

Purton Magazine



Purton Cricket Ground from the air - see page 49
photo courtesy of Swindon Advertiser

April 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.communigate.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

There are many gems that make Purton such a special place for so many of us. One of those more hidden gems is photographed on this month's front cover. Founded in 1820 (yes, all of 190 years ago!) Purton Cricket Club is the oldest in Wiltshire. These days a good class of the game is still played in leagues and friendly matches on the same ground, up on the hill behind the Pear Tree Hotel and Purton House. The facilities are also of a very high standard for a village club with three new outdoor nets and team of 5 highly qualified coaches.

However, such an excellent set-up has caused the club to be a victim of its own success as many young players have quickly graduated from the club to county age-group teams. More new players are needed to keep keeping the club going and to preserve this amazing heritage. Certainly the cricket club provides several things for young people to do, following the recent Parish Council article and anyone interested in helping the club are invited to contact the Chairman, Dave Woolford on 770889.

Perhaps because it is so well hidden, village visitors are fewer than might normally be expected for such attractive surroundings and more are always welcome. Plans for the new season are well in hand and the club's article this month on page 49 includes a plea for a little help from dog owners and a poem from a former club member. At the time of writing, spring is still hiding from us and we include another poem from another former cricket club member that could reflect the wishes on many waiting for the new season to arrive.

The Age Concern minibuses are another gem that makes Purton special, providing such a valuable lifeline for many in our community. The service has now been running for 24 years but more drivers and helpers (known as 'shotguns') are needed. Perhaps those of us who worry that we will need to use the service later in our lives ought to volunteer now while we can still help.

Of course there are many more gems that make up the personality of Purton and one of the purposes of this publication is to provide the opportunity for people to describe their particular gem – whether hidden or not – and how it contributes to the character of our community. Details of how and when to submit your articles appear on page 4.

3

bat boxes have been made by the cubs for the Prospect Hospice
- see page 55.

60

men of the church were members of Purton cricket club in 1864
- see page 49.

£250+

already promised for a new cooker at the village hall, but more is needed
- see page 8.

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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.

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Magazine Committee

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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’ – this was the title of one of the Parish Council’s articles in last month’s magazine. The Parish Council was hoping for some feed back on the article to get an understanding of what, if any, are the real issues regarding facilities for the young people of the village. Our difficulty is that as there was no response to the article should we therefore assume everybody is happy with what we have? We would still like to hear from you if you do have any comments to make.

The future of the youth club that operates from the youth club building in Reids Piece is being considered. Wiltshire Council has reduced the service to one night a week and Sarah Howes the youth worker has moved elsewhere to work. The Parish Council owns the youth club site and leases it to Wiltshire Council. If the building is only in use one night a week is it worth retaining the building for this purpose?

Your views on this would be helpful as the Parish Council will have to make some decisions about the building in the near future.

Waste Collection and Disposal

The consultation mentioned in last month’s magazine has been deferred by Wiltshire Council for the time being. It is likely that the forthcoming general election will put several issues on hold.

Flooding

Unitary Cllr Jacqui Lay has done a lot of work for Purton in terms of flooding issues over the past two years or so. However, it now seems there is some confusion at Wiltshire Council about moving this work forward and Carl Collins who had been working in this area has moved elsewhere. There seems to be the problem at the moment with officers being moved around meaning there is no continuity or established points of contact. Hopefully things will settle down in time. Cllr Lay and the Parish Council are hoping to move things forward to ensure the work started in Purton is completed.

There is a Flood Fair being held on 14 April at the Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham between 10am and 2pm, this is being organised by the new Wiltshire’s Operational Flood Working Group. This group however appears to be starting from scratch hence may not take stock or choose to progress what has already been started in Purton. The event is an invite only event however if any local residents are interested in attending we could ask if your names can be put forward, so please contact the Parish Council Office if you would like more information.

Village Hall

At a recent meeting to discuss how to bring more money into the Village Hall to help support it, it was decided one course of action would be to develop a web site to give more information about the hall and to promote it better. If anybody has particular skills with web sites or has any ideas that could help we would like to hear from you.

Recycling Clothing and Shoe Bank

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal has asked the Parish Council if it can place a clothing and shoe bank by the mini recycling centre in the car park adjacent to the Village Hall. The Parish Council has agreed to do this so hopefully people will make good use of this facility for this worthwhile cause.

Sponsor a Planter

With the onset of spring we will be looking to plant the planters at Pavenhill and Ringsbury Close soon. Would you like to sponsor a planter? If so you can have a plaque put on the planter with your details on it, this could include an advertisement for your company. For more details please contact the Parish Council Office.

Potholes

If you come across a pothole in the road or a streetlight that is not working properly or any other road defect then report it to **CLARENCE** either by telephoning 0800 23 23 23 or by emailing clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council

- 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.
- N09/02146/FUL *Blunsdon Station, Tadpole Lane, Wilts*, replace temporary office/workshop house in the railway coach with porta-cabin plus replacement toilet for staff.
- N09/02287/FUL *6 Pavenhill*, erection of a two-storey front extension.
- N09/02056/LBC *Purton Court, 3 High Street*, treatment of dry rot – removal and reinstatement of affected joinery and flooring; introduction of air bricks.
- N09/02319/FUL *9 Church Path*, rear extension.

Withdrawn Planning Application:

- N09/02132/CLE *Folly Down Farm, Packhorse Lane*, Certificate of Lawfulness for access way at Folly Down Farm. Application withdrawn on 10 February 2010.

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 Building. Post for the Purton Village Hall/Institute Charity, Purton Village Centre/ War Memorial and Play Close Charities can also be deposited in this box.

News from The Trustees

Village Hall: We have had a special meeting of the Trustees to look at various savings we can make, also how we can generate more money, but it is very difficult in these hard times. We are very lucky on another front – as I have said before a couple are willing to pay for the installation of a new cooker and we have promises of over £250 towards a new cooker. Obviously any more help in this area would be much appreciated and, if we could make this happen with a new cooker, we feel the bookings would rise. Unfortunately there is no money to spare for this from the hall finances.

It has been suggested that perhaps a few of you would like to form a working party and raise money for the Hall. This would be a great help and, if you are interested, please contact the office on 01793 771066. Hopefully we shall come up with something to solve the problem.

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre: All the projects we have received grants for are almost completed – resurfacing work in front of the Red House Club, the fencing which we feel is an excellent job done by local firm Aspen Fencing, and now the resurfacing of the public tennis court. The court is almost complete – it has to stay a month to set, then it will be painted and, when the paint is dry, it will be ready for use and let's hope we can keep it in better condition than last time.

The Bowls Club have made an excellent job of decorating the Club House outside, with new roofing over the veranda, so our thanks to them for this. It is our responsibility really but they kindly offered the manpower and we provided the materials.

Shortly a skate board park will be started where the old petanque court is, so we hope this will be an asset to the village and will be well used. After inspection, one tree at the end of the park is rotten and will have to come down.

At the moment, everything seems to be running smoothly and let's hope it stays that way. We still need to do a bit of work on the Millennium Hall then, hopefully, it should be OK for a while.

Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

The Cenotaph

We often get comments about how nice the Cenotaph looks. Well, we are looking for two or three more to join the working party. They could be men or ladies as it's not heavy work, but we need a team of six or seven so that, if a couple cannot make it on the days we go, we still have quite a nice squad to keep it tidy. We do more work at some times of the year than others but it is never more than once a fortnight. If you are interested, give me a ring on 01793 770696.

TONY PRICE



Right: the Cenotaph from a 1920's postcard.

Purton & District Age Concern



Last month I wrote about losing the wife of one of the stalwarts of the horse shows we used to have quite a few years ago and now, sadly, I would like to mention the loss of Barbara Evans whose husband Derek was the main man of the show with Eric Ovens. Barbara was born in Swindon at 21 Commercial Road, one of triplets, which was very rare in those days, so rare in fact that her mother and father, Mr and Mrs Franklin had a letter from the King with some money in it. Mr Franklin promptly sent the money back saying that he did not want charity. I don't know much about Barbara's early life, only later on after she had married Derek, known to many as Yanto. I suppose you would say they were quite opposite to one another. Derek was forthright and always said what he thought, lively and sociable, while Barbara was quiet, gentle, deep thinking, pleasant and very helpful, in fact a lovely lady. Barbara didn't get involved with the horsey side of the show although, thinking about it, she must have done at home with all the things Derek did for us. It must have been all around her. On horse show day, she always ran a stall for us at the show and made us a lot of money over the years, which we greatly appreciated. I believe that Derek and Barbara had a shop at Gorse Hill, so she knew what she was doing when she ran our stall.

Did you know that the idea for Christmas parties started at *The Foresters* at Common Platt? This was Derek's local. Jack and Betty Phillips, the hosts, used to hold parties for the people in Common Platt and they had some spaces so they asked Age Concern to find a few pensioners to go which we did and I can tell you they were some parties! Barbara was very much involved in these. We thought to organise one for all our elderly who wanted to go, instead of picking out a few, and we started off at Churchill House for several years before moving to the Village Hall. Terry and Geraldine, provided the entertainment and they are now of course, local residents of Purton.

You might be in time to book on the mystery tour on Wednesday 7 April, cost £10, £12.50 to outsiders, with lunch provided. PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT ACCEPT TOKENS ANY MORE, as Wiltshire Council has stopped issuing them. The next trip after that is an afternoon trip on Wednesday 5 May starting at 2.00pm, with tea provided, cost £10, £12.50 outsiders. Names with money to street wardens by Monday 26 April.

Another date for your diary is Friday 7 May – this is a repeat of our 3 B's evening, beans, bangers and bingo and a little bit more. The tickets are £6 – available from Mick Hull on 772453 – to include a hot meal and you can buy your bingo tickets on the night. This is taking place at the Silver Threads Hall.

We had a very interesting talk from Gary New of Wiltshire Fire Service, humorous but to the point. If you want a fire safety check, please contact your street warden – it is free.

Could we thank the ladies of St Mary's Fellowship for their kind donation of £300 to the minibus fund. It was the proceeds from their coffee morning at the home of Colin, Sylvia and Moira at 35 High Street. This was greatly appreciated.

Our auction was a great success, in fact we had to turn people away who were bringing items in to sell as early on as 10.30am. We are sorry to do this as it is a loss to us but we do say we have a limit of 240 lots and we have to think of Mr Roderick Wightman, our auctioneer, who does such an excellent job for us. Also we find that people tend to lose interest towards the end. So our thanks go to Roderick for getting such good prices, all the people who brought things to sell, some of which were donated, and to all the buyers who came and made it all add up to a good day. A big thank-you to cousin Graham on the financial side of things and our ladies and gentlemen for all their hard work. We still miss our old friend Vic Cook but we had the pleasure of having his grandson Jack helping out – I think he might be another Victor later on – so thank you Jack, we look forward to your help next year.

I often say it, but I am going to say it again. What lovely surprises we get, like the lady who came up to Sheila at the auction and said that she and her husband would like to give us a small donation and then handed over a very generous cheque – so my thanks to this very generous couple.

You will read below that we need drivers and assistants (known as shotguns). Please give it some thought – it will be no good having a new bus if we cannot man it. I am sure you would find it very rewarding. We have been running the minibuses for twenty-four years – let's keep the service going for another twenty-four. Further details from Richard, our co-ordinator on 01793 770862.

Let's finish on a high – our street warden for part of Station Road and Widham, Paul Minihan, has had a major operation and we are pleased to say he is making good progress but the point I am going to make is that he rang up to say he would be out of action for a while, but not to worry as his daughter Charlotte would take over. So many thanks Charlotte – it makes life easier for us when things like this are organised and we really appreciate your kindness.

TONY PRICE, Chairman

Purton Age Concern Minibuses

It is a familiar sight seeing our blue minibuses driving around the village, but have you ever thought of being one of the Volunteers that either drives or helps as a 'shotgun'? Currently I am the only regular female driver and also probably one of the youngest; I do one regular slot once a month for the Lunch Club held on Tuesdays in the Silver Threads Hall and then as and when required the rest of the time, which is usually for surgery appointments or covering when other drivers are on holiday. Before I retired I mainly helped out at the weekends or in the evening, but now in between my carriage driving, gardening and other hobbies I am able to help more often. My husband Richard is the Co-ordinator and receives requests for transport from individuals and The Cedars to go to the Doctor's Surgery or from groups to attend functions and concerts providing they meet the age criteria.

The buses are easy to drive with standard manual transmission. There is a reversing camera on each bus that helps if you have to negotiate awkward areas,

and you very soon get used to the extra length. If you are aged between 25 and 70 (if you are older there has to be a medical certificate) and have a clean car driving licence then why not consider becoming a Volunteer Driver? If driving is not your scene then why not become a 'shot gun' who normally assists passengers on and off the bus, ensures that they are safely belted up and helps the driver load our passengers who may be wheelchair bound via the electric tail lift. As long as you are reasonably fit this can be a great way of helping other people who otherwise may be housebound. Training will be given so there is no need to worry on that score.

Next year marks 25 years since the first minibus became operational, we are in a very fortunate position to have 2 buses, one of which will shortly be replaced with a brand new one. One bus has seating capacity for 11 and the other 7 although they are the same size. This enables older drivers, subject to certain conditions, to continue driving and makes the fitting of wheelchairs easier. We collect Day Care clients for the Cedars 4 days per week from Cricklade, Wootton Bassett and other areas in and out of Purton, and in this second week in March, we will be collecting people to go to the two evening concerts that are being held in the village, so the trips are quite varied.

Please help whilst you can as there may be a time in the future when either you or one of your family may rely on the minibus to get to the doctors or to a social function you or they otherwise could not attend. For more information contact Richard on 01793 770862.

I love driving the minibuses so why don't YOU come and join me!

HAZEL WOODBRIDGE

Green Tips - Volunteering

Volunteering can be very fulfilling, giving individuals new knowledge and satisfaction. All age groups can get involved and having worked as a volunteer this can be beneficial as an added skill for CVs when applying for jobs. For those interested in environmental and conservation issues there are a number of local and also national groups in our area.



Ps & Qs is our very own environmental group here in the village, and we have been established for over 15 years. We have a core group of members and a large list of subscribers for our *Village Alerts!* – new Members are always welcomed. We also have Purton's Climate Friendly Group and a similar group in Swindon – www.swindonclimate.org.uk

Purton Parish Council – all our local councillors are all volunteers. The council also has special groups aimed at specific issues such as the Footpath Group and there are always opportunities to volunteer to help. Working as a councillor or a volunteer is a good way to get to know our community.

Purton is fortunate to have many voluntary groups:

- Helping Hand – one of the many things they do is to organise our wonderful carnival each year

- Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund
- W.I. (Women's Institute)
- Purton Branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Purton & Lydiard Scout Group/Guides & Brownies

Have a look at the Purton Directory for lots of ideas–

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk/purtondirectory2009.pdf. When Ps & Qs first started we were one of a very few groups in Wiltshire. Now, however, Wiltshire World Changers believe that there are several hundred environmental groups in our county. Wiltshire World Changers (www.wiltshireworldchangers.org) is a network co-ordinated by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and funded by various local authorities in Wiltshire. It is bringing together people and communities, from across Wiltshire, who are taking action to look after the environment, tackle climate change, grow their own food, compost, protect wildlife and much more. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (www.wiltshirewildlife.org) aims is to enhance, restore and protect local biodiversity and are always looking for volunteers.

Other interesting volunteering sites include:

- btcv.org/wiltshire - British Trust Conservation for Volunteers
- www.rspb.org.uk – Royal Society for Protection of Birds
- www.nfws.org.uk – National Fox Welfare Society
- www.naturenet.net – UK Countryside & Nature Conservation Society
- www.naturalengland.org.uk – Natural England
- <http://nbn.org.uk> – National Biodiversity Network
- www.foe.co.uk – Friends of the Earth
- www.cpre.org.uk – Campaign to Protect Rural England
- www.ltl.org.uk – Learning through Landscapes
- www.bats.org.uk/pages/wiltshire_bat_group.html - Wiltshire Bat Group
- www.wiltshirebadgergroup.org.uk – Wiltshire Badger Group
- www.wiltshire-butterflies.org.uk – Wiltshire Butterflies
- www.wwcw.co.uk – Wiltshire Wildlife Conservation Volunteers
- www.hawk-conservancy.org – Hawk Conservancy
- www.wbct.org.uk – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

Recently, Sherston had their first environment party and over 50 eco groups, rural craftspeople, organic food producers and musicians attended. Sherston plans to have a Village Green day on 22 May – International Biodiversity Day - www.biodiversity-day.info

If you know of any other groups and organisations that should be included on this list then please let us know. We are happy to supply the contact details on request to anyone who does not have computer access.

Compiled by Jacqui Lay 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

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

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.

Tickets available from
Mrs Barbara Compton
and Mrs Gladys Legg.

Please bring your own drinks!

Coffee Morning

At The Cedars

Thursday 1 April at
10.30am

Everyone Welcome
Hot Cross Buns and
Coffee

Collectors' Market

Saturday 17 April
10.30am - 4.00pm

Village Hall

Tables £10

Book now Tel 770251

Quiz Night, Fun & Games

Supporting Neil & Dave's
Tandem Bike Ride

From Lands End to John
O'Groats

In aid of 'Help for Heroes'

Purton Village Hall

Saturday 1st May

7.30pm (Quiz at 8.30)

Bar & Refreshment

£5.00 pp. Teams 4-6

Contact : Janet,

Amanda or Becky



Maharajah

Tandoori and Balti Restaurant
6 High Street, Purton, Swindon, Wilts. 01793 770253

Awarded 5 stars for
"Scores on the doors"
By NWDC



Christian Aid Curry Night

Tuesday 11 May

At the Maharajah

Come and join us for good company and good
food!

With thanks to Khaliq - all profits to Christian
Aid

Two sittings: 6.30pm and 8pm

Book early to avoid disappointment

Tickets £10 at the Spar and In Touch Services
or contact Wendy or Kate

St Marys PTA
Disco
 Saturday 22 May
 in the Village Hall.
 Start time 8pm
 Licensed bar.
 Watch this space for
 further details

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

Mothers' Union
Cream Tea
 Silver Threads Hall
 Wednesday 21 April
 3 - 4.30pm
 £2.00
 Everyone Welcome

Purton Age Concern
 invites you to our
3B'S EVENING
 'Bingo, bangers and beans!'
 at the Silver Threads Hall on
 Friday 7 May at 7.30pm.
 Tickets only £6 to include a hot supper
 available from Mick Hull
 (sorry no tickets available on the door)
 Buy your bingo books on the night
 and come and join us for some fun!

Friends of Playclose Playgroup Barn Dance



With The Belted Earls
 Ceilidh Band and Caller

Saturday 24th April
 Village Hall - Purton
Licensed bar from 7.00pm
 Tickets
 Adults £5
 Children £3



To buy tickets contact
 Sharon
 Or call into Playclose Playgroup
 (within Purton Methodist Church)

**St George's Day
 Chedworth Band
 Concert**
 Friday 23 April
 7.30pm
 Village Hall
 £6 including glass of wine
 You are welcome to bring your
 own drinks

Wiltshire Blind Association hold a monthly coffee morning (usually with a speaker) in Cricklade at the United Reform Church Hall in Calcutt Street 10.30 on the third Tuesday of the month. All very welcome.

20 April 18 May
 15 June 20 July 17 August

Further information contact Jess Bailey, Wiltshire Blind Association on 01380 723682.



St Mary's CE Primary School: New Build Update

We are now at a critical stage in the journey to build the village of Purton a new Primary School. The huge amount of work that has gone on over the last 3 years is now finally about to come to fruition. As I write the Local Authority is in the process of shortlisting from around 40 tender applications from contractors and an appointment to build the new school will be made shortly.

There will inevitably be some upheaval during the build phase, and as a school we need to be mindful of the need to work hard to keep disruption to an absolute minimum. We must ensure that the new temporary classrooms and offices for the Upper School children are installed reliably and safely between June and 1 September 2010, and also prepare the Lower School site to have an increased part to play in the life of the school during the build. There is a real uniqueness about St Mary's School build in that we are currently a split-site school and the build is going to be over the top of much of the existing site. We are a big rural primary and the double storey design with 1st floor play-deck is a first for Wiltshire and Swindon. We feel this unique design is essential so that we retain the wonderful surroundings that the site enjoys now when we are finally all together.

The school has enjoyed fantastic support from the local community during the journey to this point and I really look forward to working together as we build something amazing in Purton for years to come. The success of this project needs the whole community to support it and also to feel listened to, so please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns, and if we can't answer the issue, we will be able to direct you to someone who can.

Once the contractors have been appointed, the school will provide an opportunity for the whole community to attend a forum where you will be able to meet the contractors, Local Authority representatives and School Leaders. I will give more information on this soon.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher

Up and coming events at St Mary's CE Primary School

- Wiltshire High 5 Netball County Final - Friday 19 March: we are 1 of only 20 schools to reach the final! Good luck to our Netball Team
- Swindon Music Festival - Wed 17 March: The School Choir have had excellent commendations in recent years, and are aiming high again this year.

Purton Children in Need

On Sunday 2 May, Purton Children in Need committee are organizing a walking treasure hunt mainly around the lanes and footpaths of Purton. It will be starting from the Red House skittle alley at 2pm. You can enter as a family, a group, or individually. From 4.00pm there will be a barbecue and prize giving.

Obviously we will be hoping for decent weather but barring hurricanes we'll still go ahead with it ... after all we are British. More details will follow in next month's Magazine.

TONY RICHARDSON

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.



■ VICTORIAN SCHOOL BUILDING

I see that there are all sorts of exciting developments and plans for the new Purton Primary School, which will be built on the one site, opposite Bradon Forest School.

As a Purtonian of many years now, my own three children have all been through St Mary's and Bradon Forest school system, I am wondering what is going to happen to the lovely Victorian building known as 'Lower School' in College Road, where so many young Purtonians have started their school education.

My daughter, now a mother herself, has deliberately chosen to send her own children to a school that matches, as much as possible, the ethos and style of St Mary's Lower School. She benefitted so much from the skill of the staff and the ambiance of the traditional Victorian building. She is now a teacher

herself and would be greatly saddened if that evocative building was to be destroyed in the name of 'development'.

In some villages, where old school buildings are redundant, they start a renewed life as community buildings or are redesigned as homes and apartments. Are these options being discussed in Purton? Or have I missed the boat? Has it all has been agreed and sorted?

A concerned and grateful Purtonian

■ TO THE MOTHERS' DAY THIEF

How could you stoop so low to steal the bowl of primroses we put on our mother's grave on Sunday? How proud you must be.

Jen and Thelma

Pottery Classes

Interested in learning pottery? Fancy having a go at hand building, slab building and coiling? Not sure what any of this means but would like to learn?

The Bradon Forest Art Department would like to invite members of the local community to join a new Beginners Pottery Class. The brand new beginners session starts on Tuesday 20 April and runs for 6 weeks. The cost of the course is only £45 and this includes all materials. The class will run from 6.30 pm - 9pm each week.



Our successful community art classes have been running for two years now and we have to add more to popular demand!

Classes are limited so please contact Jennifer Purcell on 01793 773981 or purcellj@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk to book your place.

JENNIFER PURCELL



Purton Evening WI



Sadly, the speaker for the February meeting suffered a bereavement which made it impossible for her to attend, though we look forward to hearing her later in the year. Mrs Pam Clements kindly stood in at the last moment and gave us a talk and demonstration on "Remembering Yesterdays". Mrs Clements is well known to local WIs and we greatly enjoy her talks that are gaily interspersed with garments from her historical collection, and she has the gift of a dry humour that has everybody chuckling. A most enjoyable evening.

The Soup and Sweet event was extremely popular and the food excellent as ever. Many thanks to the ladies who contributed much time and effort, and those who brought along prizes for the raffle, and goodies for the sales table. This was another enjoyable event, and raised the useful sum of £169.40.

There will be a General Knowledge Quiz on the 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 (770818) and Mrs Gladys Legg (770375). Please bring your own drinks!

The Annual General Meeting was held after the Purton Magazine went to press so it will be the May issue that contains the details of our new Committee members and the plans for the future. Meanwhile, if the website (www.purtonevewi.org.uk) is available to you, please use that facility to bring you up to date.

CONSTANCE REED

After Eight

February has long been our month to have a meal out so, at 6.15pm on the 9th, eleven of us were enjoying pre-dinner drinks in The Restaurant@ Swindon College. This was a new venue for some of us and a welcome return for others. The most taxing part of the evening over – choosing what to eat from a comprehensive menu – we settled down to a very pleasant experience.



Over coffee, the trainee chefs came to ask how we had enjoyed our meals. It was delightful to see them so enthusiastic about their dishes and, although we may have asked one or two questions they had to refer to the tutor, they were pleased with our feedback. They were also keen to share a few tips but I am not sure how many of us will be serving spun sugar fancies with our desserts despite being reassured that with practice anyone can do it!

Good food, good wine and good company. Thanks to Mary Smith for organising such an enjoyable evening.

JANET McCARTHY

Our next meeting is "Does what we wear matter?" led by Eve and Eileen at Gwyneth's and is on Tuesday 20 April. For further information contact Avril or Janet

Swindon and Cricklade Railway

Easter Egg Specials: 11.00am to 4.00pm

Friday 2 April: Diesel

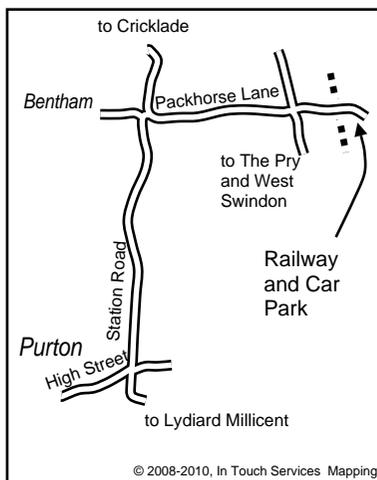
Sat/ Sun/ Mon 3, 4, 5 April: Steam

Come and join the Easter Bunny for a ride by Steam or Diesel Train, while children receive an Easter egg.

Adults £5, Children £5 including egg, Seniors £4 or £18 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children.

Cafeteria, shop, museum and pond side picnic area. Enquiries 01793 750335 or 771615.

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.



Football Free Zone

Saturday 19 June

Fed up with thoughts of the World Cup?

Then Purton and Lydiard Charity fund invite you to come and spoil yourself for a couple of hours. Home made cakes, preserves, sweets, plants/herbs, books, maybe have your nails painted, or the children's faces painted or even let your youngsters take part in biscuit icing. Tea/coffee, and lunches available.

If you would like to have a stall at this event please call Lynda on email Lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk. More information next month.

Recent donations made by Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund include £50 each towards Christmas lunches for Purton Silver Threads, Purton Luncheon Club, Purton Stoke Christmas Lunch, Lydiard Millicent Luncheon Club and £100 promised to Purton Village Hall towards purchase of cooker for kitchen.

Future events include

Saturday 12 June Purton Carnival

Saturday 19 June Festival of Food

Sunday 20 June Face painting, Cricklade Town Festival

Saturday 17 July Face painting, The Children's Fete, Faringdon Road Park, Swindon

September date to be confirmed – Village Fete, Lydiard area

Saturday 30 October Christmas Craft Show – a few stalls still available

We are also looking for fetes, garden parties, bazaars etc to raise money for our own charity through small side shows, face painting etc. Available for face painting at parties in private or public locations at very reasonable rates. Fully insured and CRB checked.



JENNY PEABODY

Purton Diary – April 2010

1	Th	10.00am	to 2pm: Easter Fun Activity Day at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Coffee Morning at The Cedars - everyone welcome
2	F		Good Friday - bank holiday
		10.00am	to 4pm: Easter Egg Specials at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
3	Sa	10.00am	to 4pm: Easter Egg Specials at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
4	Su		Easter Sunday
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	to 4pm: Easter Egg Specials at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Easter Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	M		Easter Monday - bank holiday
		10.00am	to 4pm: Easter Egg Specials at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
6	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club – Travel Film
7	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
9	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the village
10	Sa	1.30pm	Helping Hand Table Top Sale at Village Hall
11	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Junior Church at St Mary's Lower School Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
12	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
13	Tu	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
14	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Major Sylvia Watts of the Salvation Army
15	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
16	F	7.30pm	for 8pm: General Knowledge Quiz at Silver Threads Hall (WI)
17	Sa	10.30am	to 4.00pm Collectors' Market at Village Hall
18	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Junior Church at St Mary's Lower School Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
20	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club – AGM
		6.30pm	Beginners Pottery Classes start at Bradon Forest School
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After Eight: <i>Does what we wear matter?</i> - led by Eve and Eileen at Gwyneth's
21	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House

		3.00pm	to 4.30pm: Cream Tea, Silver Threads Hall (Mothers' Union)
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall:
22	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society at St Mary's Upper School Hall: Peter Payne - <i>The Three Sieges of Malta</i>
23	F	7.30pm	St George's Day Social Evening at Village Hall
24	Sa	7.00pm	Barn Dance at Village Hall (Friends of Playclose Play Group)
25	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Junior Church at St Mary's Lower School Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
27	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Richard Cripps – <i>Elements of Garden Design</i>
28	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
		7.00pm	St Mary's Church & Purton Methodist Church Annual Parish Meetings at St Mary's Upper School Hall

May

2	Su	2.00pm	Children in Need Treasure Hunt starting from Red House
5	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery tour with tea provided

Every week

Tu	9.15am	to 11.30am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	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

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

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

OFFERED: Full Length glass mirror with brackets 48" x 12". Suitable for wall or wardrobe door. Tel: 771043

WHAT'S ON?

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

On **Friday 14 and Saturday 15 May**, PADS will be putting on a Revue in the **Village Hall** entitled *Beyond The Fridge*. It will consist of a variety of sketches and songs. A licensed bar has been applied for and tickets will cost £6 to include a ploughman's supper. Tickets will be available from Sue Richardson , Lindsey Hall or the Spar shop.



Dodecantus

There are two venues for the Dodecantus spring concerts this year. While the traditional local concert will be on **Friday 14 May at St Bartholomew's Church, Wootton Bassett**, their first concert will be in Wales on **Saturday 8 May in St Martin's Church, Cardiff**, not least because their exciting young conductor, Ben Pinnow, travels up from Cardiff every week to rehearse the group. Both concerts will start at 7.30pm and are free to enter, although there will be a retiring collection.

The choir are very much looking forward to welcoming many familiar faces at Bassett, but this will be the choir's first outing to Wales where they are also hoping to make many new friends in the 'land of song'.

The programme will include Durufle's ethereal *Requiem* - a work which they hope will be familiar to many. That will be presented with Purcell's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary* and Poulenc's quirky *Quatre Motets pour le Temps de Penitence*.

Although at first glance this selection may appear quite gloomy, no programme which includes Poulenc can be entirely without humour and overall the music is reflective and uplifting rather than morose. As with many of the well-known works they have presented in the past, Dodecantus are finding that they are bringing a new perspective to the music through the increased intimacy such small forces enable and a further level of excitement is added through their having the opportunity to perform the Purcell with a select band of professional instrumental musicians. They hope to see you there!



From Cricklade Fire Station.

During January and February crews from Cricklade attended 29 emergency calls as follows:



1/1/10 at 1120 road traffic collision, person trapped, A419 northbound, Cricklade
4/1/10 at 1435 road traffic collision, person trapped, A419 southbound, Cricklade
14/1/10 at 0740 automatic fire alarm, school premises, Calcutt Street, Cricklade
16/1/10 at 1027 automatic fire alarm, hotel premises, Common Hill, Cricklade
19/1/10 at 0750 automatic fire alarm, industrial premises, Chelworth Ind Est
21/1/10 at 1827 emergency special service call, assist ambulance with casualty
26/1/10 at 0600 road traffic collision, person trapped, A419 Blunsdon Hill, 1 fatality
27/1/10 at 0737 automatic fire alarm, school premises, Calcutt Street, Cricklade
1/2/10 at 0750 automatic fire alarm, school premises, Calcutt St, Cricklade
9/2/10 at 0908 standby duties, Swindon Fire Station
9/2/10 at 0914 mobile classroom fire, school premises, Wroughton
10/12/10 at 0102 report of unknown fire, false alarm, Calcutt St, Cricklade
11/2/10 at 1813 automatic fire alarm, residential flats, Bath Road, Cricklade
13/2/10 at 1359 standby duties, Stratton Fire Station
13/2/10 at 1701 large landfill fire, Compton Bassett, Calne
13/2/10 at 2258 road traffic collision, 2 persons trapped, Packhorse Lane, Purton
21/2/10 at 2249 automatic fire alarm, nursing home, Station Road, Purton
23/2/10 at 1530 car fire, A419, Blunsdon Hill
24/2/10 at 0044 large factory fire, car production plant, South Marston
25/2/10 at 1158 factory fire, Purton
plus 9 co-responder calls, Cricklade

If you require any further Fire Safety advice, would like a home fire safety check or are interested in becoming a Retained Firefighter or Fire Cadet please ring 0800 389 7849.

Fire Safety Advice – Kitchens and Smoke Alarms

- Keep electrical leads and appliances away from water.
- Ensure you have at least 1 working smoke alarm on each floor of your home.
- Don't use matches or lighters to light gas cookers. Spark devices are safer.
- Best place to fit a smoke alarm is central to a room, top of staircase, landings, hallways and between living and sleeping areas.
- When you have finished cooking, make sure the cooker is turned off. Never leave cooking unattended.
- Test your smoke alarms once a week, gently clean with a vacuum twice a year and replace the whole unit every 10 years.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean. Built up fat and grease easily catches fire.
- If the low battery warning sounds, replace it immediately. Best to keep a spare. Never leave a home unprotected.
- Take care if you are wearing loose clothing, it can easily catch fire.



Carnival News

4 - 12 June 2010 Theme: Best of British

Only 2 months to go. All entry forms are waiting for you to collect.

Who is to be "**Pride of Purton 2010**" – it is for you to decide. Get your nominations in – boxes are at the Library, Post Office and in the Chemist.

Are you a budding poet? Well, now is your chance to try. No more than 20 lines, please (no limericks!), any topic. Classes: Under 12, 12-16, 16 and over.

If you don't fancy poetry, why not enter the talent contest? Winners go forward to Swindon Talent Final at the Wyvern.

Or what about Carnival Prince/Princess under 12 years?

There is plenty going on in Carnival week. A Golf Tournament, Family Cycle Ride, Pig Roast, Coffee Morning, Round the Houses Race, Darts, etc, etc, etc.

Programmes will be available at the beginning of May. All entries to come to me at 38 Station Road, Purton, SN5 4EN, or tel: 01793 770251.

PAULINE WARD, Carnival Secretary

Oh do come soon

Oh do come soon, wondrous spring
The lengthening days are already here
Yet your beautiful bulbs still shyly hide their colourful cheerfulness

Oh do come soon, warmer weather
Two months in and still shivering
Rain and snow roll relentlessly multiplying weather warnings

Oh do come soon, dancing daffodils
We can see you there sheltering sensibly
In rolls of green, waiting to brighten our days



Oh do come soon, fields of green
And transform the sticky, murky mud
That gathers around gateways and sticks to our souls
Oh do come soon, smiling sunshine
And chase away our sadnesses
That linger around those we have lost before their time.

Written in hope at the end of February.

Francis Sheppard

Purton Historical Society



It was interesting to read Tony Price's article for Age Concern, to hear of the links from the past with today. To think that Eric Ball's article would unearth some ripples so far from the main event. That is what is so fascinating about history, suddenly finding connections between events. I think that is why so many people have become engrossed in tracing their family trees. You just don't know what you might find, be it good or bad.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, then you better contact David Sweet or myself to buy your copy of the Bulletin.

Our meeting this month is on Thursday 22 April in St Mary's Upper School Hall at 7.30pm, when Peter Payne will be talking on "The Three sieges of Malta". We all know why Malta became a George Cross island after the 2nd World war, so come along and learn about the others.

Wootton Bassett Historical Society meet on Thursday 8 April in the Civic Centre at 7.30pm when Karen Johnstone of the National Trust will be giving a talk on Tyntesfield. This is the spectacular Victorian Gothic revival country house in Wraxall, North Somerset now being restored by the National Trust.

The Swindon Society will meet at the Broadgreen Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 April. Mike Stubbs will be talking on "Swindon you may have missed". Since I left work, I don't think I have.

The Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 21 April at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Rita Burstow will be telling them of "The notorious Highway Men and Women of Wiltshire"

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Historical Society Coach Outing - Saturday 19 June

Our outing on 19 June will be to Charlecote Park in Warwickshire, home to the Lucy Family since the 15th century although they acquired the land back in 1247. It is situated in beautiful parkland 'inspired' by Capability Brown, overlooking the river Avon. There has been a herd of fallow deer here since Tudor times but the story that William Shakespeare poached here is thought to be untrue! Queen Elizabeth I stayed here, but I feel it must beg the question as to where didn't she stay, as she does seem to have got around a bit!

As we go to press the final details have yet to be finalised but we will leave Purton at 9am and return at about 7pm. The cost will be £20 approximately (less for NT members). For further information contact [Helen Dixon](#) on 01793 770648 or pick up details at the PHS meeting or [In Touch Services](#) (115 Pavenhill).

STOP PRESS . . . Village Tour Saturday 24 July

This year we have decided to change the format of our 'tour of local churches' and instead will explore a local village and its environs which could include the church, a chapel, the manor house and other interesting buildings as well as notable features of the landscape with perhaps a more intimate exploration of the village pub at lunchtime! There will be more details in the May magazine and further information can be obtained as above.



Annual Parish Meetings

St Mary's Church and Purton Methodist Church will hold their Annual Parish Meetings at St Mary's Upper School Hall on Wednesday 28 April, starting at 7pm. This will be followed by the AGM of Purton Ecumenical Group (PEG) at 8.30pm.

Spirit Level: Easter – Buns, Bunnies or Bunk?

The M4 was at a snarled up standstill. It had taken over an agonising hour to travel just a hundred yards. Even snails were overtaking me. I did the calculation. At this rate it would take me just over a year to reach my cousin's house in Wales where I was due to spend Easter. Arriving before Christmas would be good.

I daydreamed about the ocean of cars parting in front of me like Moses parting the Red Sea. But that would take more faith. An overhead gantry tantalisingly flashed 60 mph. If only! For the fifteenth time I switched off the engine. No point in burning more fuel and destroying Greenland.

It was time for a fortifying snack. I reached down into a brown paper bag and relished the thought of the joy it contained. Pulling out a milk chocolate bunny I enthusiastically pulled back the garish red and yellow foil. It was then that disaster struck. I'd left the bag under the heater outlet. Bugs Bunny had turned into a mushy mess. But all was not lost. This was Easter. I had taken other precautions. I had also packed a hot cross bun. Thanks to the heater it tasted good.

It occurred to me as I nibbled my bun that life often seems like we're stranded in traffic. We'd dearly like to move forward feeling that we're living with authentic purpose. But the reality is different. We're stuck in on some huge motorway without much motoring. We're glad if we can steer through it without too many jams or accidents. But the journey begs the question what's the point?

Then I realised that, in a sense, the answer to this huge question was in my hand. A message not in a bottle but written on a bun - a hot cross bun. Easter is not basically about slushy choco bunnies or fancy eggs; it is about a cross. The cross of Jesus. The day he died was for millions the junction point of history.

So what was the origin of the hot cross bun? I decided that during my enforced wait I'd Google. It seems the humble hot cross bun has quite a history – hitherto being the stuff of volatile political controversy. In the early days of the reign of Elizabeth 1st their production was banned. They were considered to be a potent symbol of old ways of thinking – linked with France and Spain – dangerous to the new innovative Church of England. Eventually Elizabeth

succumbed and granted them legal status – just at Christmas and Easter.

As my mind wandered I couldn't help a wry smile at the absurd situation of the traffic police haring up the hard shoulder in blue light convoy, surrounding the car with uniformed support and issuing a stern ultimatum through the megaphone. 'Get out of the car and move away slowly from the hot cross bun. You're caught transporting a prohibited substance. There's no escape.'

Suddenly my mind jolted out of this ridiculous fantasy. Wasn't it only 2003 that the Daily Telegraph reported that several local authorities had banned schools from serving hot cross buns on the grounds of political correctness, believing this symbol could be offensive to non-Christians. 'You're being officially cautioned for introducing a minor to dangerous baked goods'

Then news dawned from a fellow driver. The motorway's being closed. We're being siphoned off at Chippenham. Astra and Ferrari drivers all. The time had come. We have to leave – with that half eaten bun – a reminder that Christians, of all types, believe that at Easter Jesus did some life and death business. None claim to fully understand how but somehow he crossed and broke that barrier that could prevent us from enjoying a relationship with God - both for here and for after we have left this life. By his resurrection he demonstrated that he had overcome the most shattering experience humans ever have to face – death itself.

Millions have joined the church worldwide – sometimes through a moment of crisis and conversion – sometimes through a gradual growing closer and sometimes by being nurtured from as far back as they can remember. In whatever way they're seeking to enjoy and live the amazing message of Easter.

My wheels are now turning again. The bun is a delicious memory. I'm trying to reconstitute that bunny back to being edible again by blow-drying it with my air conditioner. As a Christian I'm not exempted from life's traffic jams. But it has changed my living and my dying. And if they choose to follow too - it can do so for every driver in the miles of traffic still around me.

Abridged from Buns, Bunnies or Bunk? by Jeff Lucas

Purton Guide Dogs

On Saturday 27 February, Doreen Freegard and I spent the day in ASDA, West Swindon, operating the Information and Trading Goods stall, in support of the Swindon Branch Collection Day. A guide dog owner with their dog and a sighted member, manned each of the entrances for 2 hour sessions between 10.00am and 4.00pm, on occasions there would be two dogs in attendance, the dogs make all the difference on these days. The total collected in the buckets was an amazing £814.46 plus we took £82.14 on the stall.

I have been busy again collecting and crushing aluminium cans, I hope to have another load to take to the Recycling Centre soon, perhaps they will have some good news about being able to take the foil again.

Once again thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



Ringers Half Term Outing to South Glos.

On Monday 15 February, Lyn, Sue, Peter, Rebecca and Grace , a group of bell ringing learners from Purton, met 2 other learners from Swindon, Anthony and Charlotte, and went on an outing. We were accompanied by lots of adults, including Graham, Mary, Anna, Rosie, Richard, David, Michael and Mo and Simon who helped us to ring and who rang with us. We went and rang at 3 different churches in South Gloucestershire:- Ampney Crucis, Barnsley and Bibury. Whilst we were there we rang rounds and called changes on our own. Everybody learnt lots and we all had great fun it was a great experience and we would all love to do it again. We would like to thank all the adults who took the time to teach us all we have learnt and who came with us on the day. Thank you!

GRACE BARTLET



Celebrating the 90th New Forest & Hampshire County Show

Note for your diary! The New Forest & Hampshire County Show is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year so we are planning a whole series of events to celebrate this momentous year in our history.

The Show this year will be on 27 to 29 July at New Park, Brockenhurst. Details about the Show, its main events, new additions and a whole range of information can be found at www.newforestshow.co.uk

All tickets for the Show are 20% off until 11 July when you buy from the credit card hotline (01590 622409 - open now) or from the web site (open shortly)!

JACKIE NEYLON, Press Officer

Purton Open Gardens 2010

STOP PRESS . . . At a meeting on 16 March the date for this year's Open Gardens was set for the weekend of 10-11 July. The new Committee is Chaired by Nick Yerbury, with Secretary Brigitte Wilkinson. We have a good starting selection of gardens on the list, but invite anyone who would like to join in to contact Brigitte on brigitte.wilkinson@virgin.net. More details in the May issue of Purton Magazine.

Think Safety before Doing it Yourself

As spring is upon us and summer is approaching Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has issued timely advice to all would be Do It Yourself enthusiasts.



“Statistics and experience show that at this time of year there is an increase in calls, which are found to have been caused by activities associated with DIY. These range from fires ignited by blow torches involved in paint stripping, to electrical appliances and other equipment which may have been stored in a damp garage or shed over the winter period.

“Always check that the task you are undertaking is within your capabilities. Take expert advice. Many of the modern DIY Superstores from which materials and equipment are bought will offer such advice. Safety instructions should be read in full and complied with.”

Always: -

- Check you have the correct tool for the job.
- Ensure children and pets are safe, with obstructions removed from your workplace.
- If you have to check or repair an electrical tool turn it off at the main. Don't be tempted to cut corners because you are some distance from the power switch.
- Uncoil electrical extension cables fully, as these can overheat and cause a fire.
- Never use multi-way adapters when working with high amperage tools.
- Gas appliances should only be repaired by an approved contractor.
- Flammable liquids should be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, secured in containers and used in small quantities, well away from the house and other risks – naked flames or cigarettes.
- Ventilate when using adhesives and flammable liquids by opening windows and door and always ensure that no naked flames or power tools are close by.
- If you spill a substance on your clothing or overalls remove them and clean them thoroughly.

Home makeovers are popular, but by following these simple rules, accidents, fires and tragedies can be kept to a minimum. Check your smoke alarms weekly.

For further information and advice please contact Melanie Jezzard – Community Safety, email: Melanie.jezzard@wiltshire.gov.uk

MELANIE JEZZARD, www.wiltshire.gov.uk



Edgar (Ted) Sheppard

St Mary's Church was floodlit on 18 March
In memory of Edgar (Ted) Sheppard
on the occasion of his birthday.

Twelve years gone now and
lovingly remembered
by his daughter Tricia.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



As if to prove the truth of the claim that gardeners are the world's most incorrigible optimists, about sixty of us gathered on a very cold and rainy evening to hear Duncan Coombs, from Pershore College, address us on the subject of bulbs for a colourful spring display.

Duncan spoke with enthusiasm and incredibly detailed knowledge, showing us how we could have wonderfully colourful displays from August through to the following July relying only on bulbs. His slides showed us beautiful drifts of early *colchicums* in August, as well as numerous varieties of late flowering lilies and the unusual *galtonia candicans* with tall spikes of gently fragrant white flowers. For September there were groups of pink or white nerines standing proud and the delicate lilac flowered *tulbaghia violacea*. Later autumn displays could be provided by the early snowdrop – *galanthus reginae-olgae* – a plant quite unknown to most of us, as well as the more familiar *leucojum autumnale*, the autumn snowflake, so called as taller than the snowdrop and with larger flowers. The autumn crocus and the autumn flowering *cyclamen hederifolium* would complete a colourful show along with the less hardy *zephyranthes grandiflora* with its soft pink open trumpet flowers.

Winter saw the snowdrop in all its glory, pursued by dedicated fans willing to pay up to £150 for a bulb whose flowers showed two rather than one spot of green on each of its petals. For us lesser mortals there were many varieties, single, double, taller, shorter, without fragrance or with different types of fragrance, early or late: the choice was almost bewildering. Duncan focussed on *galanthus nivalis* and *galanthus Magnet*. At the same time as the snowdrops *cyclamen coum* bloomed, again in a variety of pleasing colours, with the slightly later accompaniment of narcissus paperwhite with its captivating perfume. Later came *leucojum vernum*, the spring snowflake, which does very well in heavy damp ground, and two varieties of *iris reticulata* Harold and Kathleen Hodgkinson. Sometimes late January or February saw the very early daffodils bloom, but this exceptionally cold year means we must wait until March to enjoy the *narcissis cyclamineus* family with their swept-back petals: Peeping Tom, Jet Fire and Jennie were particularly recommended.

Mid-March heralds the beginning of the tulip season, beginning with the *kaufmanniana* group, with their water-lily shapes and low habit of growth. *Tulipa stresa* Scarlet Baby was recommended here, as well as Guiseppi Verdi. Later comes the *Gregii* group, such as Red Riding Hood. In April taller tulips bloom: the well-known and popular Darwin group, such as Bing Crosby and the exotic Parrot group, for example Flaming Parrot. Later still were the lily flowered group – Queen of Sheba – and the fringed petal group – Madison.

During an interesting question and answer session we learnt that daffodils increase best if planted at twice the usually recommended depth and that tulips, with the sole exception of the species types, rarely do well in succeeding seasons.

Val Faulkner gave the vote of thanks and we all resolved to plant more bulbs, once the weather improved enough to make gardening a pleasure again.

The competition for a vase of snowdrops was won by Edna Bunce.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm at the Silver Threads Hall on 27 April. Richard Cripps, one of our popular speakers, will be presenting 'Elements of garden design'.

MOIRA WHITE, Secretary

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



More centenary Adventure 100 challenges this month. Guides held a night of wacky races including 100 bunny hops and 100 jumps on space hopper which prompted much giggling. 2nd Purton Brownies produced 'Brownie of the Future' pictures for one of their challenges and 1st Purton Brownies are working on individually collecting signatures from 100 people who either are or have been Rainbows, Brownies or Guides.

Festivals featured in unit meetings too. Rainbows have been working for their Rainbow Roundabout Festivals badge and marked Burns Night and Goundhog Day with appropriate crafts. Guides celebrated Valentine's by making salt dough hearts including lots of red glitter and food colouring, although their hands looked more horrific than romantic! 2nd Purton Brownies made Mothers' Day cards whilst Guide mums were invited along to enjoy an evening of relaxation – hand massages, foot spas and making lip gloss.

Rainbows said goodbye to Natasha at her Pot of Gold meeting, whilst both Brownie units held promise ceremonies for new members: Amelia, Alicia, Mollie-Ann and Ella in 1st Purton and Jenny, Hannah, Pippa, Isobel, Janie, Chloe and Emily in 2nd Purton.

World Thinking Day (22 February) is a special date in the guiding calendar when we think of the international scale of the organisation. 2nd Purton Brownies based their celebration around the four World Centres, in London, Switzerland, India and Mexico. The groups moved from one centre to another doing a craft or game from each. 1st Purton Brownies held a Belgian themed evening, welcoming Angela Webster along to talk about life in Belgium and partaking of some traditional Belgian food (mussels, fries with mayonnaise and waffles). Rainbows and Brownies also all collected shiny pennies to support Guiding overseas.

1st Purton Brownies held an extremely successful fundraising evening for the Dogs Trust. One of the Brownies, Georgia C, is working on her 'Friend to Animals' badge and wanted to run a cake stall in aid of the Dogs Trust. This idea was expanded to a whole evening's programme to which friends, families and members from the other Purton units were invited. A raffle, cake stall, quizzes, crafts and a highly entertaining soft toy agility time trial made for a busy and enjoyable evening. Special mention should go to Pauline Hall and her toy dog for their athletic performance in the time trial which gave them first place in the 'over-20s' age category! The evening netted £125.85 – a fantastic result – and thanks must go to all those who showed such support for the event.

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



Easter Day: 4th April

St Mary's Church will be floodlit on Easter Day;
the most important day of celebration
in the Christian calendar.

Purton Cricket Club



Some of you might have seen the recent article about our Cricket Club in the Swindon Advertiser and they have been kind enough to allow this Magazine to reproduce their aerial photograph on the front cover. Following the article I received the following poem from Malcolm who was a valued member of the Club in the period between 1965 and 1985.

A CRY FOR CRICKETERS by Malcolm Morrison

Attention you youngsters! Are you just 'bored'?
Have you ever heard of a man, Thomas Lord?
He's the guy of Lord's cricket ground fame.
So, how about *you* having a go at the game?
There's a lovely ground on the top of a hill,
Where cricketers play with that little red 'pill'.
Purton Cricket Club is rightly proud of its ground;
It's been voted the best for just miles around.
You don't have to be shy, if you've not played before
For they'll teach you the game – they've got coaches galore.
So, why don't you try a 'taste' of the game
That teaches you skills – and could bring you fame?
But to enjoy this great game, you don't have to be best;
You don't have to be able to play in a Test.
There's great fun to be had when you play village cricket –
As you bat, or you bowl, out there on the wicket.
And what about Dads? Why don't you, too, turn out
And try giving that ball 'one hell of a clout'?
You never know, you might score 'a ton'!
But much more than that – the whole family has fun.

A Plea : Now that the cricket season is about to start may I please ask all dog owners to help us by removing all mess left by their pets and ensuring that all unretrieved sticks are collected up. This will protect the health of members and ensure that none of the machinery is damaged. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

From the Archives

From the founding of Purton CC in 1820 to the early 1830s the members played 'pick up' matches between teams selected from the membership. This was the only cricket available as there were few teams to play against.

When matches against the Lansdown Club started in the early 1830s the retired England cricketer, E.H. Budd, moved to Elcombe, Wroughton and joined Purton. In a match played against Lansdown in 1834 which Purton won by 110 runs Edward Hayward Budd made an immediate impact scoring 46 in his second innings and taking seven wickets in the match. All matches were played over two innings

and by 1835 Purton matches against other clubs were also played over two days. Another Purton player successful in this match was James Pratt, a Wootton Bassett solicitor who scored 34 runs and took several wickets. For many years to come these two players were regarded as Purton's best players.

Also playing for Purton were five reverend gentlemen. Vicars and rectors were numerous in membership lists and in 1864 the list contained over 60 men of the church. The Rev. Prower, vicar of Purton, although not renowned for his cricket achievements, was famous over a wide area for the fine hospitality he offered to visiting players many of whom stayed in his house on the night of the first day's play.

The return match played at Lansdown ended in defeat for Purton by 20 runs when once again Budd and Pratt were the most successful performers.

It was not until much later that newspapers reported more than the team scores but in 1995 on the club's 175th anniversary the Lansdown club presented Purton with the detailed score sheets from 1834 - 1850 of the matches played between the two clubs.

JOE GARDNER



As the winter season draws to a close we can feel quite pleased with the way things have been going for us. Had it not been for delayed matches (remember the bad weather?) we would have had the results by now but it looks as though our A team could win Division 1 and the B team should be in the top three in their division with a chance of second place. And though the C team have had a rough time this season they will stay in their division to fight another day! Socially we've had a good time. Friday nights indoors at Next Generation have been very positive and the ladies take to the Delta on Tuesday evenings to keep themselves match fit. And the Ladies will be meeting for their own Ladies' Social day when all standards of play will take to the courts with home-made lunch thrown in!

The Valentine American tournament was great fun throwing up some very even results. The next tournament in the calendar is the Open Tournament in memory of Elaine Miller (with proceeds to the Prospect Hospice) which usually produces some really fine play from all taking part. Before then the Club will be having their selection sessions in preparation for the Summer league.

Play for Juniors starts this month with the Saturday morning session run by Nicola Gardner starting on Saturday 24 April. Existing members should attend the same group as last year but beginners and new members should attend the 10.00am session where they can be assessed. These sessions are really fun and give young players a real taste of the excitement of tennis. We hope to have a really good turnout this year. After all that's where our future match players come from!

A reminder that you can get further information about the club and follow our progress on our website: www.purtontennis.net

CAROLINE McLEAN

Purton F.C.



Sadly the Hellenic leagues 17-match unbeaten league run has come to an end after a 2-0 defeat at Cheltenham Saracens and this after winning their previous game away at Cirencester United when they hammered the home side 11-0. Since those games the team also suffered another defeat this time losing 3-2 at home to Easington Sports. Warren Fuller leads the scoring list followed by Stephen Avenall and Paul Day.

The Reserves side in the Wilts Premier league have beaten Shrewton United Reserves 6-1, Wroughton 5-0, drawn with Marlborough Town 0-0 and narrowly lost 2-1 against league leaders New College, Swindon. Ian Restell who is coach to the side and assists manager Stef Kuczynski has been asked to takeover as manager at Cirencester United but has turned them down and remains with us.

At Youth levels the Under 17/18s are struggling at the bottom end of their league but the Under 15s top their table currently. The Under 14s currently lie 4th in theirs. Sadly the Under 13s lie rock bottom of theirs while the Under 12s are 7th. The Under 10s "A" are 6th, the Under 10s "B" are also 6th while the Under 9s "A" 5th and the Under 9s "B" occupy 3rd place in theirs.

The Easter raffle takes place at the Red House on Easter Saturday Night (tickets are available from any club member and the Club is hoping to run another six a side this coming close season - details on this should be available for the May issue of the magazine.

Finally thanks to all those who attend matches and support our teams at all levels.

ALAN EASTWOOD, President/Chairman

Chiseldon Travel Club – Dixon Group Tours

We have just returned from our 11th very successful tour of both islands of New Zealand. New for this year was a two-night stay at Mount Cook where the Sir Edmund Hilary Adventure Centre has now opened and we were able to take an amazing boat trip on the Tasman Glacier lake and actually touch an iceberg! Some of the group have returned several times, they love New Zealand so much, and we are already getting enquiries for 2011. Our next departure is 21 January 2011 and if you would like a brochure or to talk to us without obligation, please contact us now.

Our next trip is to Austria and The Black Forest departing for 15 days on 29 May until 13 June 2010. The trip will be very leisurely taking three days to travel down via Nuremberg, spending 7 days in Kitzbühel at a 4* hotel with day trips to Salzburg, Zell am Ziller and neighbouring places of interest. We are coming home via The Black Forest with a 3 night stay with visits to Freiburg and the Rhine Falls and 2 nights in Ghent with city tour. This is a very comprehensive package with full breakfasts and evening meals every day of the tour, all excursions included and nice hotels with en-suite facilities throughout. Cost £1575 based on a twin share. (Single supplement £200). There are still some places left on this tour.

Please contact us for full itinerary without delay as we are now very close to departure day.

SHARON & IAN DIXON (01793 741210)

Email sharian@clara.co.uk

Exhibit of the Month: Ham Smoking Hooks

In the days when many people in Purton kept a pig, it was essential to be able to preserve the meat once the animal had been slaughtered. Smoking was one of the most successful methods and could be done in the home's chimney.

The meat would be divided into hams, gammon joints and bacon cuts and then submerged in a brine solution containing water, salt, and sugar. Several joints would be attached to hooks similar to the ones in the pictures and supported from rings or bars inside the chimney. A fire would then be lit in the hearth below.

Successful smoking depends on choosing the right type of wood. It has to be one that burns slowly and steadily, the aim being to gently infuse the meat in the chimney smoke ... not set fire to it! Woods that don't contain resins are the most common that would have been used. Beech, oak and chestnut are the most easily obtained round the Purton area. Hence we refer to different smoked hams as "oak smoked" for example. If you were adventurous you could add aromatic herbs such as juniper, laurel, sage, and rosemary to the wood.

Woods such as pine are bad for smoking as they make the ham taste bitter.

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

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer



Top: a hook for suspending additional sets of hooks.

Left: a hook assembly capable of holding six meat joints.

The Museum is located above the library and
open during library hours:
Tues & Fri: 2-5pm & 6-8pm
Wed: 10am-1pm & 2-5pm

The White Horse Challenge ...

... will take place on 25 April. They expect to have 600 cyclists taking part and cycling through some of the most scenic towns and villages in Wiltshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

Now in its fourth year, they have so far raised more than £30,000 for *WaterAid*.

On the actual day, any support to the riders (such as a clap or cheer) as they cycle past would be greatly appreciated.

The riders will set off from Shrivenham between 8 and 9.30am, passing through Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett en route to Marlborough and Lambourn before returning to Shrivenham (150km in total).

Further information can be found at www.whitehorsechallenge.com

Continuing Basketball Success

In the last issue we proudly reported that the U13, U14, U15 and U16 boys' basketball teams are the 2010 Swindon Champions and that the girls U15 team continues to go from strength to strength and is already into the regional competition being Swindon and Wiltshire champions. The run of success continued in the County competition and the Year 9 boys (U14) are County Champions and the Year 9 girls (U14) unfortunately lost in the semi final which was in some part due to a severe ankle injury picked up by Charlotte Densham. The Year 10 boys (U15) and Year 10 girls (U15) are also County Champions and the Year 11 boys beat Bishops Wordsworth in their final 75:36. The Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Basketball teams should be very proud of their achievements and we await the outcome of the Regional Championships.



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

Teachers Television film: Bradon Forest Cybermentors



During the first week of March the Cybermentors have also shot a series of scenes for a Cyberbullying Programme being produced by Teachers TV. The scenes reflected some of the ways pupils can be bullied by phone and over the internet and can be used by teachers across the country to discuss the problem of cyberbullying with their classes. Lessons in ICT, PSHE and Drama were also filmed to give teachers ideas of how they can teach this subject in an interesting and

engaging way. The programme is due to be broadcast in May.

International News: India Link

Recently a group of students from St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon, visited Bradon Forest to work on a joint project with our Year 10 students involved in our India Link. This was a great opportunity for like-minded students within the county to work together. The students are currently working together on a project on British Culture, which will be sent to our link school in Allahabad, India. St Laurence

students were treated to a selection of Indian foods during their visit, kindly prepared by members of the India Link. Next term, Bradon Forest students will travel to St Laurence, when they will have the opportunity to present their joint projects.

On 2 March 2010, three headteachers from India visited Bradon Forest School as part of their four day visit to England. Further details and photograph in the next issue.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

1st Purton and Lydiard Cub Pack Spring News!

The darker nights of winter have seen us concentrating on indoor badge work – namely our scientist and naturalist badges. In January we set about keeping bird diaries, noting all the birds that visited our gardens for a week, as well as making tasty bird feeders for the birds in the snowy weather.

At the end of January, we decided to warm ourselves up by visiting the tropical Butterfly Garden at Studely Grange Garden Centre where we were lucky enough to see butterflies emerging from their chrysalises. The highlight had to be being able to handle the very delicate but friendly sand snake there. Ethan Stock our newest Cub was also invested in the gardens of the centre!

As well as making wormeries at The Firs, (well that's just what Cub scouts like to do!), we have also completed making 3 Bat Boxes with the help of the Stock family. These boxes will soon be positioned in the Wild Garden of the Prospect Hospice, continuing our Community Challenge. We hope to see the bluebells that we planted emerging ready for spring, and are really pleased that we have been able to make a difference for the patients at the hospice.

During all of this, 4 of the Pack have been practicing very hard for the District Chess competition. After careful selection, the team captained by Michael Harris took on the staff of the *Maharajah* in a friendly pre-tournament competition. We would like to thank Khalique for looking after us so well for this event.

On Saturday 6 March, Michael, James Medcraft, Ben Hartley, and Ross Wardle all set off to Lawn Primary school, with their team manager Tony Fisher. They were up against some fierce competition of 10 other teams from around Swindon, some of whom were County players! They needed to remember all the moves they had learnt. It was a nail-biting time for their team manager, but at the last game, they learnt that they had won first place. What a great reward for all their hard work, even though we remembered it's the taking part and team work that counts!

Please see our website for some lovely photographs of our Cub Pack in action!

www.plscouts.org.uk

Sadly I do have to report that the Cub Pack is full, and with the new Beaver colony now opened, there are no spaces from children outside of this scouting umbrella. If you would like to help with Cubs, or are interested in starting a new Pack even, please do contact us (Group Scout Leader via the website), or myself on 771216.

AKELA – JAN FISHER
