdown Ladies Choir trying to fit into the front of the church recently will appreciate this fact! To this end we are planning to remove some of the pews at the front of the church on a temporary basis to see if this meets our need.

We ask for your thanks, consideration and continuing prayers for everyone giving their time and talents to ensure that the life of St Mary's continues without problems.

ST MARY'S PCC

Spirit Level

A Seasonal Reflection from Purton Churches

For once Purton is emerging out of something that those of us of more northern origin actually recognise as winter! We have woken more than once to a white blanket thicker than a smattering of hoar frost. We crunched our heels through fresh falls of snow. We saw and heard spontaneous communal gatherings on the nearest slope sharing tin lids, polly bags, packing case ends and even the odd well preserved rusty runnered sledge. Suddenly regular business, normal hours of work, otherwise essential duties and priorities were eclipsed – perhaps first by panic – we can't get to that important meeting; second by resignation – neither can anyone else; and thirdly by innovation – today I might as well enjoy the snow – tomorrow I'll work out a new way of doing what I need to.

Suddenly road traffic has decreased to a trickle. Swindon is now a long way away. Supplies of groceries are not automatic. Families are all together in one place all day. Children play out in every street. And we catch a glimpse of what living in a Wiltshire village on the edge of a rural community has been like for *most* of its communal life.

So are we to hark back to a golden age when all was better? Not a bit of it. This column from whoever's pen it has originated and whatever title it has borne has never sought that route. But we do know what *bridging* things is about. At Jane Haslam's induction as rector at North Petherton she was introduced to a representative of different sections of the community. 'Here's the Taunton business community' said the Bishop. 'They'll support you.' 'Here's the Somerset farming community – they'll feed you. And don't ever make the mistake of eating that day before visiting them! They know how to feast.' She'll be at home!

Everyone reading this magazine is almost bound to be part of a bridge - at least between two geographical areas. The town wraps round us the east and the countryside to the west. One of the challenges of belonging to most organisations in Purton is to draw from the heritage of both. Without that we are far the less rich.

One of the strengths of our churches is that to some extent they have still managed to achieve that.

For much of rural life around the world the year begins right now – at the start of spring. Whichever background our roots naturally lean towards – things happen – and often surprisingly quickly. Clocks change. Evenings become light. Leaves appear from dry branches. Grey turns to a myriad of colours as we drive through woods, past gardens and round roundabouts. How do we mark and celebrate that change? For a long time almost everyone recognised something to that end was needed.

Lent, Good Friday, Easter Day, Rogation Sunday (when we celebrate and bless the seeds) Harvest Barn Dance and Festival, as well as Christmas will all provide opportunity for us all as the year progresses. The two churches in our village, both together and in their own distinctive way, seek to give expression – drawing from the heritage of English country life, the combined experience of centuries of biblical writers, and contemporary insights from across the world. Then, having done that, help to apply it to the plane that flies over our village at 10.58 twice most weeks, the family that rings up posing new crisis at every turn, and the work schedule that needs facing every day.

The Church's column, penned by the vicar over recent years, will be authored for the rest of this year by a variety of those who, for all their and human limitations and shortfalls, find one of our churches has some basic value in regularly helping to Bridge the gaps – gaps between past and future – gaps between people here and people there – and sometimes, before we know it, gaps between people everywhere and God.

DAVID MARTIN

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), Brian Taylor Music, Wootton Bassett (01793 853870) and the White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough (01672 512071).

Purton Carnival

4–12 June 2010. Theme – Best Of British

All entry forms are available, so don't leave it too long to let me have them. A full report next month – programmes will be available at the beginning of May.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



The sub-zero temperature outside the Silver Threads Hall provided a suitable background for our speaker, Duncan Robinson of Church Path, Purton, who gave us a most interesting talk on his Antarctic Expedition in March last year. He told us that he was chosen as one of a few out of well over 700 applicants in the UK alone. Once selected, Duncan had just 3 weeks in which to buy the necessary kit, organise home and work responsibilities during his 2 week absence and publicise the expedition at local and London schools.

Duncan had visited four primary and secondary schools and recorded many very interesting questions from children from Years 5-10. Their searching questions testified to the younger generation's concern about climate change. He structured his film around these questions and the answers he obtained from leaders of the expedition.

Duncan then showed us graphs that recorded four spectacular increases in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere and of global temperature roughly every 100,000 years from 400,000 years ago to the last half century. This information was gained by analysing ice cores from Antarctica. Obviously the first three of these increases had nothing to do with human activity, but the final surge of the last 50 years, a far steeper and more dramatic rise than the earlier ones, could clearly be man-made. It was concern about this that first motivated the owners of Npower, RWE, to establish the only permanent non-governmental research base in Antarctica and to employ Robert Swan, the explorer who walked to both the poles in the 1980s and 90s, to monitor long term climate change there and to publicise changes we can make to decrease our output of CO₂.

All the answers Robert Swan and the other expert members gave to the questions that children had given Duncan focussed on these points: global warming is happening now, it is closely related to the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, a change to renewable energy sources is imperative and the young people of today will be the ones who can effect the necessary changes.

Duncan's film emphasised both the beauty and fragility of the world of Antarctica, with multitudes of penguins, seals, whales and some unforgettable shots of an albatross cruising with its breathtaking wingspan. In response to one child's question we learnt that all wildlife there depends on krill. Some research has focused on the life cycle of these minute forms of life and has established that a period of intense cold is vital to the formation and spread of the undersea lichens on which the krill feed. Warmer temperatures mean no lichen, thus no krill – with unforeseeable consequences for the whole chain of life there and in warmer waters.

All the researchers Duncan interviewed during the expedition stressed that the change from fossil fuels to renewables is both achievable and urgently needed. Oil, coal and gas are finite resources thus it is obviously better for the world and for humankind if we limit our use of such fuels.

Duncan's talk followed on from our AGM. All the present committee were re-elected with the addition of Dionne Child. Subscriptions will remain at £8.

Raffle winners were David Herbert, Josie Young, Judy Preddy, Doreen

Freegard, Val Faulkner and Maureen Carpenter.

Our next meeting will be held at the Silver Threads Hall on 23 March at 7.30pm, when Lyn Miles will be giving us hints and tips for growing from seed. Competition – 5 Daffodils.

MOIRA WHITE, Secretary

Purton Helping Hand

A belated Happy New Year to everyone who has supported us in 2009 in so many ways which help us to continue our work in the village, which is very rewarding.

Unfortunately, we need new members to enable us to continue, as we now only have nine members for everything and an acting Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested and would like to know more, give me a ring on 770251 and have a chat.

We have a very busy year ahead and hope you will be interested in joining us.

PAULINE WARD, Chairman



Tandem Bike Ride

Update on Charity Tandem bike ride starting out in late May, in aid of Help for Heroes.

Training has now stepped up a cog or two with the guys moving on from static trainers in their garages out onto the open road and onto the bike itself. You may well see them out puffing on the weekend mornings in the local area so please give them encouragement as the old legs and lungs are feeling the pain in this ever lasting cold period.

If you would like to support this event for a very worthy cause there will soon be collection points at various local outlets plus you can visit the donation website at www.justgiving.com/2men1bikebacktoback

If you have trouble navigating to this site then just enter **Just giving** into Google and when you find the home page, enter my name **Rob Milican** into the name box which should take you to the page.

ROB MILLICAN

Equine Infection Anaemia

In January, 50 horses at a stable in Wiltshire were exposed to equine infectious anaemia (EIA) otherwise known as swamp fever. The disease is not transferable to humans but can be highly infectious to horses, donkeys and mules and is transferred by bites from midges. It is an incurable, notifiable disease and the first case of its occurrence in Britain since 1976.

The disease arrived in a consignment of 7 horses from Romania delivered in December via Belgium together with one Belgian horse. 2 mares were found to be carrying the disease and were put down. The stable, which has been quarantined, was not specifically identified in the Defra report nor in the Ministerial Statement to the House of Commons by Hilary Benn, but is believed to be in the Purton area.

We will pass on any further information we receive in future issues of the Magazine.

Purton Cricket Club



With the start of the season rapidly approaching the following indoor junior coaching sessions have been arranged at Isambard Community School, Redhouse Way, Swindon, SN25 2ND on Friday evenings from 8.00pm to 9.00pm on 5, 12, 19 and 26 March. Existing and prospective members are invited to attend any of these sessions.

Existing and prospective senior members are also invited to attend practice nets at the same location on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on 16, 23 and 30 March. The first outdoor nets using the club's new facility will be on Tuesday 6 April at 6.00pm at the cricket ground.

From the Archives

At the end of the nineteenth century the club captain was Mr J.H.D. Smith – the initial D stood for Decimus, a name often given to the tenth child in a family!

JOE GARDNER

Purton F.C.

The bad weather has meant that our seniors, youth and minor teams have hardly played any games, due to the awful conditions.

The Hellenic side are currently in joint top slot with a game in hand over Slimbridge, with local rivals Wootton Bassett Town breathing down our necks.

Draws away at Tytherington Rocks 1-1 and a 4-4 draw at home to Headington Amateurs have been the only games played.

The Wilts league reserve side is going through a bad patch having lost their last four league games and will need to start picking up points or will find themselves at the bottom end of their league.

At youth and minors levels results are up and down. The Under 15s side are the best placed side, lying 3rd in their league but there is still a long way to go before the season ends and hopefully all our sides will improve on their current placings.

Tickets for our Easter Raffle are now available from club members. It will take place at the Red House Club on Easter Saturday - Tickets at 25 each or £1 for a batch of 4. Please support the Club by purchasing some as you have in the past in what is our major fundraiser of the season.

To all those who support the sides, thank you for support, and hopefully more games will be on than off in the coming months.

ALAN EASTWOOD, President



Ray Suddaby

St Mary's was floodlit on 22 February

In memory of Ray Suddaby

on the 14th anniversary of his death.

Loved always by his wife Pat

Bradon Forest School News

This report is compiled from extracts from our monthly Parents' Newsletters. These are available on the school website www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk or please ask for a copy from the school office.

Cooking Competitions Update

Mrs Woodward Head of Food reports:

Congratulations to Jenna Duckers who, after winning the regional final in Bristol, has now won the overall national round of the Meat Marketing Competition. Jenna will be invited to an edition of BBC Saturday Kitchen to see James Martin, the mentor of the competition, and to eat out afterwards in London. The food department received £200 of vouchers to purchase some new knives and Jenna received a signed copy of James Martin's new book. Jenna was also interviewed on the BBC Radio Wiltshire morning show after the regional rounds.



We have also had two winners in the British Food Competition: Nathan Hiles and Loren Stone, who submitted some great recipes, for which they each received a Kenwood mixer and the school received eighteen Kenwood mixers, together with towels and aprons as prizes. Well done to all the students, Mrs Woodward, Mrs Carson and also to Francis Young, owner of the Pear Tree, for his guidance and mentoring role.

Year 11 Mock Interviews were held at the beginning of December involving



Year 11 students. The students presented themselves extremely well, both in the way they dressed for the interviews and in the mature manner in which they conducted themselves at interview. We had a wide range of interviewers who gave their time up to come into school, ranging from people working in industry, the colleges, employment agencies and retired teachers. Feedback from the students and interviewers was extremely positive. For most of our students

this was their first experience of an interview and many of them commented that, although it was nerve-racking, they found the feedback from the interviewers and the experience enormously helpful in preparing them for future college and work interviews.

Continuing Basketball Success

Well done to all students and staff involved for the outstanding Basketball results.

U13 Swindon Final	Bradon v Highworth	W50 - 22
U14 Swindon Final	Bradon v Churchfields	W55 - 51
U15 Swindon Final	Bradon v Kingsdown	W55 - 53
U16 Swindon Final	Bradon v Greendown	W95 - 31

U15 Girls Wiltshire Final – The U15 girls beat St Edmunds Girls' School, Salisbury (specialist sports college), 49 - 27 to become Wiltshire schools' champions and will represent Wiltshire in the South West regional competition of the National Cup.

U15 Boys Wiltshire Final – The U15 boys beat Bishops Wordsworth School, Salisbury, 57 - 55 to become Wiltshire schools' champions and will represent Wiltshire in the South West regional competition of the National Cup.

The U13, U14, U15 and U16 boys' basketball teams are the 2010 Swindon Champions. The girls U15 team continues to go from strength to strength and is already into the regional competition being Swindon and Wiltshire champions. The U15 boys certainly have stamina, having won the Swindon final and the Wiltshire final in the same week. In the Wiltshire final, they beat Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School for Boys, Salisbury, who knocked them out at this stage in the U14 competition last year.

Netball Swindon 2010 Champions: Both the Year 10 and Year 11 Netball teams were top in their leagues and now represent Swindon in the County Finals on 22 March 2010.

Swindon Young Musician of the Year

In the Junior Section, Bradon Forest students Rei Shimizu and Michael Woodward both gave excellent performances and gained second and third places respectively.

In the Senior Section, Chris Richards and Lucy Bosley represented Bradon Forest with Chris being awarded third place. Congratulations to all four students who received very positive comments from the adjudicator. The evening was a delight of musical talent and everyone enjoyed the high standard of all the performances.



Cybermentors have landed at Bradon Forest School – we are now lucky enough to have eighteen qualified CyberMentors!

On 26 and 27 January 2010, Miss Colbert worked with eighteen Bradon Forest School Students and three representatives from BeatBullying UK to train our students to be Cybermentors, enabling them to help other students who may be



being bullied or are in need of support. The training involved how to deal with bullying cases and how to offer useful support to the victims of both bullying and cyberbullying. The CyberMentors will be delivering Key Stage 3 assemblies over the next few weeks to explain what they do and how students can contact them. For more information on the work of the Cybermentors visit