

Purton *Magazine*



100
Girlguiding UK

girls in the lead

October 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

Many readers will be pleased to learn that age appears to be no barrier to winning national competitions. Ruth Brookes is a 69-year-old gardening grandmother from Devon and has just become the nation's best amateur researcher. Perhaps of greater interest to even more readers is that she researched the homing instincts of snails by painting their shells with different coloured nail varnish for identification purposes.

Local gardeners will confirm that Purton seems to have a significant attraction for snails and most would probably prefer to avoid killing them or using pesticides which sometimes can harm the soil and passing pets. Given that situation, there may even be one or two people who have simply tossed the offending snails over the fence, hoping for the best.

Well, Mrs Brookes has recently established that snails have a "very strong" homing instinct over distances of up to 30 metres – meaning that gardeners will need very strong arms to throw snails further than that. Her own solution is to carry the snails she finds to a patch of waste land more than 100 metres from her garden. However, it does beg the question about how long she has been researching the subject because snails are notoriously slow in their travels and an army of angry snails could ever so slowly still be making their way back to her garden to seek revenge!

The A to Z series has already encouraged two follow-ups to the snippet about the Angel Hotel as well as some interesting contributions for the letter B on page 60. We look forward to receiving a collection of "Cs" for next month's magazine together with any further follow-ups.

In this issue we are also very pleased to publish a fascinating article from Alice McCarthy about teaching in Malawi for a month, together with a couple of photographs she kindly provided. In her article on page 18 we learn that the sight of an 'mzungu' causes much excitement, especially among local children. She also refers to the recently retired Archbishop of South Africa, Desmond Tutu, who encourages everyone to do their little bit of good wherever they are, as it's all those little bits of good put together that make the big differences.

As usual, most of the other contributions this month include lots of references to many, many little bits of local good for which Purton is becoming well known. Long may that reputation continue and grow.

39

voters making Braydon
the smallest numerical
Parish in Wiltshire
– see page 60

1400

hats is the new,
increased target for an
Age Concern big knit
– see page 14

15,000

Purton-made bricks used
to be sent every day by
lorry to London
– see page 60

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Purton
Magazine

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Parish Council Vacancies – The Government is urging people to get involved with community work. One way of doing this is to become a Parish Councillor. It is an interesting and rewarding way to give something back to your community. In terms of commitment, the Council has meetings most Monday evenings, however your attendance at these would depend on which Committees you might like to serve on. We have planning, finance, burial, rights of way and play areas committees. Also trustees meetings for the three charities of which the Parish Council is the full trustee, namely the Village Hall/Institute, Village Centre/War Memorial and Play Close held on a monthly basis. If you would be interested in giving some time to help run local affairs then please contact the Parish Council Office for more information.

Proposed Temporary Road Closures:

- **Tadpole Lane (Part)** – from its junction with Packhorse Lane in an easterly direction towards Oakhurst Way for approximately 500 metres covering the railway bridge to enable WC to investigate the bridge construction. The work will commence on 4 October 2010 and it is anticipated that it will be closed for 5 days.

- **Bagbury Lane** – from its junction with Lydiard Green, Lydiard Millicent in a northerly direction to its junction with Restrop Road, for its entire length to enable Thames Water to reinstate areas of the carriageway. The work will commence on 5 October 2010 and it is anticipated it will be closed for 1 day.

- **Collins Lane (Part)** from a point approximately 640 metres east of its junction with Station Road for a further 50 metres covering the level crossing to enable Network Rail contractors to carry out essential maintenance to the level crossing. Work will commence on 1 October 2010 from 22.00hrs and open again at 08.00hrs on Sunday 3 October 2010 for one weekend.

Rights of Way – If you are interested in walking there are many rights of way in Purton. We have a small working group who do a lot of work on the footpaths and their efforts help to keep our footpaths open and usable. We also have informal rights of way meetings twice a year where you can come along and catch up on news about our rights of way and the work that has been done. The more help we get the better, and anybody can adopt a footpath or any number of footpaths and keep us informed of their condition. We also encourage walkers to take secateurs with them to cut back any overgrowth that is obstructing their way. If you are interested in getting more involved then please contact the Parish Council Office. We also have two walks booklets for sale at £1.50 each.

Mud Lane (Footpath 104) – The public inquiry which was due to take place on 8 & 9 September in the Village Hall was cancelled due to a legal challenge by the Ramblers Association. This does not mean that the matter is now closed. The next step will be for Wiltshire Council to determine the true status of Mud Lane. Currently it is defined as a footpath but there is strong evidence to suggest it should be a bridleway. Once this has been determined (which in itself could result in an

Inquiry), the process will begin again to seek the diversion of Mud Lane onto the permissive route which likewise could result in an inquiry.

Meeting Room – the Parish Council now has a small meeting room, which will accommodate up to 8 people, available to hire for £7.00 per hour, if anybody is interested in hiring it then they should contact the Parish Council Office.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:

N10/02012/FUL *34 Purton Stoke, replacement dwelling and erection of garage*
N10/02101/TCA *Purton War Memorial and Village Centre, crown thin one horse chestnut tree by 25%*

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 is on the wall adjacent to the side door (entrance door to the Parish Council offices) to the rear of the Library/Institute.

Berrimans Wood Annual Parish Walk and Picnic

On Sunday 22 August about 29 Parishioners met at the Village Hall to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Berrimans Wood. Everybody enjoyed a walk along footpaths to Berrimans Wood, followed by a stop at Moulden Lake for a picnic and then continued through Berrimans Wood, Trotmans Wood and back along footpaths to the bottom of Station Road. The weather was wonderful and a good time was had by all.

A big thanks to Ron who led the walk and his stile gang who made sure we had an enjoyable and safe walk. We have received £100 from the Woodland Trust to mark this celebration, which we will use to plant some English bluebells, daffodils, primroses and cowslips this autumn. We will also be making some owl, bird and bat boxes to erect in the trees. If anybody has got any wood they would like to donate to make the boxes please contact the Parish Council Office.



News from the Trustees

Village Hall

We are getting the estimates in for things we would like to do in the Village Hall kitchen. It is a bit of a slow process but, once we have all the estimates in, it will be time to sit down and work out what we can afford. More on that next month I hope.

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

I suppose I was silly to mention that the floor at the Millennium Hall would be all done and ready for people to move back in after the summer break. Well the story here goes into reverse – simply that it was not ready. We cannot believe it, and the builder cannot believe it, as everything was done according to instructions but the floor will simply not dry out enough to lay the floor covering. We all think now that the damp is coming up through the sub floor but don't worry, we shall get there in the end. Could I, on behalf of the Trustees, thank all the users for their help and co-operation during this difficult time. It is greatly appreciated.

Another downward note – we are very disappointed with all the litter that is thrown about around the skate board park. There are two litter bins provided but the problem is not so much the people using the skate board park but the hangers on.

On a brighter note, we were invited to a bowls evening with a fish and chip supper. Those of us who went had a lovely evening. The weather was good and what more could one wish for – perfect surroundings and good company – so could I thank the Bowls Club for their hospitality, especially Max for his coaching expertise and for giving up his evening to look after us.

Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

S-Hit 5 Appeal

This is a bit of a long shot I know but I thought I would give it a go. S-Hit 5, Purton's very own (self-styled) boy band, are looking for somewhere to rehearse. We are wondering if anyone in or around the village has anywhere they would be prepared to let us use.

This is our wish list: somewhere we can practise on average once a week, somewhere big enough to take a six-piece band plus equipment, secure enough and dry enough so that we can leave our equipment on site, electricity on site, somewhere we can access at any time to pick up and drop our gear after a gig (this may be late). Also somewhere that noise isn't going to be a big problem. We're not a particularly loud band (compared to some) but a six-piece with electric guitars, PA and drums does generate a fair bit of noise. Another important consideration, of course, is somewhere that isn't going to cost us an arm and a leg to rent.

I know it's a lot to ask for but it's worth asking. Of course we realise we may have to compromise. If anybody out there has anything that might be suitable, or if you know anyone, please contact Tony or Suzy on 772581.

TONY RICHARDSON

Purton Age Concern



We have certainly had a lot of sad news one way and another in the village this month, none more so than the loss of Audrey Broad, probably not quite as well known as husband Brian who had the jeweller's shop in the Lower Square and was responsible for the village clock at the Institute for more years than I care to remember, but in saying that, Audrey was always very supportive of Brian in every way.

Funnily enough, I would have always thought that Audrey was a true Purtonian in the manner which I have often mentioned but unfortunately, or fortunately, whichever way you look at it, Ivy Barnes, Audrey's mother went back to her mother Mrs Truman, at Blunsdon, to have Audrey. I think she was there about a week, then her father, Bernard Barnes, went and brought them both back to Purton to live with his parents in the thatched cottage in Witts Lane, just past where Pear Tree Close is today and, in those days, you would say just by Albert Herbert's blacksmith shop. Mr and Mrs Seymour, Audrey's aunt and uncle, lived in the cottage behind the Maltsters and Mrs Seymour would wave to her mother in Witts Lane with a tea towel from her cottage. Her mother, of course, was Audrey's gran. Later her mum had two more girls born in Purton, Rosemary and Joan. When I spoke of sad news earlier, Joan died just a week before Audrey.

My first real knowledge of Audrey came when we were at catechism at St Mary's Church and then, like me, she joined the choir. That was when my brother Godfrey was choir master, in fact there is a photo in the choir vestry with Audrey on it. Like most people at that time Bernard worked in the railways and daughter Audrey followed suit, first working as an office messenger girl and then progressing to working in the offices, going to work on the 8.30am train from Purton not the workmen's train at 7.12am.

Now here's one to test your memories – who remembers the *Gay Nineties* dances they used to have at the Angel Hotel once a fortnight. Jesse Reason and Ruby Ricketts were the MCs and I believe a coach used to come from Ashton Keynes way to it. I think the trio that played was the *Gainsborough Trio* and Tom Ford was the landlord of the Angel then – he came from the old Masons' Arms in Old Town that was pulled down. Going back to the dances, on alternate weeks they had dances at Hook Village Hall but I believe they were modern dances where the ones at the Angel were old time and, of course, people from Purton went over to Hook. Well that's where Brian and Audrey met, at the *Gay Nineties* dances – whether it was during the Gay Gordons or the last waltz I don't know, but what ever it was it stood them in good stead as they had been married for fifty years last March. They were married in Purton Church and were among the first to move into Vasterne Close in 1960 and have lived there happily ever since. Then, of course, to their joy Elizabeth came along to complete their family.

Brian, as you know, has a strong alliance to Chedworth Band, first playing and then conducting and then back to playing after handing the baton over to his son-in-law David, whose name also happens to be Broad. They are a very talented family these Broads because, apart from Brian, daughter Elizabeth plays

in the band and here's something to perhaps surprise you, that Audrey played the tenor horn in the band. She gave up when Elizabeth gave birth to grandson George – Audrey did the baby-sitting so that Elizabeth could carry on playing. However that didn't stop Audrey's interest in the band as she was a fully paid up member and would be out with the old collecting box when they were playing at occasions like carol singing etc. It shows what a kind person she was to give up her pleasure of playing to look after George although, mind you, the way Audrey spoke George gave her even more pleasure than the band and she was so proud of him.

As I have said, Audrey was very supportive of Brian, working in his shop in the Lower Square. At that time Brian was Chairman of the Parish Council and Audrey would get a lot of flack from people coming in complaining about different things, but still I am sure she would give as good as she got. There was one person in Purton early on who shared Brian's interest in clocks and that was the late Canon Willis who was vicar of Purton and when he moved to Clifton in Bristol Brian and Audrey would go down and have tea with him – some honour as I cannot remember too many people being invited down there.

One of Audrey's great loves was her labrador dogs and she would walk miles with these dogs, reporting back to Brian, who was also Chairman of the Footpaths committee. As I have said, she walked miles with these dogs both day and night and the family wanted her to have a mobile phone and her reply was 'I'm not having one of those things'. Dare I say it, she was a Barnes and not easily persuaded, although I suppose we are all a bit like that. Her great grandfather was Francis Barnes who built the house at Widham where Harold and Jenny last lived. Her grandfather William was the eldest of nine children, but he was the odd man out really because he was a Church Warden at St Mary's and all the other Barnes were great Methodists. It is surprising how things have got a habit of turning full circle because I know that Audrey was very fond of the Playclose Methodist Church and was a member of the Methodist Women's Fellowship. In fact, the last time I saw Audrey was when the Methodist ladies came to 16 Church Path for tea in July. I know how much the family have appreciated the comfort Steve Cullis, the Methodist minister, has brought them through his visits. On behalf of us all could I offer Brian, Elizabeth, David and George our deepest sympathy. You are in our thoughts and could we thank you most sincerely for money in lieu of flowers being shared between the Helping Hand and Purton Age Concern. Thank you.

We in Age Concern are very much concerned with scams that are going on at the moment i.e. a man dressed in the right gear who knocks on your door saying he is from DynaRod and that your drains are blocked, asking for money to unblock them or, more often than not, saying he has unblocked your drain and asking for money for doing it. Please do not fall for this scam as DynaRod only come if you ask them to, so don't part with any money and report the visit to the Police.

The next one is that you get a phone call so say from the Inland Revenue saying you have a tax rebate and would you let them have your bank details so that they

can pay the money straight into your account. Well the Inland Revenue don't work like that – the answer is never give your bank details to cold callers either at the door or over the phone.

Another concern of ours is that there is talk of doing away with the cheque book. Look what problems that would cause so we are seeing what pressure we can put on the powers that be about this issue.

We have had a leaflet with aids for people with disabilities – the charity is called Remap and is run by a group of engineers. Whilst what they provide is free, a donation would be appreciated for the charity. If you require more information contact our secretary Louise on 772558 and she will tell you all you need to know. On about aids, we know where there is a four-wheel motorised buggy for sale in excellent condition. The asking price is £400. If you are interested, I can give you the contact number – my telephone number is 770696.

We are still getting good service from the Fire Service advising you how to protect your home against fire and the Bobby Van advising you on security. We are very grateful to these two charities for all their help. The procedure to get this help is to give your name and address, with postal code and phone number to your street warden and they will do the rest.

I often say about nice surprises we get in Age Concern, well about a week ago I had a phone call from Jim Caslaw asking if he needed to do anything legal-wise as he was running in the Great North Run and the sponsor money was coming to Purton Age Concern, so many thanks for that Jim – hope all goes well.

Our last mystery tour was quite enjoyable – it was a trip round the Cotswolds taking in Cricklade, Cirencester, Stroud, Birdlip, Seven Springs and dropping down into Cheltenham, then on to Winchcombe. This is where things went a little bit astray as the driver took the wrong road out of Winchcombe and we finished up at Dumbleton half an hour late for our tea, but we had a lovely tea and a nice warm welcome. The journey back home took in Stow on the Wold, Bourton on the Water, Andoversford and Cirencester. We had problems with the coach not lowering down to allow people to get on easily. I went to see Ellisons the day after the mystery trip and they have assured me that this will not happen again. In any case, when I send the pick-ups and the route to them I shall remind them of this promise. The next trip is on Wednesday 6 October with a 10.00am start. This trip is with lunch provided, cost £10, outsiders £12.50 and is the last for the season.

Our jumble sale was not quite as profitable as we should have liked – we could have done with a few more customers – but it went well and, when you weigh it up, it is basically only four hours' work.

On the success side, the big knit is going well. We have exceeded our target of 800 and are asking Age UK if we can set our target at 1400 now, so many thanks for everyone's help in this, especially that of our secretary Louise who has co-ordinated it all.

The next fundraising event we have planned is our Antiques and Collectibles Fair. This is at the Village Hall on Sunday 17 October from 10.30am to 4.30pm. This is kindly run for us by Jenny Barnes – further details from Jenny on 770339.

TONY PRICE

Community Arts Training

Wiltshire Council's arts service runs a 4-day community arts training course for anyone who would like to develop the skills and knowledge to set up and manage an arts project that will benefit their local community – it may be of interest to any community group including those with no experience of the arts or an arts practitioner who wants to run community arts projects.

Community groups, or those organisations that work with the socially excluded, can really benefit from running arts projects, but they often don't know where to start. Our aim is to give them the skills and knowledge to take their ideas forward

Using the skills and knowledge of expert trainers, the course is designed to cover all the elements of running a project including pre-planning, fundraising, partnerships, publicity, marketing and managing community arts projects.

Participants need to be living in or working in Wiltshire. Statutory and voluntary organisations with paid staff will be charged £35 per person, whilst voluntary groups, individuals and artists will pay £25 per person. The next 4-day course will take place on 6, 8, 13 and 15 November 2010. Deadline for applications is Wednesday 6 October 2010. For more information and an application form, please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandculture/artsandgalleries/communityartstraining.htm or email arts@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone arts development officer, Meril Morgan, 01249 705531

Participatory Arts Workshop Scheme (PAWS)

Wiltshire Council's Participatory Arts Workshop Scheme (PAWS) enables organisations including youth groups, older people's clubs, disability groups, homelessness projects, environmental groups and after school clubs to apply to take part in an arts project spread over two to four sessions. These sessions only cost £30 plus additional material and equipment costs.

The workshops available include a range of art forms such as music, clay work, animation and pinhole photography. Groups must have at least 10 people who want to take part and have access to a suitable venue.

Deadline for applications to the scheme, which is running until March 2011, is **midnight on 1 October 2010**. Groups making applications need to state which workshop they would like to take part in, the nature of the group applying, who will benefit from the project, where the workshop will take place, preferred dates and whether they have participated in a PAWS project before.

To find out more about PAWS please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandculture/artsandgalleries/participatoryartsworkshopscheme.htm or email arts@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone arts development officer, Meril Morgan, 01249 705531.

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.

Living and Teaching in Malawi

'There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered'. Nelson Mandela.



I have lived in Purton for eleven years. I never expected that I would leave for a month and return to see it with completely new eyes. That is what happened.

Having returned from my trip, I unpack the hastily arranged items in my suitcase fighting the influx of memories that crowd my mind as I handle every object. A haze of discombobulated thoughts jostle around; relief, comfort, confusion and something like loss. I shake the last grains of Malawian sand from my shoes

and I decide to take a walk. I have always enjoyed a stroll along Hoggs Lane because of the screen of trees which give me the feeling of secret seclusion. As a university student in Bath, this kind of walk is a luxury; there is nowhere to escape the drone of traffic or the heave of pedestrians there. I study English Literature and Education Studies and I am particularly interested in international education and development. As such I made the decision to volunteer for a month in Malawi this summer, so I enlisted to teach in a primary school there. I did this walk before I left brimming with excitement and nerves. Looking back on it now, I realise that nothing could have prepared me for the experience.

All I knew about Malawi before the trip was that it was the fourth poorest country in the world, it had a large lake and there had been some who-ha with Madonna there. In fact, I could probably have told you far more about the flaxen celebrity queen than I could about this tiny country in Southern Africa. Touching down upon African soil, a lone traveller and for the first time in my life beyond Europe, I was plunged into a land without time, a land where everything is dry and dusty, buildings are squat and crumbling, houses have straw roofs and fires outside, children run around barefoot and women carry massive loads on their heads. A Comic Relief picture postcard.

I have never been such a novelty in my life. In the town of Monkey Bay, in the Southern part of Malawi, foreigners are rare and an oddity. The sight of an 'mzungu', or white person, is cause for much excitement for Malawians. Locals can spot an mzungu from a mile off and children will wave ecstatically, jump up and down, and vigorously chase foreigners' vehicles. Whenever I walked anywhere, I would have at least ten children clutching hold of my arms and rubbing and sniffing my skin. Babies cried at the sight of me, too! Nevertheless, Malawi is often dubbed the Warm Heart of Africa and however alien we volunteers seemed to the locals they always had a ready smile for us.

So, too, did the school children and teachers of Monkey Bay School. The school consisted of a sizable expanse of dusty land with modest classroom buildings

arranged in lines. The buildings had no windows, just bricks with small holes in them to allow the light to penetrate the interior of the rooms. My class was Standard Six; there are eight primary standards in total. There were one hundred and sixty pupils in my standard. They were divided between two classrooms and shared one teacher. I have been on many school placements before but this was like travelling back in time. I stumbled into the classroom for the first time wrapped up in a restrictive chitenji – Malawian women are expected to wear long skirts but customarily wrap bolts of brightly coloured fabric around their waists, and I was greeted by a chorus of ‘Good morning, Madame’. As my eyes adjusted to the gloom I could make out innumerable children, all crammed precariously onto the benches metal desks. The classroom was cell-like; painted flaky white with a blackboard at the front.

The children found me very amusing at first. My every move was watched and giggled at. When I asked a question a thick blanket of silence fell upon the room. Then I brandished my arsenal: stickers. Suddenly countless hands whipped towards me, clicked their fingers and pupils desperately shouted ‘Madame!’ This was not so different from teaching English children after all; bribery always works. However, it was different in that the teacher’s only resource was their subject guide book and their stick of chalk. Lessons were given in an almost Victorian fashion and no activity could be conducted which required anything other than the learners’ ratty workbooks. As I set the children a task in their textbook I became aware of a lot of shuffling and quickly realised that children did not have a book each but where craning to share from those lucky few who did own one.

I also quickly became aware that the standard of English was very poor in my class. All lessons and exams except Chichewa, their native language, are in English. However, the children were reluctant and often unable to speak English and heavily relied on Chichewa translations. It seemed they had bypassed the basics and were trying to grapple with topics beyond the foundations they had failed to master. I decided to set up an

afternoon ‘grammar clinic’ (*pictured right*) which sought to return to the basics in an attempt to address this. The moment I brandished an orange poster I had made with the colourful title ‘Punctuation Superstars’ I was like the Pied Piper of Hamelin and the children flocked into the classroom. I had to stick the poster to the board with the emergency plasters that were crumpled in my bag as we had no tape or bluetack. The next day I brought



felt tip pens and A4 paper to my class and I was greeted with a riot of ‘Zikomo! Zikomo!’ which means ‘Thank you! Thank you!’ in Chichewa. It was like Christmas as I set the children off on a creative activity. They were so proud when we stuck their work to the walls and it brightened the classroom, too.

Madame Rita, the teacher of Standard Six, told me that attendance was bad

because children walked anything up to two hours a day to get to school. Sometimes, she said, they might not come because they are ill, a member of their family might be sick, or they might not have anything to eat for that day or any clothes to wear. I wondered how many times I had begrudged the fifteen-minute bus journey to campus at university.

In the afternoons when I did not have 'grammar clinic' I helped some other volunteers paint the school library. This was another small building with white walls, rickety desks and a few sparse shelves of dated books. We painted a map of Malawi, times tables, the alphabet and pictures on the walls with the help of some of the pupils. The annual school examination period also occurred whilst I was in Malawi. During the mornings when the exams took place I worked at a nearby orphanage. It was not an orphanage in the traditional sense; it was rather a nursery for pre-school children who had lost either one or both of their parents – usually to AIDS. The first job of the day was to collect water from the water pump. The village women were also collecting their day's water. They buzzed around the pump and laughed at our feeble attempts to extract water from the cumbersome device. They almost died laughing as we tentatively raised our buckets to our heads and inched our way back to the orphanage. The extent of their joy when my fellow volunteer Amaran buckled under the weight of his load, fell down and, despite a valiant attempt to keep it upright, sloshed the contents down his front was indescribable.

The water was used to make porridge – far from Ready Brek – over an open fire. The children were allowed two spoonfuls each which for most was the only square meal they received all day. As we busied ourselves making the porridge the children materialised from nowhere. No anxious parent brought them to the door and kissed their little cheeks goodbye. As they waited for their lessons some clambered on a makeshift climbing frame made from wood and tires. I noticed it had large rusty nails protruding from it. Others played with bricks on the ground. Most just wanted to be picked up, cuddled and tickled. Lessons were taken by an animated young man named Wyson and included enthusiastic songs and chants.

It was easy to forget that some of the beaming children in the orphanage and in my class were suffering from HIV. However, it was during my first week in Malawi I experienced a day which was such a stark illustration of the inexorable nature of life and death that I will never forget it. In our lunch break we volunteers liked to enjoy the beach which was just on the doorstep of our accommodation. One day, our attention was grabbed by a beaming woman carrying a bundle in her arms. Her newborn baby had entered the world that day and she and her tiny child had been allowed home. Later, walking to our van following afternoon project work we passed the local hospital to see a stretcher being carried through the gates. A dusty white sheet concealed a long, bumpy object underneath and women despondently trawled behind it wailing. There was a child beneath that sheet. Locals barely glanced in their direction; the sight of death was nothing new.

Sickness, hunger, lack of resources, absence of basic amenities and the overwhelming scale of need hit me with a sense of panicked despair many times. The people I met truly had nothing. Yet they always had a smile to give generously and without reserve. When I missed school due to a sickness bug one day, children

suffering from HIV ran up to ask me if I was alright with concern brimming in their eyes. Locals would always direct you kindly if you became lost in the labyrinth of villages. My pupils would even reach up and tuck a stray strand of hair behind my ear when I was talking to them. Whatever I was able to teach them pales into insignificance when I think about what these people have taught me about life.

Walking through Purton I see rows of strong houses, each and every one with clean water, sanitation and no doubt food inside. I see smiling children playing on their bikes; each one has a pair of shoes on their feet. Walking through my front door I see my family and I know I will not have to worry about how I will afford their medication should they become sick. Before I left I was a habitual worrier but now I am at a loss to think of something that truly is worth worrying about.

I have never been more reluctant to leave a place in my life. I knew there was so much more I still wanted to do in Malawi. I anticipated also the wrench it would be to leave the close friends I had made among the volunteers and locals alike. I dreaded the sense of loss I knew would come. As the last week ebbed away I ached for the sparkling lake, the cheeky beach boys, the heady smell of Africa. I missed the unhurried pace of life that not long ago had so exasperated my Western mind. I missed the brush with death that was the public matola transport, the gloopy Nsima which came with every meal and reminded me of something between mash potato and raw bread dough, I missed the fact you couldn't rely on having electricity and even the cold showers. The home comforts I enjoy today seem somewhat empty now. A month on and I still can't get those magnetic school children out of my mind. Nor can I forget the stoic and affable spirit of the Malawian people.

It's so easy to feel cynical in this climate of international debt, recession, political upheaval, and seemingly never-ending worldwide conflict. It's easy to sit back and croak 'humbug' at every sad melody of those 'with your donation of just two pounds a month' appeals, or briskly shake your head at people rattling change buckets at you in the street. True, you can't give to everybody. But I have seen the faces of the children of Monkey Bay School; I know their names and their stories. I know they deserve their chance to achieve and that they have big dreams. My dream would be for the school to be self-sufficient with sustainable resources but I know that this dream is not an easy one to realise. In the meantime I would like to raise at least enough money to buy every child in Standard Six the textbooks they need to study. I wonder what fate decided that we should live here and that the people in Malawi should live in that very different world. I can only conclude that it was luck. A lottery of life.

I am motivated by the inspirational Desmond Tutu's words, 'Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.' Perhaps today join your little bit of good to mine and together we can make a difference. If you feel you can, I would be grateful to receive donations of any amount for these wonderful children in Malawi. I would also happily accept donations of stationery and books for the library (with a small postage donation if possible). Please send to 77 Pavenhill, Purton, Swindon, Wilts., SN5 4DA. Contact malawi.fund@hotmail.co.uk for further information or queries.

ALICE McCARTHY

PURTON PLACARD

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

Hallowe'en Party

Saturday 30 October
Fundraising for Breakthrough
and Walk The Walk

at the Hilton Hotel, Lydiard
Fields, Great Western Way,
Swindon, SN5 8UZ.

Lve band Locomotion
buffet dinner, auction, raffle
and prize for the best fancy
dress costume.

Tickets £25 per person
Julie 873209, Mandy 827672
or Val 879661

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox Appeal

Purton's Fund Raising Day

Saturday 9 October
From 10am to 4pm

At Moira and Sylvia's - 35 High Street
(Ploughman's Lunches from 12 noon for £3)
Tea/Coffee available all day

Bric-a-Brac Cake Stall Tombola Books
Morning and Afternoon Raffles

Entrance £1

All monies raised on the day will be sent
to the Charity to help cover the
transportation of the boxes.

Cricklade Band Concert

In aid of Guide Dogs
Thursday 7 October at
7.30pm at Village Hall

Purton Helping Hand Jumble Sale

Saturday 9 October at 2pm
Silver Threads Hall
Raffle Refreshments

Whist Drive

In aid of Wiltshire Air
Ambulance
Monday 8 November at 7.30pm
At the Silver Threads Hall

Christmas Shopping Day

Saturday November 20, 11am-4pm
Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent

By kind permission of Howard and Kim from
The Sun Inn
Free admission

Father Christmas, from 12pm-2pm
Raffle in aid of Charity

Stalls include: Hand Crafted Christmas Cards;
Jewellery,
Pop Art, Preserves, Cakes, Chocolates and
much, much more

Contact Lynda for more details
Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund,
Registered Charity 1116986

St Mary's Church
will be holding a

CHRISTMAS MARKET

on Saturday 20 November
in the Village Hall
11am - 2pm

Lunches served
Hot meat baps

Many attractions, including:
Home-made produce
Activities for the children
Face painting

St Mary's School Choir will be
singing

Mince pies, teas and coffees

Christmas Craft Show

**Saturday 30 October 2010, 10am to 4.30pm,
Village Hall, Station Road, Purton
Free Entry**

There will be many different types of crafts on show including:

Hand crafted cards and supplies,
pyrography, silver and beaded jewellery,
Christmas decorations, handbags, clothes,
cross stitch, knitted and crocheted items,
photography, painted glass and more!
CARD MAKING CLASSES - £2, including materials

Refreshments including light lunches and teas
Morning and Afternoon Raffle
Contact Lynda for more details
Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund,
Registered Charity 1116986

St Mary's Church, Purton

Barn Dance

Saturday 9 October at 7.30pm

Village Hall, Purton

All welcome

Bring and Share Supper

Licensed Bar

Tickets Adults £6,

children (under 11) £3

Tel: Sandra 770157,

Alison 772896,

Sheila 770970, Val 771201,

Gladys 770375

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Antiques and Collectibles Fair

at the Village Hall, Purton

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER

10.30 am. to 4.30 pm.

Raffle, refreshments and many interesting stalls

Purton & Lydiard Scouts Firework and Bonfire Spectacular

Saturday 6 November

Gates open 5.30pm

Bonfire lit 6.00pm

Fireworks scheduled 7.00pm

£6 Adult £3 Child (3-14 years)

Tickets only available at the gate.

Vehicles via Hook Street only.

More information will be available in next month's Magazine.

You can also visit our weblink for more info:

www.plscouts.org.uk/group/fireworks/

PURTON ARTISTS 29TH EXHIBITION

TO BE HELD AT
**THE VILLAGE HALL
LOWER SQUARE, PURTON**

NOVEMBER

FRI 5th 6pm-8.30pm

SAT 6th 10am-4pm

SUN 7th 10am-4pm



Purton Silver Threads

Saturday Market

2 October at 2pm

Silver Threads Hall

Various stalls including

Cakes, Preserves, Veg

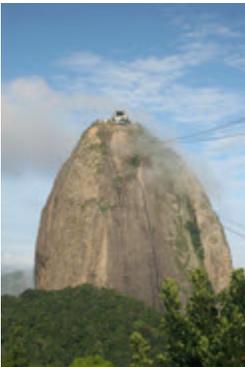
Raffle, Books etc

Exhibit of the Month: A Sugar Shovel

These days sugar comes in various types: granulated, caster sugar, Demerara, cubes, crystals ... But whatever the type, it is ready packaged.

This month's exhibit dates from the late 19th or early 20th century and is a sugar shovel which came from Kempster's grocer's shop formerly at Lower Square. It looks rather odd,

because it has four large holes in the shovel which, at first glance, wouldn't appear to make it much use for shovelling. However in those days grocers sold 3 kinds of sugar: crystallised white; moist brown; and broken lumps from a sugar loaf. The shape of the sugar loaf (*pictured right*) of course gave the name to the strangely shaped Sugarloaf Mountain (*Pão de Açúcar*), a peak situated in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the mouth of Guanabara Bay (*pictured below*).



Sugar would be cut by hand from the sugar loaf and two types of hand cutters for this are shown in the picture (*right*). The resulting lumps would be of very irregular sizes and the true function of the sugar shovel



is revealed. By using the shovel, oversized pieces would be removed from the sugar that had been cut and only finer pieces would remain. The larger pieces could then be cut down further and the process repeated.

Nowadays you could have artificial sweeteners instead if you prefer ...

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

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

Purton Museum is located above the Library, 1 Station Road and is open during Library hours:

Tues & Fri 2pm - 5pm and 6pm - 8pm **Weds** 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

For a £5 annual subscription (40p less than buying monthly) we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £13 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information contact [John Creasey](mailto:John.Creasey@purtonmuseum.com).

Going Wild in Purton



Our good summer weather has made quite a difference to the bird and animal life that has been seen in the Hoggs Lane and Vasterne Hill area. Pheasants and chicks have wandered into gardens in the hope of finding food but the sighting of foxes has been less frequent. The cuckoo was very vocal throughout June and could be heard throughout the day. The local grasssnakes have been observed during the three summer months, probably enjoying the warmth as much as the sunbathers in Purton.

I changed my bird feeding strategy this summer, mainly because wood pigeons and seed husks were affecting the lawns. I put fat ball feeders out instead and have been rewarded with seeing a marked increase of blue tits, long-tailed tits and great tits in the garden. Of course the young starlings have also enjoyed the fat balls and enjoy squabbling with each other and scaring off the smaller birds.

I did scatter "no mesh" bird food for ground feeders in the wilder parts of the garden and saw a lot more blackbirds, dunnocks and sparrows as a result. Vasterne Hill's large flock of sparrows have flourished well and I expect many people have seen more of these noisy guests than usual.

Some rarer garden visitors include a jay, wrens, bullfinches, a blackcap and goldfinches. A green woodpecker and a greater spotted woodpecker have also added to the colourful picture. There were regular sightings of buzzards in July but a marked lack of sparrow hawks over Vasterne Hill. The squirrel population seems to have moved away from my garden recently, although it has been sad to see that two that have been run over on the Wootton Bassett Road. Nevertheless, the pigeons, doves, magpies and crows are still seen in ones and twos. The woodpigeons have bred well this year and enjoy rooting around in and on top of precious plants.



The greenfinches (*pictured left*) and chaffinches have been very rare in June and July which has surprised me as they have been regular visitors in other seasons. The BBC gave some alarming news in August which may apply to the greenfinches in my area. The item claimed that the British Trust for Ornithology was blaming a parasite called *Tricomonosus gallinae* for the decline in greenfinches. It is believed that this parasite has been passed on in bird baths and on bird tables through bird saliva, when birds gather to feed together in families. So the regular cleaning of bird baths, bird tables and feeders is being encouraged in the hope that the spread of this parasite can be reduced.

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

Carnival 2011

We have now finalised all the administration for 2010 Carnival and the final total was £3,800 – more than we thought. That was great anyway, but then we had an unexpected donation of £200 to make the total up to £4,000. Our thanks for this generous donation go to Lynda and Jennie of the Purton & Lydiards Charity Fund, especially bearing in mind that all the money they raise is just by the two of them – fantastic and thank you.

Carnival next year is 3 - 11 June 2011, so get that “grey matter” moving and start working on ideas of what *you* are going to do. The theme will be announced in the next issue of the Magazine.

We were very pleased to welcome some new members to our first meeting and, if you would like to join the Committee as Full Member or Associate, we meet again on Thursday 7 October, 7.30pm at The Angel. If you would like any more information, please contact me.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

Seasonal Flu Clinics

Purton Surgery will be commencing their seasonal Flu Clinics at the beginning of October, and would initially like to invite the following people to call the surgery on 770207 (752633 for Green Gable Branch Surgery) to make an appointment:

- Anyone over 65 years of age
- Anyone age 5-64 years who has one or more of the following conditions:
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Chronic Heart Disease
 - Chronic Renal Failure
 - Have undergone a splenectomy
 - Severe Asthma resulting in recent hospitalisation or taking inhaled steroids on an ongoing basis (ie. not seasonal)
 - In receipt of a Carers Allowance

We intend to offer most of our vaccines during the month of October. Please note that patients given an appointment who do not fulfil NHS criteria will be turned away as we are unable to give this vaccine privately.

Calling all food and wine lovers!

As lovers of good food, fine wine and pleasant company, with the current economic climate it means that the visits to our favourite restaurants aren't as frequent as they used to be. An opportune time, we thought, to form a supper club, dining in member's homes on a shared cost, shared workload basis as well as the occasional restaurant visit.

We already have a few Purton people interested, so if you enjoy good food and wine and would like to share your passion with like minded people please contact Helen Dixon on email mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk so that we can set up a meeting.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



A well attended meeting was addressed by Roger Umpleby from near Evesham on a subject dear to many gardeners' hearts: growing vegetables. Roger explained that we grow our own for the challenge, for the wider ranges offered by seed merchants, for the cheaper costs and fresher taste of home-grown compared with shop bought vegetables and because of environmental concerns such as food miles. The majority of us are constrained in our choices of crop by space, so factors relating to the size of the mature plants, the length of time from sowing/planting to harvest and storage possibilities for the crop are all factors that need to be considered as well as soil type and climate. Preparing the soil well is of utmost importance: he had found that using coarse homemade compost was the best method of building up the organic matter that is so vital for hungry feeders such as almost all vegetables.

In a beautifully illustrated talk Roger compared the advantages and disadvantages of growing from seed with buying young plants. Growing from seed gives much greater choice at far less cost, but involves more work. Fresh seed is best for good germination and for staggered planting, but seed treated with fungicide will not germinate after twelve months. He showed how the length of the cropping period could be maximised through planting rows containing at least three sequential sowings spaced over several weeks. The judicious use of fleece was also demonstrated, as a protection against cold weather when sowing both early and late and as a defence against carrot root fly and other pests. Roger favoured sowing into growing modules as the best start for any seedlings because root disturbance when planting out would be avoided. If 24 seedlings of one variety develop at the same time, he recommended planting out 8 into open ground, 8 under fleece and the final 8 under $\frac{1}{4}$ " netting. This system ensured 3 croppings at 3 widely spaced intervals, with the added advantage of the final netted crop being protected from egg-laying butterflies. Thus cropping can continue from late May to October and he demonstrated the proof of this with photos of his runner and broad bean crops picked over 5 months last year. He also suggested a combination of sticking to those varieties we knew our families liked which also flourished in our gardens with a deliberate attempt to widen choices by trying something new each year from the seed catalogues.

A most interesting and informative talk was completed by Roger taking us through an alphabet of vegetables, focusing on new varieties which tests had shown as pest and disease proof, generous croppers and easy to grow. The RHS Award of Garden Merit was a completely reliable guide to those varieties while magazine and gardening personality recommendations might not be totally neutral. He concluded by leaving us his lists of the newer vegetable varieties he had found reliable.

David Herbert proposed a vote of thanks.

Our monthly competition was won by Arthur Griffin with his selection of 4 vegetables.

Our next meeting on 26 October will be Gordon Cottis talking on the subject of *Plants for a winter garden*. Competition: A decorated pumpkin.

MOIRA WHITE (Secretary), DIANA THOMBS (Chair)

Purton Diary - October 2010

2	Sa	2.00pm 8.00pm	Saturday Market, Silver Threads Hall Swindon Choral Society Concert, Holy Rood Ch, Swindon.
3	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning worship at the Methodist Church Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Co-op Choir</i>
6	W	10.00am 7.30pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour with lunch provided Historical Society Autumn Course <i>Rome & her Legacy</i> 1 st meeting at Silver Threads Hall. (Then on 13, 20 and 28 Oct.)
7	Th	10.30am 7.30pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Cricklade Band Concert at Village Hall in aid of Guide Dogs
8	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the village
9	Sa	10.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	to 4pm: Shoebox Appeal Fund Raising Day at 35 High Street Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (by Helping Hand) St Mary's Church Barn Dance at Village Hall
10	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
11	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
12	Tu	11.00am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Yacht Club at The Angel After Eight: Planning meeting followed by <i>Make Your Own Cards</i> - Very simple - at Jan's
13	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship: Wootton Bassett choir at Wootton Bassett Methodist Church
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
17	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship for Hospital Sunday at the Cedars Parish Communion at St Mary's Church to 4.30 pm: Age Concern Antiques and Collectibles Fair at Village Hall Evensong at St Mary's Church
18	M	7.45pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: <i>From Boardroom to Barn</i> - Lorraine Stanton
19	Tu	2.00pm 7.45pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Travel Film</i> - Mr & Mrs Seviour Royal British Legion at The Red House
20	W	2.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Dave Seviour - <i>Who discovered America?</i>

24	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
26	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: <i>Plants for Winter Gardens</i> - Gordon Cottis
28	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: <i>The Story of Glenn Miller</i> - Bill King

31	Su	2.00am	End of British Summer Time - clocks go backwards
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	to 3pm: Shoebox Appeal Shoebox Filling Day at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Children in Need Treasure Hunt starting from the Red House
		6.00pm	All Souls' Service at St Mary's Church

November

6 Sa 5.30pm Purton & Lydiard Scouts *Firework Spectacular* at Lydiard Park

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

Moon Phases

● 6 October ● 14 October ○ 21 October ● 29 October

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Swindon Choral Society's ...

... autumn concert features an exciting new work by the award-winning British composer Howard Goodall. *Eternal Light: A Requiem* was premiered in November 2008 and since then has won international acclaim. Its first performance in Swindon will take place on Saturday 2 October, 8pm in Holy Rood Church, Swindon. The concert programme also includes Goodall's setting of Psalm 98, another first for Swindon, and Tippett's Five Negro Spirituals from *A Child of Our Time*.

Tickets £12.50 (accompanied children under 18 free) are available from Swindon Information Centre (ticket hotline 01793 466454), Brian Taylor Music, Wootton Bassett (01793 840445) and Sound Knowledge, Marlborough (01672 511106).

Get your Chimney Swept!

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is reminding people about the importance of getting chimneys swept after being called to seven chimney fires since the beginning of August.



The recent chilly weather at night has led to many homes having fires lit much earlier in the year than normal – which can be dangerous if the chimney has not been swept since the fire was last used.

The Service's advice is to ensure that chimneys for wood burning fires are swept every three months when in use. If you burn bituminous coal, the chimney should be cleaned at least twice a year, and at least once a year when burning smokeless coal. An annual clean is sufficient for oil and gas fires.

Other safety tips include:

- Have the chimney properly swept – using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient.
- Make sure your fire receives enough air to allow the fuel to burn properly.
- Only burn suitable fuels.
- Do not overload the grate or appliance.
- Maintain your appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires.
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly in the roof space. Make sure that it is sound and that the sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.
- Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

A wide range of fire safety advice can be found on the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service website - www.wiltshire.gov.uk

MELANIE JEZZARD - Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
01380 731188 email: melanie.jezzard@wiltshire.gov.uk

The Royal British Legion Purton Branch

The Royal British Legion Purton Branch Horticultural Show Committee would like to thank most sincerely firstly the Red House Committee for allowing us to hold the show at the Red House, our two main sponsors Hills Group Ltd, and John Toomers Garden Centre, and the cup and plaque sponsors, the advertisers, the judges, helpers, and most of all the talented exhibitors without which the show would not take place! Most importantly we made about £450 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. So again a huge thank-you to everyone who made the show such a success and we hope to see you again in 2011.



HEATHER HARRIS, Hon. Sec

Purton Historical Society



After telling you to note the date of the Mud Lane Public Inquiry, I have now learnt that the inquiry has been cancelled, due to a legal challenge.

Too late for last month's magazine, but you might be still able to book a place at the Wiltshire Local History Forum Day on Saturday 2 October at Bromham village social centre. The subject is "The First World War in Wiltshire." The cost is £7 and bring a packed lunch, phone 01249 461152 to see if there are places. Some talks are The Home front in Salisbury, Belgian refugees in Wiltshire and Salisbury Plain and military Aviation – the history leading up to WW1. The day starts at 10.00am and closes at 3.45pm.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28 October at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall at 7.30. Returning again is our friend Bill King to tell us "The Story of Glenn Miller". As I'm typing this, I'm busy humming some of his well known records. Whilst I don't have recollections of Glenn Miller, I grew up in the days of Victor Sylvester, Ted Heath (I well remember the voice of Dennis Lotus) and of course lunchtime with Billy Cotton. We even went to the Plymouth Palace Theatre to see his Bandshow.

Cricklade Historical Society will meet in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 October. Roger Trayhurn will be talking about the local History Collection in the new Swindon library.

The Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 14 October at 7.30 in the Civic Centre. Chris Viveash and the Country Maid will be recalling Vintage Country Days. These include events in village and small town life in the 18th & 19th centuries, these to include hazards, weddings, domestic violence and of course "buttering". If anyone goes to this meeting, I'd be interested to find out about buttering.

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 13 October in the Broadgreen Centre at 7.30. Sophie Cummings will be talking to them about Lydiard House.

Remember our new course "Ancient Rome and her Legacy" starts on Wednesday 6 October at the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30. If you haven't already received details please contact Inez Gale or Paul Booy.

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Purton Guide Dogs

Valerie's cousin is this year's President of the Swindon Rotary Club, and he chose Guide Dogs as his charity for the year. His wife makes ceramics and on 14 August they held a sale in their garden of snails, rabbits, mushrooms and other things that she had made over the last year. I was invited to have a stall there selling the Guide Dogs Trading Goods. Then Doreen Freegard and Sue Matthews attended Cricklade Show, along with Swindon Branch, as I was away on holiday in Malta. When I returned we took the Trading Goods stall etc to Brinkworth Show. In total we made £141.37. Once again thank you for your continued support.



We are delighted to announce that the Cricklade Band will be giving a concert at the Village Hall on 7 October at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 to include light refreshments with proceeds to Purton Guide Dogs, available from 770961, 770178 or 771091.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Dodecantus 2010 Tour

Local Chamber choir *Dodecantus* have just returned from their latest foray into foreign parts – this time an extremely successful visit to Gibraltar and Andalucía where they performed Duruflé's *Requiem* back-to-back with Poulenc's *Stabat Mater*.

This was a tour of 'firsts' in many ways; it was the first time the group have visited Spain and most notably the first time they have sung underground – in the truly amazing setting of St Michael's Cave on Gibraltar, an auditorium carved out of the Rock itself. The magnificent baroque Cathedral at Jaen was also on the itinerary, where the choir's concert formed part of the celebrations commemorating the 350th anniversary of the building's completion. Their final concert was in the truly awe-inspiring setting of Seville Cathedral – a UNESCO World Heritage site and the third largest church in the world. The choir were especially thrilled at being able to make their appearance in front of the renowned 16th century gold altarpiece, as pictured at their rehearsal.



The variety and splendour of the venues – and the warmth of the Spanish welcome – more than made up for the necessity of braving singing in temperatures in the high 30s and beyond and the choir look forward to future visits to the region. However Dodecantus now have to come back down to earth ... and the Celsius scale! ... and begin preparations for their Christmas presentations which will include Langlais' mystical *Messe Solennelle* and a bittersweet offering from Poulenc – *Un soir de neige* details of which performances will doubtless be reported closer to the festive season.

The Spanish tour was also a first for another reason – the choir chose this event to launch their new (and debut) CD which features the two major works in their tour programme. A bargain at £10, it is quite unlike any other recording of either of these works currently available, and may be purchased by calling Francis Sheppard on 01793 771018.

Famous Put-Downs

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend ... if you have one."

(George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill)

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one."

(Winston Churchill, in response).

Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund

Village Fete

Many thanks to Howard and Kim at the Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent for letting us hold our village fete at the pub. The weather was excellent and, although not as busy as last year, everyone said what a nice atmosphere there was. We raised £220 for our charity; however more monies were raised by the ten other charities present. We also had four traders. Thanks to all who attended, particularly *Just Jive* who provided music and danced throughout the day.



Annual General Meeting of Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund

The AGM was held on Thursday 4 September in The Club in Station Road when copies of the annual report and balance sheet were distributed. If you were unable to attend, copies of both are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Lynda Warren at 32 Station Road, Purton, SN5 4EN.

Donations since last AGM

- September 2009 - £200 to Hook Village Hall new roof fund
- December 2009 - £200 - £50 each towards Christmas lunches for Silver Threads, Purton Luncheon Club, Purton Stoke Christmas Lunch, Lydiard Millicent Luncheon Club
- September 2010 - £100 to Purton Village Hall towards purchase of cooker for kitchen
- September 2010 - £200 to Purton Helping Hand (see picture) to help offset some of the shortfall from the money raised by the carnival for the annual vouchers distributed to the elderly and severely ill in the village



Summary of events since last AGM

- 5 September 2009, 12noon to 5pm, Charity Fete at the Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent, by kind permission of Howard Taylor
- 22 October, sale of new lingerie at Purton Helping Hand Ladies Night
- October, Dec, July - face painting for Halloween event, Brookhouse Farm Pub
- 14 November, 11am-5pm, Face Painting and Tattoos at the Charity Craft Fair at Flaxlands
- 28 November, our Christmas Craft Show at Purton Village Hall, 10am-4.30pm
- June 2010, face painting at Helping Hand Pig Roast and Carnival Fete (donation to Carnival funds)
- June 20, face painting and games, Cricklade Town Festival
- July 17, face painting and games, The Children's Fete, Faringdon Road, Swindon

LYNDA WARREN

Poppy Appeal

House to house collections for the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will take place from Saturday 30 October until Sunday 14 November. Please support the 2010 Poppy Appeal.

Mrs J E BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser



World Challenge 2010

Our trip to Romania seems ages ago now, but we would like to say a big “thank-you” to everyone who has contributed towards our fundraising activities, and to let you know what we did.

The trip got off to a rocky start with torrential rain and the bags of two team members not arriving after the flight. However, they joined us after two days and we were able to continue our trek! After the first few out of six days of trekking, one of the team had to go to hospital. She was well looked after however and was back with us after a few days.

In the first day of trekking we saw a bear in the forest. This meant we were happy to follow advice when we wild camped, and slept on the other side of the river to our food rations!

While trekking we saw some spectacular scenery and our eyes were opened to the culture difference in Romania compared with the UK.

Once we’d completed the six day trek, we worked for a week in a hospice. Here we did some useful work such as building a fence for the garden, doing a lot of weeding, and painting pictures on the walls.

We’d like to say a final big thank you for helping us have this adventure, and a huge thank you to staff at school, World Challenge and those who came with us; particularly Mr Winward, Mr Stiles, Mr Lemin, and Rachael our expedition leader. It really was a fantastic experience and we learned a lot!

ROSIE, ANNA & EILISH

Purton Evening WI – purtonevewi.org.uk

Purton Village Hall was a-buzz and there was no doubting the cheerful anticipation of members at the meeting of 18 August, as well as the half a dozen visitors who came along! Mr Richard Parsons was to speak to us on “Cheese Tasting” and so, laid out on the tables, were plates of samples – and wine glasses. An excellent and absorbing talk about the history and manufacture of various cheeses, followed by the cheese (and wine) tasting, made for a jolly evening indeed. We shall have the men wanting to join us, at this rate!

Next year’s diaries and calendars are now available for collection.

There are many WI events in our area now so please don’t forget to check the Information Table and your WFWI Newsletter for details, costs and closing dates.

The speaker for 20 October will be Dave Seviour, on “Who discovered America?”, followed by social time.

CONSTANCE REED



The team at the top of the mountain

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.



■ A IS FOR ...

Your A to Z about the Angel Inn caught my eye. Not only is it "quite probable that an inn had stood on the same site" before 1704, it is almost certain. Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, went into exile after Charles I's execution in 1649, first to Paris and then in November to Madrid where he was to become Ambassador.

He clearly had a miserable journey. He wrote to his wife (now in Antwerp with his children) "It is not possible for thee to conceive such a country as this is to travellers. It is enough when thou knowest that the Inn at Pyrton is as much better than anyone I mett with in the rydinge 400 myles, or indeed than any one in Spayne, as my house there is better than that Inn".

A backhanded compliment to The Angel perhaps, but the Spanish inns must have been grim indeed. Things are different all round today!

Hector McLean

As an adjunct to the above many of you will remember Hilaire Belloc's poem which contained the lines:

"Do you remember an inn, Miranda, do you remember an Inn ... ?

And the fleas that teased in the high Pyrenees and the wine that tasted of tar.."

Things hadn't got much better!!

Caroline McLean

■ STEP STOOL

I was pleased to hear that you have now recovered from your mishap with a plastic stool, Rick. I was taking a branch off a tree and realised that I was using a plastic stool that had stayed out in all weather for watering the hanging baskets. So with Rick in mind, I had a good look at the stool and could see that the plastic had deteriorated or changed its look. So it was down to Hill's on the next trip. Rather a dramatic one, but thanks for the warning!

Eve Booy

■ DIAMOND WEDDING

It overwhelmed us with all the congratulations we have received for our 60th Wedding anniversary, from family and friends. It gave us great pleasure to share the day with the luncheon club and all they did for us. It was a lovely lunch not forgetting the cake that Ruth and Joan made, and the lovely flowers. Since John's illness in January, I personally would like to thank Gordon and Steve for their immense help at all times.

Thanking you all once again

John and Beryl Woolford

Swindon & Area Fibromyalgia Support (SWAFIS)

Publicizing www.fibroaction.org

My name is John, from Cricklade (*formerly lived in Wootton Bassett since 1982*) and I run a voluntary Swindon & Area Fibromyalgia Support Group. I'm always looking at ways to spread the word that help is there for those suffering from Fibromyalgia (FM) and in addition usually Chronic Fatigue (CFS) and Irritable Bowel (IBS) as well.

I liaise with local M.E. and arthritis groups but, whilst many surgeries, health centres and so on seem reluctant to provide information to assist people at the point of diagnosis of such illnesses – *it's also widespread countrywide with other illnesses* – then I continue to try and get the word out via other groups and village/town magazines.

DID YOU KNOW ... Statistically 1 in 7 of all ages will have this invisible illness, linked to Irritable Bowel and Chronic Fatigue. Externally people suffering from FM ('Fmites') look fine but, in reality, they will be seriously struggling with all aspects of life. They're often shunned or not understood even by close family so feel very alone even in a crowd, hence the support group. See www.invisibledisabilities.org as just one descriptive example.

Statistically it takes 14 years for 'Fmites' to be officially diagnosed. It hits at any time, especially fit/active and over-stressed high achievers. The simplest description is inflammation of the nervous system, due to damage caused by adrenalin over-production. The cause in children is not yet known although it may be hereditary.

As Fmite's suffer in different ways, different medication works for different people. It's understandable but frustrating the medical establishment struggle to identify and treat the illness. So it's down to those with FM to get together to educate ourselves, as knowledge is power.

The best description of FM is stark! It's like rats 'gnawing' muscles; it's like fire in the blood; it's like severe night cramps in all limbs for hours at a time; it's like being filled with iron filings so even texting is impossible; it's the frustrating unpredictability of literally collapsing; forced into bed even just up from sleeping; it's sleeping for hours, days, yet waking unrefreshed; it's as though you've run 2 marathons yet have not gone out of the door; it's like nothing we would wish on our worst enemy!

THE SUPPORT ... If you suffer from FM and related symptoms or know someone who does, please look at the local FM information links at <http://fm.intouchpurton.co.uk/> (do not add www to this address). There is also a fact sheet service and message board available at www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/fibromyalgiasoapbox

In addition I try to provide:

- * A regular newsletter.
- * Phone buddy support and home visits as required.
- * Fact sheets on a wide range of Fibromyalgia & Chronic Fatigue related items.
- * Research on specific related FM/CFS issues on request.
- * Possible transport assistance to local hospitals (*i.e. Bath, Oxford*) for FM related appointments.

All information I send out is clearly sourced; it's from official FM and other sources. In addition all fact sheets state no one should alter **any form** of current treatment or medication without consulting their Doctor or Consultant.

I can if requested provide a personal profile – *I've done various aspects of community work for decades* – but find people usually want the information about a given subject. There are no fees but stamps for postage are always welcome!

Other than that let me know if you require any additional information from me.

I also welcome support with publicity postal drops, with general admin, with setting up a more professional local FM web site, but any help would be welcome any time!

Together we are stronger, together we can make a difference, and together people with FM have improved their lives dramatically.

Thank you for your time

JOHN ALLEN

01793 751920 with answer phone

email: highfly29@hotmail.com

St Mary's Church - Vacancy Development Update

Thank you to all those of you who took the time to complete the New Vicar Survey. We have been really encouraged by the responses, and your views will enable us to complete our job specification, detailing what Purton needs from its next vicar. We are another step along the process!

Of course, when we say 'process', what we actually mean is a complex series of interconnected processes, each with its own timescales and priorities. The business of choosing our next vicar and of developing church life during a vacancy is certainly a more complex and time consuming than it ever has been before, but we hope that it will, ultimately, be rewarding.

So, how much more is there to do before we can advertise for a new vicar? Well, St Mary's has already overcome significant hurdles, and we have been told that we will definitely be getting a new part-time vicar. Our parish profile and job specification will be completed within the next few weeks, whilst the diocese and deanery are currently discussing their plans to link the part time role in Purton with another job, but this won't be in another parish. We await the outcome with interest!

Should it not be possible to link Purton with another post in the church, we will be allowed to advertise the part-time role on its own, which we would hope to do no later than December.

We know that this won't be soon enough for many people, and we share your sense of frustration. However, we are moving in the right direction and making clear progress through a rigorous and testing process.

In the meantime, our Pastoral Assistants Judith Wells and Gladys Legg will continue to offer care, support and spiritual counsel both to individuals, and to the many care homes in the village. If you, or someone you know, would like more information about the church and our services, or if you need our help and support, please contact Gladys.

We will update you again as soon as we have more news to share.

ST MARY'S PCC

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

Celebrate the first 100 years of guiding with us in Purton

Calling all current members, friends and families as well as former Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and adult leaders in Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Minety: We are celebrating the last 100 years of guiding and looking forward to the next 100 years!

Guiding is a thriving movement, giving girls of all ages great opportunities to make friends and try new experiences. Please join us at St Mary's Church, Purton on Wednesday 20 October 2010. Take your seats at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start and be part of a moment in history as members nationwide renew their guiding Promise at 8.10pm (20:10 on 20/10 in 2010). Church bells will then ring out to mark the end of our centenary year.

Melksham, Seend & Purton Guide Camp 2010

The wet weather didn't dampen our enthusiasm to have a fantastic time at camp.

Having lunch and putting up the tents gave us more time to get to know each other and develop new friendships.

After washing up for tea we had a choice of a camp fire or a wide game. We decided on a game of sardines. We went to bed shortly after having a hot chocolate.

The next day we went on our Heroic adventure at Foxlease, there were over 100 Guides. We had 5 activities on heroes to do during the day and at night there was a disco where we dressed up as heroes. Before bed we watched *The Incredibles*.

Every morning day and night we had chores of cooking, wood collecting, bathroom cleaning, waitressing, washing up or drying up. We all thought we were going on a holiday not a boot camp!!!! Only joking – it was really fun.

On the 5th day we had a walk to the town of Burley, 2 packs in each group with an hour each way. Civilisation at last, time to shop and ice creams YUM!!!!!!

For those of us who had never done yoga we had the opportunity to experience it for ourselves with instructors brought in.

Our last night outside sleeping under the stars; what a beautiful sight.

We had a leaving ceremony to say goodbye to the camp before heading back home.

ERIN DONNELLY, 1st Purton Guides

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives and works in Witfield, Glevum, The Common, Locks Lane and The Gills. People in these streets will receive cards through their doors which will invite them to contact us if there is anything they would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.



St Mary's CE Primary School

As hoped for, the summer break has seen quite a transformation for St Mary's CE Primary School. Our contractors, Cowlins, met all their deadlines and a new Upper School campus opened as planned on Monday 6 September. We now have seven classrooms and an office/staff room block, all of which surround a good sized playground. The construction of the temporary school is of good quality and although the site is transitional in nature, the children are enjoying a campus which is newly decorated and fit for purpose.

The demolition of the old Upper School site will happen over the next month or so, with the project still on track for completion by January 2012. On behalf of everyone involved in the project so far, we would like to thank the community of Purton for supporting the build, especially if they have had to contend with any disruption.

The public footpath around the northern edge of the Upper School has had a tarmac surface laid, paid for by the school, making life easier for pedestrians. The biggest issue for our children and parents is the dog fouling along the length of the path – a regular problem around school access paths. We respectfully ask dog owners to ensure that their dog does not foul access paths.

St Mary's is also delighted to be able to share with you more good news from external inspections. As well as our very positive OfSTED report from last May, we received a similar report from the Bristol Diocese as they conducted their Church School inspection in July. Some of the highlights include:

"St Mary's Primary School is a welcoming and friendly church school community. Its strong Christian ethos ensures that all children feel valued and special, enjoy school and are given many opportunities to achieve their potential both academically and in their personal development."

Our strengths include the high quality of care that our children show towards each other, and the quality of the collective worship offered, which also plays a very positive part in our school life.

I look forward to telling you more about what is happening at St Mary's next month and include some information about our plans for the festive season.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher

Children in Need

Purton Children in Need Committee are organizing another walking treasure hunt. We held one earlier in the year and it proved very successful. It will be on Sunday 31 October and start from the Red House Skittle Alley at 10.30am and we are aiming to have it finished by lunch time allowing you all to get home for your Sunday dinner or a couple of pints in the Red House. As before, the walk will be on public footpaths around the village with various questions to answer and things to look out for. The walk will be suitable for kids and dogs are also welcome.

For those not wanting to go home for Sunday lunch, or those too hungry to wait, there will be burgers and hot-dogs for sale.

If you have any queries, phone Tony or Sue on 772581.



TONY RICHARDSON

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

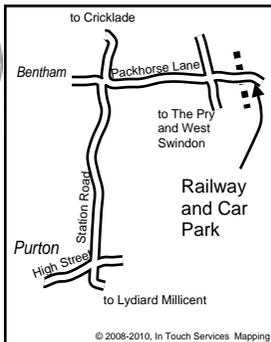
HALLOWE'EN GHOST TRAIN

Friday 29 October 6.30 - 8.45pm

Saturday 30 October 6.00 - 8.45pm

Trains at half-hourly intervals on both days. Both children and grown ups love to be terrified on our spookily decorated train, assisted by the Highworth Dramatic Society. Not for nervous children.

Tickets cost £7 for adults, £5 for children including a chocolate bar and £6 for seniors. £20 for a family of two adults and two children. 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 on 01793 750335 or 771615.

On The Lighter Side

Story of our Time

Charlie, a new retiree shelf stacker at B&Q, had problems getting to get to work on time. Every day he was 10 or so minutes late. But he was a good worker, tidy, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office. "Charlie, I have to tell you, you do a really fine job, but turning up late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."

"Well, good, you are a team player. Coming in late is not on though. I know you're retired from the Navy. What would they say if you came in late there?"

"They'd say 'Good morning, Admiral. May I get you some coffee, sir?'"

Maxims for Life

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu – the same mustard as before.

Practice safe eating – always use condiments.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Purton Bowls Club



August has been a splendid month for the Bowls Club. We have had some excellent games, first with the President v Vice President match, with Carole Holland and helpers putting on a super tea for the members. Then came the Ladies V's Men's – guess who won this annual game ... well we had to let them win, didn't we? They do so much for us on the catering side ...

The trip to Windsor Park was a great day out, a full coach, good weather, good company and a nice afternoon tea. Well done to our Captain John Bartlett.

The fish and chip night was a huge success with over 50 people attending and once again including Tony Price (chair) and trustees. All the members enjoyed their game of bowls, also our guests, who had a Roll Up.

Brian Talboys and Ron collected the fish and chips from the West Swindon Centre, piping hot in individual boxes, enjoyed with a glass of wine.

The Andy Rudden trophy was organized by Sue and John Williams with quite a number of Bowlers taking part in an all day event, which was won by Eric Matthews and John Blackwell. Runners up were Eric Collier and Dick Harrison.

Now that the fixtures are completed in the men's league section Purton came 5th in the Wilts and mid-way in the Swindon and District. In the Triples League, C team came top in Div 1 and will receive prize money, team A finished 5th in Div 2. B team were 5th from bottom in D team bottom. With the competition matches in the S&D Purton have Colin Baker and Dave Hall in the finals of the pairs.

In the Ladies section they did quite well in both leagues. Considering that a number of ladies have not been available at times, Sue Williams and Jean Hamer, the Captains, are pleased with the results. Also in the S&D competitions Chris Mitchell and Alison Fail will represent Purton in the Pairs final and Alison is also in the two-wood final. Good luck to both of them.

A note for your diaries – Members' Presentation Evening will be on 9 October 2010, and Club AGM on 29 October.

RON SLADE

Purton & District Darts League

The AGM took place on 19 August and was well attended. Bim Herbert was re-elected for the 35th year as chairman, Alison Evans was re-elected as secretary and Pierce Bolger, Matt Curruthers and Ben Parsons were all re-elected to the committee. 14 teams have entered for the 2010-11 season which started on 9 September. The Red House had a pairs' darts competition on 2 September in honour of Colin Bastin and all money raised on the night is going to the Prospect Hospice. Thank you everyone who attended you made it a very successful evening and a very big thank-you to the winning and runner-up teams who gave their winnings back to add to the money raised for Prospect Hospice.



Good luck to all playing this season.

ALISON EVANS

The nights are drawing in and we shall sadly have to abandon our evening games on our courts to move indoors anyway for the time being. The Tuesday ladies' evenings and the mixed Friday nights have been generally well attended and are keeping us all up to the mark as well as proving highly enjoyable. Sadly the results of the Club tournaments will be too late for this month but are busily being played. There is much competitive spirit and considerable fun to be had playing against fellow members and the vagaries of the handicap matches throw up some interesting results. More next month. We still feel handicapped by the lack of a coach. We thought we had secured the services of a newly qualified and enthusiastic coach but it was not to be and the hunt is on for a replacement. All clubs benefit from the advice and practice that a coach can bring to a club and we very much hope that we shall not have to wait too long before we have someone in place. Apart from anything else we are anxious to engage with the local schools to persuade them that tennis is a good game for life and to give them practical experience to back this up. In the meanwhile Nicola Gardner has, as ever, been encouraging youngsters and her latest report follows.

CAROLINE McLEAN

Junior News

The U18 boys team of Chris Etheridge, Ethan Gunton, Jordon Richards and Nathan Giles lost their play-off final to a very strong Pewsey team by 5 matches to 1. The only victory for the Purton side came from Chris and Ethan in the doubles, testament to the fact that they are regularly playing in the men's teams in the Swindon and District League.

The last Saturday morning session attracted a good turnout and the 10 o'clock group enjoyed some competitive fun and games ending with the traditional chocolate and sweets for all those who took part! All those who have attended on a Saturday appear to have enjoyed the experience – there is still room for more so if you fancy giving tennis a try please come along next April and give it a go.

The annual Junior Singles Tournament finally took place at the third attempt (we were thwarted by heavy rain on 2 occasions) on a lovely sunny morning on 12 September. Although there was only a small entry of 3 boys in each of the two categories the competition produced some very hard fought matches. The boys played 2 sets against each other. The Senior Boys group was particularly close with Nathan Giles failing to win a match but pushing the eventual winner, Stephen Fenn and runner-up, Greg Williams extremely close in 3 of his 4 sets only going down by the smallest of margins, 4-6, 4-6 and 5-6! Stephen won fairly comfortably in the first set against Greg which meant Greg started the last set knowing that only a 6-0 victory would give him the trophy! It wasn't to be - Stephen clinched the set 6-3 and the title.

The Junior Boys group was won by Elliot Gunton who convincingly won 3 of his 4 sets against runner-up Matthew Hall and Jake Looker.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton Cricket Club <http://purton.play-cricket.com>



A very difficult season for the Club's two senior teams came to the feared end with both finishing at the bottom of their respective leagues.

There was however much to offer encouragement as both evening league teams did well and the U11 and U13 teams had outstanding seasons, with the U11 squad unbeaten until the very last game, which was narrowly lost, meaning a second placed finish, and the U13 squad which managed to secure 23 points from the last fixture to win the league title by the narrowest of margins.

The fundraising raffle drawn at the Red House was successful and thanks are extended to all those who supported this venture.

In 2011 the Club will celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the gift of the cricket field to the Cricket Club. Let us hope that cricket will continue in Purton so that we can celebrate James Sadler's generosity for many years to come.

From the Archives

'I first went to the Cricket Ground in 1938-39 when the Tennis Courts were down where the tank trap was built during the war, as we children walked across the fields from Lydiard to collect the tennis balls that were hit over the fencing round the courts and throw them back to the players!'

Dave Evans writing in 1991 about his early cricket field memories.

JOE GARDNER

Purton F.C.



The new season has got off to a great start for Purton's Hellenic league side and Purton Redhouse Wilts Premier league side. The Hellenic side have played just three games to date with wins over Cheltenham Saracens and Easington Sports and a draw with local rivals Cricklade Town.

The reserve side, Purton Redhouse, have had a fantastic start though, having played 9 games already they have won 7 of those, lost just the once, and drawn the other.

The Hellenic manager Chris Pethick and the Redhouse manager Stef Kuczynski are well pleased with their respective teams excellent starts and are hoping the form shown by both sides will continue.

The North Wilts Youths and Minors league has only just commenced but in the opening week there were wins for the under 15s and under 11s "A" and a draw for the under 11s "B"

Attendances at all the games to date have been excellent.

ALAN EASTWOOD, *President/Chairman*

Firework Spectacular

Purton & Lydiard Scouts *Firework and Bonfire Spectacular* will be held on Saturday 6 November. More information will be available in next month's Magazine. You can also visit our weblink to more info: www.plscouts.org.uk/group/fireworks/

A to Z OF PURTON

The title 'A to Z OF PURTON' is displayed in a large, bold, white font. The letter 'A' is filled with colorful balloons. The letter 'O' is filled with a zebra's stripes. The background of the title features a photograph of a large, historic stone building with a prominent tower, likely a church or abbey, set against a green landscape.

B is for ... Braydon

Numerically the smallest Parish in Wiltshire with a Parish Meeting about once a year, with just 39 voters.

Originally belonging to Malmesbury Abbey, on the dissolution of the Monasteries, Braydon became Crown Property.

Charles 1st gave it to Jacobson, a London tailor to pay his clothing bills. In the mid 19th century, Joseph Neeld bought 3,800 acres, including Braydon, meaning to extend the existing house. He landscaped the property but never built the house. In 1902 the entire estate was sold, 600 acres of Braydon being bought by Mr J.E. Ward.

Little has changed. A few new houses for the farms. The Chapel and the School (*see photo*) have both been converted into houses. Long may it continue its rural traditions.



B is for ... Bricks

Bricks had been made in the Purton area on a small scale for hundreds of years, several brick buildings in the village being dated from the 1700s. Modern brick making in Purton began in 1898 when Charles Plummer bought some land by the level crossing in New Road and together with a Mr Fenley established the Purton Brickworks.

In 1906 the Brickworks were bought by Edward Hill including a stock of two million bricks, many of which were used for building the expanding Swindon. The business continued to flourish until the Second World War when there was a fall in the demand for bricks, the construction of Lyneham air base being one of the few local outlets.

After the war there was a huge increase in demand and the type of bricks being produced in Purton were ideal for the rebuilding in London. Some 15,000 of these buff-yellow bricks were sent there every day by lorry. The business gradually declined and brickmaking in Purton finally stopped in 1977.

B is for ... Brownies

Purton is pleased to boast two thriving Brownie units. This means that around 50 girls aged 7 – 10 participate in a wide range of activities at their regular meetings, and at special events, day trips, sleepovers and holidays. They can find themselves trying out arts and crafts or recipes, playing energetic games, taking part in community action projects, or having a go at more adventurous activities such as canoeing or fencing. To add a name to our waiting to join list or for more information regarding volunteering as an adult with one of the units, please contact Gill Woodward on 771572.

A to Z of Purton: *The purpose of this new section is to publish contributions about the culture and content of our community such as any unusual facts about local historical events, places or organisations in a few descriptive sentences, perhaps with a photograph. Please send your contributions "C is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 October, via the addresses shown on page 4.*

B is for ... Bowls Club

In 1970 Purton formed a bowls club and the trustee's granted them the use of the old tennis courts by the side of the Red House for a period of time to practice their skills. At an AGM officers were elected with Mr A Harris as President, Mr F Comley Vice President, Mr LR Jones Chairman, Mr C David Secretary, Mr E Bartlett Treasurer and Match Secretary, and Captain Mr H Mills.

Twenty Four games had been arranged for the first year. The council was then approached to see if an area could be found to create a proper bowls rink. Two options were looked at and eventually the kitchen garden at the Red House was chosen. Costings were done and £5,000 would be the sum of money needed to be raised. This came from local funding, a donation of £1,770 from the Parish Council's bequest fund and a possible grant from the County Council sports fund. Monies now all arranged, work starts to create a full size six rink green to be completed by 1974, when regular games were arranged. Interesting to note Mr H. Mills was the first singles champion to go on the honours board.

The progression of Purton Bowls Club does not stop there. They needed a proper Club house for changing with washing facilities; once again fund raising starts and members with building skill, Electricians, Plumbers, Carpenters, Painters and general hands all were co-ordinated by Reg Herbert, O.C. in charge, and all the ladies and men worked to produce the splendid Club house we have today. It was completed in 1984 and opened by the Wiltshire Bowls President Mr H. Clarke

To date we still have members with the same skills (younger of course) keeping the Club House and surrounds in top condition and boasting a green to be one of the best in the county. For this we thank Graham Price our head greenkeeper and his band of helpers, not forgetting our members who have served on committee over the years raising funds with galas, race nights, raffles, BBQs, Bonus Ball lottery and so on.

Much more could be said about Purton Bowls, we know we are a small village club but we have produced both men and ladies who have won County and Swindon and district competitions. But most important it's a very happy club who just enjoy bowls.

B is for ... Bells and Bell ringing

The oldest bell at St. Mary's church dates back to 1590 – some 420 years ago – while the newest is just 21 years old. All 8 bells are well maintained and run on new ball-bearings. At its best, bell ringing is an art form, both for the individual ringer as well as for the band as a whole. Ringers strive to perfect their physical control of the bell and good ringing is a truly co-operative effort that benefits from regular practice. Just as artists and musicians get great satisfaction from their

work, bell ringers derive much pleasure from executing a perfect (or near perfect) piece of ringing.

Inevitably as a team effort, bell ringing has a well developed social life and ringing is a good way to find friends. St Mary's bell ringers meet every Friday between 7.30 and 9.00 pm to practice and on Sunday mornings at 10.00 am to ring for the church service. New ringers are always welcome with classes for young people on Mondays at 3.45 pm and classes for adults by arrangement. Further details are available from Graham Quincey 772563.

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 29 October from 9 to 11am. Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Church Floodlighting

With thanks to those who have sponsored floodlighting of St Mary's Church.

- 18/19 September St Mary's was floodlit over the weekend for **Douglas Spackman** (who died 1 October 1995) and for **Queenie Kelly** (who died 19 September 1999)
Dennis and Della Kelly
- 30 September St Mary's Church was floodlit in loving memory of **John Boast** on the 7th anniversary of his death.
Miss and love you always.
Wife Carol and all the family.
Also in memory of **Shaun Adam Roberts**, our tiny Great Grandson who was stillborn on 11 August 2007. Now cradled in the arms of Jesus.
God bless and always in our thoughts.
- 1 October St Mary's Church will be floodlit for friends and neighbours in **Waitemeads Close**.
Just to say sorry I didn't get to say goodbye. A big thank you to you all, my wonderful friends and neighbours, for all the cards, phone calls and flowers that I received. Best Wishes to Greg, Stephanie and Lois who have now moved into my house.
Love from Carol Boast
- 7 October The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Gladys a'Court** on the 7th anniversary of her death.
Remembered by her husband Roy, her sister Doreen and her son Roy.
- 20 October The church will be floodlit at 20:10 on 20/10 2010 to celebrate the end of **the first 100 years of Guiding**. May its light lead us into the next century.



From Cricklade Fire Station

During August crews from Cricklade attended 12 emergency calls:

- 4 Aug at 1715 domestic smoke alarm, false alarm, Cherry Tree Rd, Cricklade
- 5 Aug at 1518 domestic smoke alarm, false alarm, Saxon Close, Cricklade
- 21 Aug at 2002 automatic fire alarm, private residence, Castle Eaton
- 22 Aug at 1800 report of unknown fire, false alarm, Water Eaton
- 24 Aug at 1245 road traffic collision, person trapped, B4040, Minety
- 26 Aug at 0941 flat fire, Saxon close, Cricklade
- 27 Aug at 1728 report of unknown fire, false alarm, B4553 Purton
- 31 Aug at 1455 road traffic collision, person trapped, A419, Latton
plus 4 co-responder calls, Cricklade



We are always looking for new recruits. If you live and/or work in Cricklade, are over 18, fit and well and are able to respond to a pager alert and reach the fire station within 4 minutes you may be the right person for the job. Its a part-time job with a full-time commitment and has excellent job satisfaction serving the community you live in. No prior experience is required as all training is provided.

If you are interested or would like further fire safety information the please call **0800 389 7849**.

Fire Safety Advice - What to do if your Clothes catch Fire

- Don't run around, you'll make the flames worse.
- Lie down and roll around. It makes it harder for the fire to spread.
- Smother the flames with a heavy material, like a coat or blanket.
- Remember, Stop, Drop and Roll!

We Record ...

Baptisms

22 August Lyvia Rose Binstead *at St Mary's Church*

Weddings

21 August Paul Nicholas Trinder and Sophie Dawn Rawlings
at St Mary's Church

4 September Arran James Dickinson and Andrea Louise Jackson
at St Mary's Church

11 September Ryan Hodges and Suzanne Scott *at St Mary's Church*

Funerals

12 August Edith Lane *at St Mary's Church*

24 August May Clifford *at St Mary's Church*

To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on page 4.





Summer 2010 Results Report

We were delighted with our 2010 Year 11 GCSE results across the ability range which saw our headline 5+ A* - C pass rate up to 68%.

Of our 222 Year 11 students this year: 54% (119 students) gained 8 or more higher grade passes (A* - C); 32% (72 students) obtained 10 or more. This year 25% (56 students) achieved 3 or more grades at A*/A. Our highest attaining students this year include:

Harley Viveash (P)	10 A*	Christopher Deeley (BF)	9 A*/1 A	Paul Thomas (BF)	6 A*/4 A
Rachel Greenhill (P)	5 A*/4 A	Freya Anderson (StM)	5 A*/4 A	Neil Ash (SR)	4 A*/7 A
Ben Noble (BF)	4 A*/5 A	Katie Hannay (P)	4 A*/4 A	Natalya Fedai (TR)	3 A*/9 A
Morgan Manning (StM)	3 A*/5 A	Emilie Rothery (SR)	2 A*/6 A	Luke Stewart (TR)	2 A*/6 A
Naomi Hill (BF)	1A*/7 A	Eleanor Symons (StM)	1 A*/7 A	Christine Saunders (StM)	9A

Key to Primary Schools: BF – Brook Field, P – Peatmoor, StM – St Mary's Purton, SR – Shaw Ridge, TR – Tregoze.

The success across the year group is also reflected in our Total Average Point Score per Pupil which is 422 – maintaining the high standards of the last three to four years. (This has been achieved with 'real GCSEs' taken across the curriculum ie without resorting to the use of 'Mickey Mouse' equivalence courses to push up headline rates.) It is also very pleasing that a significant number of students with average scores on entry greatly exceeded their expected grades gaining 5+ higher grade passes (A* - C) - several students gaining seven or more higher grade passes and a number with A and B grades.

GCSE Results Day 2010

On results day virtually the entire year group came into school to collect their results personally at 9.00 am - the local press was present and there was a real atmosphere of celebration.

Year Group	Students receiving an award(s)	Tutor Group of the Year	Student of the Year	Sportsman of the Year	Sportswoman of the Year
Year 7	124	7S	Rhian Williams Kirsten Harris Lucy Taylor	Jake O'Neill	Eleasha Kell
Year 8	144	8R	Molly Nowell	Luke Matthews	Rebecca Stevens
Year 9	150	9X	Bernadette Jackson-Parish Charlotte Markham	Jack Allan	Jemma Bradley
Year 10	175	10X	Joshua Yetman	Ediz Donmez	Shannon Stephenson Jemma Showler

Year 10

Well done to the 22 Year 10 students who took GCSE Mathematics (Higher) early which resulted in a 100% pass rate with 95% A*/A grades and to the 52 students who took a full GCSE Language. Also 52 Year 10 students took one language

GCSE with 99% gaining a higher grade (A* - C) pass with 54% of the grades at A* - B. These students will be taking their second language GCSE this summer.

As part of our Able, Gifted and Talented Programme, last year a number of students across the year groups were entered for Language GCSEs. Tala Ghannam (Year 9) gained a C in Arabic, Anastasia Smirnova (Year 8) gained an A* in Polish, Guilherme Jort (Year 11) gained an A in Portuguese and Mustafa Isitmen (Year 11) gained an A in Turkish.

This year Ailsa Calder (Year 9) took GCSE French early gaining an A*. Many thanks to all colleagues (teachers, EAL support staff and teaching assistants) who supported early entry language and Asset Language students.

END OF YEAR AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

For the fifth successive year we held the Year 7 - 10 Assemblies on separate days due to the large number of parents attending over the past few years - this year virtually 1000 parents, relatives and friends attended over the four days! Our Awards Assemblies are a special event for both students and staff, with guests invited each year to present awards. This year our guests were:

Year 7: Mr I Tucker, Headteacher, St Mary's CE Primary School

Year 8: Mr J Cook, Former Governor, Bradon Forest School

Year 9: Mr A Henstridge, Headteacher, Peatmoor Junior School

Year 10: Mr A Haney, Chair of Governors, Bradon Forest School

Awards at Bradon Forest are presented for all aspects of school life – academic, cultural, sporting and social. Each teacher can nominate up to two students per teaching group/tutor group for achievement and/or effort.

The student with the most nominations receives 'The Student of the Year' award and the Tutor Group with the most nominations receives the 'Tutor Group of the Year' award. The inter-form rivalry is as keen for the tutors as it is for the students!

MUSIC AND DRAMA FORTHCOMING EVENTS LIST 2010/11

The following table is a summary of the Arts events known to date. If you visit the Theatre area of our school website (www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk) you will find a wealth of information and a detailed calendar of events which is regularly updated.

Music

14 October 2010	Autumn Music Concert with School Musicians
8 December 2010	Annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Purton
9 December 2010	School Christmas Concert

Drama

14 September 2010	Dario Fo presents 'Francis the Holy Jester'
29 September 2010	Frank Wurzinger's 'The Confetti Maker'
6 and 7 October 2010	Bradon Forest Theatre present 'The Memory of Water'
20 October 2010	Pin the Tale presents 'Catch/Ulov'
15 November 2010	Stewart Wright presents 'The Nothing Show'
1, 2 and 3 December 2010	Bradon Forest Theatre presents 'The Miracle Well'

L SPIERS, Headteacher
