

# Purton Magazine



*Shoobox Filling Day - see page 7  
Photo: Dave Seviour*

December 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 &amp; Fri 2-5pm &amp; 6-8pm Weds 10am-1pm &amp; 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
<b>Schools and Play Groups:</b>		
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](http://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

Perhaps predictably, your magazine this month has details of many Christmas events in and around our community in the coming weeks. We would like to echo the concluding comments of St Mary's Headteacher, Ian Tucker, in his contribution on [page 7](#) when he wishes all of us "a smooth preparation to the festive season".

If past years are any guide, the build up to Christmas seems to be a slow but relentless acceleration of planning and doing, while all the time looking out for those extra events that make the season truly festive. Early in December, Purton Helping Hand will be delivering their vouchers to those who qualify and further information can be found on [page 12](#). If your thoughts are turning to your Christmas cards, the details of the Scouts Christmas post and their specific posting dates also on [page 12](#) might be of interest.

Ordering your Christmas meat might well be on your list and the Exhibit of the Month on [page 8](#) focuses on butchers shops in the village with photographs of shops (and butchers' bicycle plates) back 100 years as well as of our current shop. The quality of Andrew's sausages will be available for taste testing at the Age Concern Christmas Market Stall outside the Pavenhill shops. Sadly it seems that an unfortunate consequence of the new parking restrictions around the 'Top Square' has significantly reduced the amounts of business for some Pavenhill Parade shops and if we don't use them, we could lose them.

Details of many other specially scheduled seasonal events can be found in Purton Placard on [pages 26](#) to [28](#) whereas information about the Santa steam train specials on the doubly lengthened running line at the Swindon & Cricklade Railway are on [page 14](#).

Over the years there have been many interpretations of Ebenezer Scrooge, the principal character in the novel *A Christmas Carol*. At the start of the story he is a cold-hearted, tight-fisted and greedy man who despises Christmas and all things that engender happiness; "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner". Charles Dickens' description of him could hardly be more graphic: "the cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, made his eyes red, his thin lips blue ...". With that image in mind, readers are invited to draw their own conclusions about the curious Purton resident photographed on [page 21](#).

£1

the cost of buying the  
Purton Stoke  
telephone box  
– see [page 24](#)

48

metres from the BT  
exchange and still a slow  
Internet connection  
– see [page 33](#)

326

shoeboxes have been  
filled and despatched  
from Purton this year  
– see [page 6](#)

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**Purton**  
Magazine

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Magazine Committee

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

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**Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions**

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tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**Distribution enquiries only:**

[John Creasey](#)

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

**Also on line at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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## Parish Council News



**New Councillors** – The Parish Council is pleased to report that two new Councillors were co-opted onto the Council at its November meeting namely John Crawford who lives in Purton Stoke and Nick Simpkins who lives at The Hyde. We welcome them both to the Council and hope they find it a satisfying way of serving and helping the community. Both bring new skills and experiences with them which we are sure will be of great benefit to the Council. We look forward to working with them. The number of Councillors now stands at twelve which means that we still have three vacancies to fill so if you have thought about joining the Parish Council or would like more information then please contact the office.

**Bulb Planting Berrimans Wood** – Following on from our Annual Parish Walk and picnic at Berrimans Wood to celebrate the Woodland Trust's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Woods on your Doorstep' initiative, it was agreed by the walkers to spend the £100 grant from Woodland Trust on some wild flowers and bulbs to plant in and around the wood. The Parish Council also contributed £100 to the project.

The following have been purchased: English bluebell bulbs, wood anemone bulbs, primrose and cowslip seeds and a variety of wild flower plants from DASH the wildflower nursery in Cheney Manor. The Scouts Beaver Pack will be helping to plant the seeds and bulbs which will result in them getting their Community Badge, they will be helped by some other volunteers and their children who are also keen to do some planting.

Ron Harris and Tony Richardson have kindly made some bird and bat boxes to place on some of the trees, so thanks for their efforts.

By the time you read this, the planting will have taken place, so thank you to everybody that has been involved. All that is left to do now is to look forward to next spring when we can walk in the woods and see the flush of colour that has been created.

**Dog Fouling remains an issue** – The Community Services who have been cutting the field footpaths that lead from Witts Lane, Waitemead Close and Vasterne Close to the High Street (opposite the Vets) have said they are not prepared to cut them again unless the paths are cleared of dogs' mess. These footpaths are well used and provide a route to school for children which avoids much of the main road making their journey to school safer, but unless things improve in terms of dog fouling the paths are likely to become overgrown in the future. So, if you walk these paths or indeed any other routes, please pick up after your dog. Thank you in anticipation.

**Elm Tree Experiment** – The Parish Council's attention has been drawn to an experiment being carried out to introduce native elm trees back into the countryside. This is a long term project and we have registered to receive one sapling. Likewise the schools can receive a free sapling hence they have notified of this. There is also the opportunity for private individuals to purchase saplings at a modest cost. If you are interested in doing so then please contact Alison

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Nicholson, Project Manager, The Conservation Foundation's 'Great British Elm Experiment' Tel 0207 591 3111,  
email [elms@conservationfoundation.co.uk](mailto:elms@conservationfoundation.co.uk)  
web site: [www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms)

**Area Board Funding** - The Area Board still has funding available to allocate for local projects. If you have a project in mind then contact Alison Sullivan on 07917 721371 or email [alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk) and she will be able to provide you with the necessary forms and information.

**Good Neighbour Co-ordinator** – Community First in partnership with Wiltshire Council and Age UK Wiltshire are looking to appoint a person to carry out this role based in Purton and Braydon for 10 hours per week for £10 per hour gross. The closing date for applications is 3 December and interviews will be held on 14, 15 and 17 December. The job description and person specification, and application form can be downloaded from [www.communityfirst.org.uk/vacancies.htm](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/vacancies.htm). Or email [shoddinott@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:shoddinott@communityfirst.org.uk) or telephone Sally Hoddinott on 01380 732822. See also their advertisement opposite.

**Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:**

- N10/03235/FUL *The Orchard, Hyde Lane*, replacement garage  
N10/03169/FUL *Greenacres, Greenhill*, single storey extension.  
N10/02361/FUL *Clardon Cottage, Clardon Lane*, erection of two-storey side extension & single storey side extension & alterations (revision N08/01032/FUL)  
N10/03476/TCA *Village Centre*, fell 1 horse chestnut.  
N10/03611/TCA *The Orchard, Hyde Lane*, fell 7 leylandii.  
N10/03662/TCA *5 Hillside, Station Road*, fell 1 conifer.

**Happy Christmas** – It is that time of the year again when the Parish Council extends warm wishes to all parishioners at this festive time and hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

**How to contact the Parish Council:**

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

**Website** [www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil](http://www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil)

The 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.

## Shoebox Appeal 2010

I am very pleased to report that 326 filled shoeboxes have been sent from Purton and that £860 was raised to pay for the transportation of these boxes. Our Shoebox Filling Day was very well supported and many children came along to help. The ongoing project has been very successful this year and we sent many more boxes than ever before. My thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success. I hope we can repeat it next year.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator

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## St Mary's School

As St Mary's CE Primary School prepares itself for Christmas, we would like to keep you abreast of our latest developments as well as share with you some of the exciting times ahead.

The new school build continues for us at a good pace, as the Upper School has been completely demolished and the foundations of the new school emerging. We should be able to see the outline of the floor plan soon, and the children are keen to visit the site and see the action close-up.



### Other Highlights For This Term

On Tuesday November 16, around 50 of our children will be joining a choir of around 600 primary school children at the Oasis Leisure Centre in Swindon. This is a part of North Wiltshire Primary Schools Cluster annual music festival and the theme for this year is "Mama Mia". St Mary's very much takes the lead on these events and we are indebted to our music co-ordinator Mrs Fudge who has been organising the event. St Mary's choir will be performing a selection of the songs at the Church Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall, so you can see them there.

Our Christmas programme will very soon be in full swing; Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are already preparing for their Nativity play, and our Key Stage 2 children are having a traditional Carol Service in St Mary's Church. The PTA are having a Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 8 December at 3.30pm in the Lower School Hall with raffle, etc. You are very welcome to attend the Fayre and join us in sampling some of the Christmas delights that will be on offer.

In the meantime, on behalf of all the children and staff at St Mary's CE Primary School, I would like to wish you a smooth preparation to the festive season.

*I. TUCKER, Headteacher*

#### DISCLAIMER

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

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

Purton Magazine is a totally independent publication and is, in no way whatsoever, connected to any other publication, whether local or otherwise.

## Exhibit of the Month: Butchers' Shops

With Christmas this month, you may be thinking of ordering your goose or turkey ... Or may be ahead of the game and have already done it! The butcher's is a good place to get it from and that got me round to thinking of the many butchers that have supplied to Purton in the past and the present day. There is a notice on the wall as you go up the stairs in the Museum which records that in 1855 there were 2 butchers (3 including a farmer-butcher) among the 94 self-employed traders of the village. There were however 48 farmers and 7 beer retailers (pubs).



*JC Wilkins, Lower Square  
(later LF Mitchard & Sons  
then This & That*



*Top: bicycle trade plate c 1920  
Below: receipt - beef at 1 shilling  
a pound in 1936!*



*The butcher's shop in  
Lower Square with delivery  
horse and cart*



*As LF Mitchard &  
Sons*



*Left & bottom left:  
Bob Unitt,  
High Street in 1987  
(now a private  
house).*

*Right: bicycle  
trade plate AW  
Giles & Sons  
C 1920-30*



*Right: Mussell's  
Pork Butchers, High  
Street c1910 where  
the Co-op was later  
to be. (Now a  
private house)*





Above: JA Harris, The Parade, Pavenhill (photos from 1987)

Below: Now Andrew Hiscock's (photos November 2010)



So, Merry Christmas and enjoy your turkey wherever it comes from!

There will as ever, be clearer picture on the website at [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://www.purtonmuseum.com).

*RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer*

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

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

## 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group News

The Group has kicked off to a busy start to a new Scouting year.

The Beaver colony has been very busy making cakes and raised £65 to give to the Cedars later this month. They are hoping to visit the Cedars as part of their Community Challenge Badge to present this donation. The Beavers are also going to be helping to plant wild flowers and bulbs last this month at Berrimans Wood, which will really help to make this area more attractive for everyone to enjoy.

The Cubs have been working towards their Creative Challenge and all made beautiful vegetable sculptures (veggie men and monsters!) to take to the Harvest Service. They also had a great time at the Cricklade Leisure Centre under the guidance of the centre instructors, on the new climbing wall. Later this month they will be visiting a local farm, and the Cotswold Wildlife Park as part of their pet carer badge.

Scouts have taken part in a 'Gambian Day' and hope to re-establish links with a Scout Troop in Gambia. See our website at [www.plscouts.org.uk](http://www.plscouts.org.uk) to view their pictures of the day.

Lastly a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Scout Firework display at Lydiard Park – the weather was very kind to us again, and hundreds of people had a very lively and entertaining evening!

*JAN FISHER, Assistant Group Scout Leader.*

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## A Good Year for The Church?

The clear answer to that question from many readers must be ... 'Hardly! Nationally our media have bombarded us with squabbles over women bishops. From Iraq we hear news of church congregations being attacked by gunmen and here we still have no vicar.

The pulse of the church worldwide will doubtlessly be checked frequently over Christmas. But what of the state of health locally? Does Purton deserve a vicar? Earlier this year the parish was assessed. Was it a place that would warrant the appointment of that increasingly scarce resource – paid clergy to do parish work? Was it a place where there was a committed team ready to be co-ordinated, encouraged, enabled and worked with? Or was it somewhere where any vicar would largely struggle on their own and the parish should be merged with another? Real questions governing today's decisions.

Purton passed the test. Aided by the results of the village survey we have met, planned, discussed, written documents, negotiated with church authorities and prayed – perhaps a bit more than usual.

However seldom does it seem there has been rest from being active in the parish and the village. You may have seen church members on Good Friday morning, along with other local worshippers, carrying a cross from street corner to street corner – stopping to invite public consideration of that special day and leaving a few reminders to help everyone reflect for a moment on 'why Easter?'

You may have seen our two pastoral assistants on one of their many visits slipping in or out of one of our residential care homes or conversing on the ups, downs and disasters of everyday life outside the Post Office or in front of the butcher's. You may have been along to the church organised Parliamentary Hustings where a school hall packed with seemingly every age group quizzed our candidates on affairs of state and common ethical matters of life and death. You may have seen groups of 12- to 14-year-olds making their way to an evening exploring moral and of faith issues with our joint church youth worker – now held in Purton Youth Club buildings. You may have joined an adult lent group – this year looking especially at the issues of sacrifice and service as they affect military families – or you may have taken younger children along to the summer activity week. In all, we hope you will have noticed that everything has not stopped!

Indeed, some of these things have started. Our church building is one resource we have to share. Since their rebuilding work began in the summer St Mary's school has gathered in church for assemblies six or seven times – a rare opportunity now for the whole school to be together at one time. A record number of children and helpers joined this year's Maundy Thursday active learning day – covering the church with creative movement and colour.

At Harvest this year with two open school assemblies and a seasonal Sunday Family Service, over 500 people enjoyed music, drama, worship and education in the building over the period – over half of these young people. Here – hopefully sending a strong message, especially to the farmers in our community, that they are remembered and valued. At Christmas we again expect at least twice that

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number at our range of services, Crib, Midnight, Christmas morning and Carols by Candlelight. These in addition to our two school and parent carol services provide for a wide public who, however hard commercialism might tempt, cannot divorce Christmas from its roots in the church.

All this is in addition to 15 weddings, regular funerals, frequent baptisms, a major home-grown church music concert and a programme of worship three times every Sunday – co-ordinated by our church wardens and led by a team of visiting clergy, assisted by lay people – to all of whom we are most grateful.

A good year here? The aim of our Church of England diocese is that we will all learn skills during a vacancy which can usefully accompany those of the person who is subsequently recruited. Time will tell how valuable this period has been. Whatever we have learnt this year we hope that during the next we will be able to put it together with the knowledge, understanding and ability to inspire of 'one who is to come' – a traditional rallying call for advent – a present day hope for the village and parish of Purton. In this, if you do believe it has a place in life – pray with us that hope will be realised in such a way that this village is blessed – and in turn so too will be a wider world.

DAVID MARTIN, *St Mary's PCC*

## Cricklade Band News

What a night! *Hogtoberfest III* filled Cricklade Leisure Centre and we still had a waiting list for tickets. We think we now hold something of a record in Cricklade – 400 people taking part in the *Hogfest Conga*, with the band leading. *Hogtoberfest* may take a rest next year but don't worry, as you'd expect, we have a few ideas up our sleeves to give you a 2011 Big Night Out which will be every bit as good!

On to the What's On – we have our 2010 Christmas Show at the Leisure Centre on Sunday 19 December at 7.30pm. Keep an eye out for the posters detailing where you can get tickets at just a fiver.

As well as all the carols and Christmas music you'd expect to sing, there will be the band's own over-the-top theatrical take on something festive! Oh, and there's also festive refreshments including wine by the glass, there's our huge raffle kindly supported by Cricklade traders and businesses and there's also a bar upstairs.

Talking of bars – the band was founded at the *Three Horseshoes* in Cricklade in November 1887 and to our knowledge has been out and about in the streets sort of 'wassailing' in the lead up to Christmas ever since. The band itself and the Prospect Foundation will benefit from your kind donations.

Of course, to continue the band's success we have our *BandAcademy*, that's the bit where we teach the musicians of the future. If you or anyone you know would like to see what we do, just drop into *The Club at Cricklade*, any Monday or Thursday evening, we'll be very pleased to meet you.

PAUL HEWER

## Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 17 December 9.00am to 11.00am. 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).

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## Swindon Scouts Christmas Post – 2010

As usual, 1<sup>st</sup> Purton and Lydiard Scout Group will be participating in Swindon Scout Christmas Post! We will be selling stamps from early November at our usual locations: In Touch Services, Best One and, new to Purton this year, Shear Success!



All profits go to run Scouting in the Swindon, Purton, Highworth and Wootton Bassett areas.

Christmas cards must be properly addressed including postcode and only posted in the Special Scout Post Boxes. Stamps are 18p each, a real saving! Please **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through Royal Mail post boxes. They are not valid and the receiver of the card will have to pay a £1 surcharge!

**Posting is between : 7 December and  
4.00pm on Tuesday 14 December 2010**

The cards will be delivered between 18 and 22 December 2010.

The delivery area for the Swindon Scout Christmas Post is Swindon Borough and some of the surrounding towns and villages is as follows:

**Swindon Borough:** this includes all areas of Swindon, Badbury, Bishopstone, Blunsdon, Burderop, Chiseldon, Draycott Foliat, Elcombe, Hannington, Highworth, Hinton Parva, Hodson, Inglesham, Langton Park, Liddington, Overtown, Red Barn, South Leaze, South Marston, Stanton Fitzwarren, Stratton St Margaret, Thorney Park, Wanborough, West Leaze, Wroughton.

**Other Towns and Villages:** we deliver to Wootton Bassett, Purton, Lydiard Millicent, Bushton, Clyffe Pypard, Tockenham, Broad Town, Cricklade, Latton, Ashton Keynes, Shrivenham, Watchfield, Bourton, Idstone, Ashbury & Kingston Winslow.

We **DO NOT** deliver to any other location.

Thank you everyone for supporting us; especially the local businesses for housing our boxes and selling stamps! A wonderful contribution.

### Purton Helping Hand

We shall be delivering your Christmas Vouchers as soon after 1 December as possible. If you think you qualify, but have not received one, please telephone either Audrey (771540) or Pauline (770251).

Qualification is as follows:

- Couples: Man 65 and lady 60.
- Single: Man 65 or lady 60.
- Widows: Any age
- Severely handicapped: Any age



We would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported us all through the year in many ways, organising, caring, delivering and all donations from families and friends which amaze us every time. Thank you so much and our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*PAULINE WARD, Chairman*

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## Green Tips: Parish Stewards – Who are they?



Wiltshire Highways Service has 20 stewards, who each look after the general function and appearance of the roads, footways and furniture in their individual areas. Towns and villages are visited on a monthly basis in a programme, which is sent to each local council in advance of the visit. The duration of each visit is varied to meet the needs of each local council.

The stewards are equipped with a purpose-built vehicle, which is clearly marked and fully equipped to attend to most events. A system of satellite tracking and mobile radio and telephone communications enable the stewards to respond very rapidly to a wide variety of problems that occur on the roads.

The scheme was introduced in the autumn of 2006 and has proved extremely popular with many parish and town councils. The work of the stewards has begun to restore the appearance of many areas, a process often regarded as crucial in protecting civic pride.

Examples of winter work, that are routinely undertaken include:

- Hand-clearing of drainage grips and drain gully covers
- Clearance of small culverts, pipes and pits.
- Clearance of storm debris
- Trimming of encroaching hedges from around road signs
- Cleaning and straightening small road signs
- Hand cutting small visibility areas

In the summer, tasks may also include:

- Painting railings
- Cutting growth from around signs and railings
- Cutting growth from drainage grips
- Removal of ragwort
- Treatment/removal of weeds, in rural areas

During times of extreme weather, the stewards are the first line of response, during normal working hours. Outside of normal hours most stewards also actively participate on a call-out basis.

The stewards do not operate in isolation and are supported in their role by many mechanised resources, where the work exceeds what one person may achieve. They have access to verge mowers, high-pressure drain cleaning machines and the county's multi-purpose fleet of Unimog vehicles.

We hope that you find this useful.

*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](http://www.purtoninfo.org.uk)*

*Ps and Qs would also like to know if there are any special topics that readers would like to see in the Magazine.*

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## Swindon & Cricklade Railway

**Santa Specials: 11.00am to 4.00 pm.**

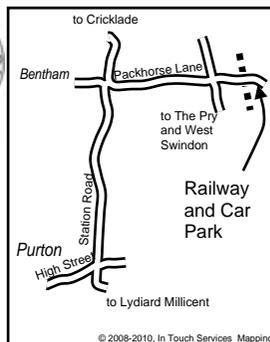
**Sat/Sun 27/28 November**

**Sat/Sun 4/5 December**

**Sat/Sun 11/12 December**

**Sat/Sun/Mon/Tue 18/19/20/21 December**

**also 6.00 pm to 8.00pm on 11 December only.**



Once again Santa will be in his grotto at the end of the steam train ride with a friendly welcome and a quality present for each child. Our Santa events always score highly against other railways, and this year we have doubled the length of our running line. There is a cafeteria, shop, museum and free parking. Ticket prices to be announced on radio or visit our web site [www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org](http://www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org) nearer the time.

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.

## Dodecantus

By popular demand, Dodecantus and the Broad Hinton Amateur Dramatic Society are holding another Christmas event from 7.00pm on **Saturday 11 December** in the delightful Broad Hinton Village Hall.



Last year's inaugural event was a complete sell-out and the same successful format will be used this year. A welcoming glass of mulled wine will be followed by lashings of hot food and there will also be a cash bar for the more thirsty guests!

The evening's entertainment will feature several seasonal readings by members of the Broad Hinton Amateur Dramatic Society interspersed with many old musical favourites performed by Dodecantus including *White Christmas*, *The Christmas Song*, *Jingle Bells* and *Rudolph* plus a few new surprises in their repertoire – many of which can be found on their new "A Family Christmas" CD, copies of which can be bought at the event. For catering purposes, there are only a limited number of tickets for this event and they are already selling quite fast. Tickets are £15 each and are available from Francis Sheppard (01793 771018) or Tim Lewis (01672 539607).

In a more classical vein, Dodecantus will also be performing their more traditional Christmas concert in St Augustine's church, Rodbourne on **Friday 10 December** at 7.30pm. The programme this year has a distinct French flavour with two pieces by Jean Langlais, his *Messe Solennelle* and *7 Noëls Populaires Anciens*. Although their fascination with another French composer, Francis Poulenc continues with 4 part songs for 6 voices called "*Un soir de neige*" the concert will also include two Spanish carols by Andrew Carter and Herbert Howell's *A Spotless Rose*. Again, tickets are available from Francis Sheppard or Tim Lewis.

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## Purton Evening WI



“Who discovered America?” asked Dave Seviour at our meeting of 20 October. We saw for the first time photographs of the far north of America, showing a bleak, harsh landscape – perhaps it took men of the Viking character to settle there. Whoever they were, it would appear that a good many brave souls had taken possession, long before Christopher Columbus! It was a fascinating talk, raising questions to which we don’t yet know the answers – and demonstrated the diverse interests that stimulate the members of the Women’s Institute, as could be heard at question time! Many thanks to Mr Seviour for bringing this subject to our attention. Many of us said we would like to see the area for ourselves – but the cold is extreme so I suspect we shall stick to admiring the photographs ...

Mrs Gladys Legg took the Chair as our President was unable to attend, and all ran smoothly. Business matters, tea and biscuits and a quiz for social time brought us right back to our warm comfort zone and concluded an enjoyable evening.

October was an active month for your Committee, who attended the Autumn Council Meeting at City Hall, Salisbury on 25 October. The Forest Group’s Autumn Meeting was held at Hook Village Hall the following day, our WI supplying the flowers. Later, members greatly enjoyed “Confessions of a Pantomime Dame” held at Hook Village Hall on 1 November.

As Christmas approaches we are able to enjoy seasonal jollifications of other WIs, so do be sure to look at the Information table and also refer to your WFWI Newsletter for details of current events. The event of the month is, of course, our own Birthday/Christmas party to be held on Wednesday 15 December – at the Silver Threads Hall. Time to think about organising your (competitive!) table. The entertainment will be provided by Chris Hinder on “The History of the Harp”.

*CONSTANCE REED*

## Children In Need Walk

The second walking treasure hunt, run by Purton Children In Need committee, was another success despite the rather unsettled weather. We had 48 adults, about 20 kids and an assortment of dogs. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and, as it was relatively easy to organise we will arrange another walk in the spring. We made £128 for Children in Need. The barbecue also seemed to be a success, probably due to the appetizing smell of fried onions. Many thanks to The Red House for the use of the skittle alley.



We have kept a fairly low profile this year as there still doesn’t seem to be a lot of money about but we are constantly being asked when we are going to organize another ball. Some of you must have some money then. The answer is – next year. It’s all in the ideas stage at the moment but we are thinking of having it in the late spring. That’s all we know at the moment but I’ll publicize more details when we know them.

*TONY RICHARDSON*

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## Purton & District Age Concern



I don't think I have ever written about anyone for whom I have had such admiration or someone that I would like to have been made in the same mould. The gentleman I am talking about is Geoff Webb. As Robert, Geoff and Sheila's son, said in his tribute to his dad – the world would be a much better place if it was made up of gentle souls like him. One thing for certain is that everyone would be humming and smiling. Geoff was a really smashing person, a true gentleman, somebody who could talk to anyone and there would always be a little funny story at the end – that was Geoff and we all loved him for it. Whenever we met he would tell whoever he was with that I was the chap keeping him alive, as he was frightened to die because of what I would write about him in the magazine. Well Geoff, it's happened and I sincerely hope I can do you justice. I know you will be looking down at me, but with your nature, if there is anything you do not agree with, you will only smile, so I have no worries.

Geoff was born in Goddard Avenue in Swindon. I didn't hold this against him as he spent a great deal of his life in Purton and what a blessing when he and Sheila moved back to Purton to Norbury Court. You felt you wanted to put the flags out and have a band playing to welcome them back. Geoff's family moved about quite a bit before settling in Purton, in fact some of Geoff's family were born in Plymouth. His father worked in the mileage office in the Great Western works in Swindon and the family used to joke that he rode a bike. Our two families became firm friends when, after the First World War, they lived in Purton Stoke in the red brick Council houses by *The Bell*. As I have often mentioned, our family lived in the one next to *The Bell*. I won't go into detail about that as I was born in The Peak. My parents and brother Godfrey had moved to The Peak in the 1930s and the Webb family had moved from Stoke to Station Road. I must have been about five years old and, along with my mum and dad, I went down to Station Road to see the Webbs. The purpose of the visit was to tell them that there would be a council house going next door to us and to see if they would like to put in for it, which they did and we had the best neighbours anyone could wish for.

When I think of Geoff, he was like Norman Wisdom – you only had to look at him and he made you smile. Perhaps he wasn't quite as agile but, in saying that, I remember when I was home poorly from school and in bed and the electric light bulb went, Geoff was home on leave and was asked to replace it. He got on the bed and was bouncing and falling and going all ways. I don't know whether I felt better after or not but I do know that my sides were aching and I was crying with laughter. Geoff would often say to me 'Do you want any bulbs changing?' Geoff was a fitter and turner in the GWR, working a lot of the time in the AE shop along with his mate John Sorsby, who also lived in The Peak at that time. What a great community we had there and us children had freedom without any fears. Geoff and John's friendship was really something, lasting over eighty years. It started when Geoff was eleven and moved from Purton Stoke school to St Mary's. Children from Stoke were issued with council bikes to take them to school and back. John and Geoff did everything together, singing in St Mary's Church choir, ringing the bells,

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serving on the altar, going on holidays together and joining the army together, going in the Royal Engineers. They were only split up when John was posted to the Middle East and Geoff to Burma, where there must have been some of the worst fighting in the 1939-45 war. When they returned from the war, their friendship continued – they were best men at each other's weddings. Their friendship was remarkable as they were entirely different characters – John was more reserved and shy whereas Geoff was very forthcoming, especially with his stories.

Geoff met Sheila on a Conservative bicycle ride. I don't know whether that is strictly true as he always told me that they had met in the revolving doors and had been going round together every since! When they first got married they lived in Lydiard, where Geoff was organist, choir master and leader of the Church Youth Fellowship. I am told that Geoff, through his knowledge of music, gave the choir a real love of all types of music. In fact, before choir practice, he would do a little request for choir members – anything they chose and it didn't have to be religious. In those days, life in the churches was very strict and, one evening before choir practice, he was playing 'Soldier, soldier won't you marry me' and the Revd Hazeldene's daughter came into the Church and told him to stop playing such frivolous stuff as the organ was only meant for religious music. Also, when the Youth Fellowship was playing bingo or lotto, they called the game 'out of the little bag' to disguise it.

When you speak of churches and chapels around Swindon and beyond, I doubt if there are any Geoff hasn't played in. Geoff was a marvellous man who gave so much pleasure to so many people with his music and humour – what lovely memories he leaves behind. To Sheila and Robert and their family, we thank you for sharing such an inspiring man with us. I know all your friends and neighbours at Norbury have been very kind but could I give a special mention to Rose and John Stump. I know Sheila and Robert greatly appreciated all your help – you are very kind.

*TONY PRICE*

## After 8

We met in October to plan our activities and events for the rest of 2010 and into 2011.

The meeting went very well and lots of ideas were thrown into the hat for the end of this year and next year. Our monthly meeting for December is a get together at Mary Smith's house on Tuesday 14 December to welcome Christmas. As usual Santa will be leaving us a sack of unexpected gifts!

2011 starts off with Jan's New Year's Quiz in Jan and then a late Christmas meal in February. "Passage to India" in March will be an account of a new member's month long stay in India helping out a charity. April sees us enjoying 'Poetry Corner' and lots more is planned for the rest of 2011.

*GILL McCOMBE*

Anyone is welcome to join us. Contact Avril or Janet.



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## Purton Diary - December 2010

1	W	7.30pm	Christmas Whist Drive at Silver Threads Hall (Helping Hand)
2	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
3	F	6.30pm	Friends of Guiding Coffee & Carols at Village Hall
		7.30pm	Purton Historical Society Christmas Social, Silver Threads Hall
4	Sa	10.00am	to 2pm: Jubilee Gardens Open Day
		5.00pm	to 8.30pm: Age Concern Christmas party for the elderly at the Village Hall
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5	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Junior Church Anniversary and Parade Service at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	to 4pm: Christmas Bazaar at Village Hall (under 5's Playgroup)
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
7	Tu	10.00am	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
8	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship Christmas Meeting at Hooks Hill
		3.30pm	Christmas Fayre in St Mary's School Lower School Hall (PTA)
		7.30pm	Christmas Bingo at Silver Threads Hall (Helping Hand)
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the Village
		10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee Morning at 18 Church Path
		7.30pm	Thamesdown Ladies Choir Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church
11	Sa	9.30am	to 12 noon: Age Concern Christmas Market Stall at Pavenhill shops
		5.30pm	to 10pm: Family Christmas Disco at Village Hall (Baby & Toddler Group)
		7.30pm	Race Night at the Red House Club
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12	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
13	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
14	Tu	12noon	to 4pm: Silver Threads Christmas Party
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
		8.00pm	After 8 at Mary Smith's
15	W	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee & Carols @ Coffee & Chat, Silver Threads Hall
		2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Silver Threads Hall: Birthday/Christmas Party: Chris Hinder - <i>The History of the Harp</i>

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18	Sa	6.00pm	Pies & Punch with Carols at Live & Let Live, Upper Pavenhill
19	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Holy Communion at Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
20	M	7.45pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Thamesdown Ladies Choir - Rose Stump
21	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
22	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
24	F	4.00pm	Crib Service at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Carol Singing under the Christmas Tree at the Institute with Hot Punch and Mince Pies
		11.30pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
25	Sa		<b>Christmas Day</b>
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Christmas Day Service at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
26	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
			NO Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's Church
27	M		<b>Christmas Bank Holiday</b>
28	Tu		<b>Boxing Day Bank Holiday</b>
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club social afternoon
31	F		<b>New Year's Eve</b>

**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**

5 December     
 13 December     
 21 December     
 29 December

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](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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



**CHRISTMAS CONCERTS:** Preparations are underway for our traditional Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 7pm. In addition, the Music Department is also running a Christmas Music Concert on Thursday 9 December 2010 at 7.30pm at the school.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES SILVER MEDAL**

It was fantastic to see ex-Bradon Forest Student, Grant Turner, help the England men's 4 x 100 free relay team to a silver medal at the recent Commonwealth Games in Delhi. On the third leg, Grant Turner (Loughborough) held off the other nations handing over to Adam Brown (Hatfield) who duelled for the lead but couldn't hold onto the eventual winners Australia.

*Picture Courtesy of Swindon Advertiser*



### **YEAR 7 ICT AWARDS 2010**



The awards included our annual Year 7 ICT awards. These are based on the ICT homework that was set during the Year 7 Induction in July and the students with the best two projects in each tutor group were provided with a certificate to celebrate their achievement.

Congratulations to the following students for being the winners of the ICT challenge:

7P Amie Griffiths and Ashleigh Wyatt, 7Q Jack Stollery-Clark and Louis Sullivan, 7S Rhianna Bryon and Alyssa Weymouth, 7T Jake Painter and Danielle Spiers, 7W James Keen and Phoebe Tyler, 7X Beth Adams and Callum Bragg, 7Y Aimee Davenport-Banks and Jessica Davenport-Banks, 7Z Kirstie Ambrose and Matthew Holme. Jack Stollery-Clark (7Q) was the overall winner of the ICT challenge and students from 7Y and Miss Parsloe had the most entries for the ICT Challenge.

**PURTON'S LOCAL FOOD IN BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT:** A group of Year 7 students took part in British Food Fortnight with the help of Aramark Chef Barry Fairchild. Barry came in to work with students to talk about the importance of using seasonal British products as well as locally produced products. Purton House Organics very kindly supplied the fruit, vegetables, venison and pigeon for the session, all of which came from their land. The students watched Barry demonstrate how to make an apple and blackberry crumble which they then had to replicate. The students had been set the homework task to collect blackberries

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from the hedgerows near where they live. They rose to this challenge incredibly well and all came in armed with more than enough blackberries for their crumbles.

Barry demonstrated two more dishes but this time for the students to try. He produced a pigeon breast salad using winter salad leaves and hazelnuts, and a venison loin served with red cabbage and a beetroot salad. The students dug into



these more unusual dishes and the feedback was excellent. The students all left the session with delicious-looking crumbles to take home. 'Love British Food' e-mailed to tell Miss Kinsey, Head of Food, that Bradon Forest is featured on their website as one of the 'inspiring schools' of British Food Fortnight. The article highlighted the group's work and also featured a quote from Miss Kinsey: "*British Food Fortnight is always a great occasion and a brilliant way of highlighting to students the importance of using locally sourced produce.*"

**SAFE DRIVE, STAY ALIVE ROADSHOW:** Many thanks to Mr Bray, Head of Key Stage 4, and all involved with taking all Year 11 students to the *Safe Drive, Stay Alive Roadshow* at the Empire Cinema last month. This is an annual event organised by Wiltshire Emergency Services for all Year 11s in Wiltshire and Swindon. It aims to educate young drivers about the dangers and responsibilities associated with driving. This forms a very valuable, if hard-hitting, part of our Year 11 PSHE programme.

*On behalf of the Bradon Forest School community I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.*

*L SPIERS, Headteacher*

## A Curious Purton Resident



Chris Glead saw this good looking chap in the wall at the entrance to Reids Piece.

Can anyone say what it is, what it means and why it is there, please?

Answers to Purton Magazine, please - details are on page 4.

## Church Floodlighting

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

- 3 November St Mary's was floodlit on 3 November in memory of **Len Fryer**, on the occasion of his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday. Why you left me so suddenly I will never know. Thinking of you every day  
Wondering why you had to go.  
Yours always, Trish.
- 19 November St Mary's was floodlit on 19 November in memory of **Duncan Bamford's** birthday. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey, Howard and family.
- 4 December St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Mabel Bunce** (Auntie Mabel) on the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death. From David, Davina and all her family and friends.
- 19 December The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Elsie Goodings** on 19 December, on what would have been her birthday. From Pete Goodings.
- 25 & 26 December **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**  
St Mary's Church will be floodlit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, to wish all Purtonians a very Happy Christmastide.
- 26 December The Church will be floodlit on 26 December for **William (Bill) Fowler**. Remembering a dear Father, Grandad , on the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. From his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- 28 December St Mary's Church will be floodlit on 28 December in memory of **Nelson Woolford** on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Also in memory of Mary. Loved and remembered always. Barbara, Martin, Alan and families.

*Floodlighting contact: Libbie, tel 771018*

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives and works in The Fox, The Pry, and Collins Lane. 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.

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## Purton Historical Society



It struck me as I put the date at the top of this article that it is nearly another year gone by. It's true what they say that the years go faster as you get older. It hardly seems a while since I was wishing everyone a happy New Year.

Our only activity this month is our Christmas Social on Friday 3 December. Remember that it is in The Silver Threads Hall this year at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 available from myself on 770755 or Jacqui on 770836. This includes a glass of wine or fruit juice, lucky ticket draw, raffle and a buffet supper. This year for entertainment the *Western Players* will be giving us a Murder Mystery evening.

A date for us to put in our new Christmas diaries is Thursday 27 January, 7.30pm at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. Dr John Belt will be talking to us of "The White Maharajah of Sarawak" and telling us of the Purton connection.

The Swindon Society are having their Christmas social this month, so no meeting. The Cricklade Society will meet on Saturday 18 December in their Museum at 11.00am for their Christmas draw.

The only talk for December is at the Wootton Bassett Historical Society in the Civic Centre on Thursday 9 December at 7.30pm. Alan Kirton will be giving his talk on "The Rochdale Pioneers" so, if you missed him when he spoke to us in September, pop over to Wootton Bassett as it is a very good talk.

Remember if you need a small Christmas present the Historical Society has two books on Purton for sale from the Museum or myself, "The Workhouses of Purton and the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Union" and "Records and Recollections of Purton & District". These are priced at only £3.00 a copy, very good value.

*EVE BOOY, Secretary*

## Purton Guide Dogs

Here we are with the final magazine piece for 2010. Just the one venue to report on since last month's entry – this is our Jumble Sale which was on 23 October. It was a fairly quiet day, but we managed to make £56.80.



The amazing committee and I (we have now clocked up 29 years) would like to thank you for all your support, and to wish you all the very best for Christmas.

*BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group*

## PADS Panto

PADS pantomime this season will be "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe". It's a traditional panto with the usual cast of characters: villain, dame, pretty heroine and of course the dashing hero. Performances will be on Thursday 3 Friday 4 and Saturday 5 February, with a matinée on the Saturday. Curtains up at 7.30pm on the evening performances and 2.30pm on the Saturday matinée. Tickets will be £6 adults £4 concessions.



Posters will go up nearer the time detailing where tickets may be bought so please keep your eyes out for them.

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## The Telephone Kiosk in Purton Stoke

It's scary. What is? (or was).

The witch in the telephone kiosk, that's what.

So said Jackie at The Bell Inn. She went on to explain that, as she got close, the witch's demonic red eyes seemed to be following her as she walked around.

This story is getting confusing, so I'd better start at the beginning.

Earlier this year Purton Stoke, with the invaluable help of Purton Parish Council, took over the red Telephone kiosk from BT. It was bought for the princely sum of £1, as part of their "Adopt a phone box scheme". If the village had not acquired it, BT would have removed it because of its limited usage.

There are more than 12,000 kiosks nationwide and more than 6,000 are suitable for adoption by local communities who would like to retain these British design icons. Over 2,000 have been adopted to date, and many have been listed or had a preservation order put on them.

The first telephone kiosks were introduced in 1880 but the first of the red telephone kiosks, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1924, was the K2, which was brought into service in 1926 in London. Ten years later Scott refined his design and the famous K6 or "Jubilee Kiosk" was installed nationwide to celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee. Sadly, he didn't live to see them in place.

The Purton Stoke Kiosk working party consisting of Howie Ockwell and Jim Caslaw with support from Roger Jack, met at 10am each Monday morning and began the task of renovating and painting. The first thing to do was to assess its present condition. We discovered it was a K6B model, in cast iron, made at the Lion Foundry at Kirkintilloch in 1937. There were a few patches of rust but overall it had been well maintained. The painting was rough and uneven and the final layer was peeling off, but the teak door was free from rot. The windows were the original glass. (In other kiosks these had been replaced with plastic). Two of the top TELEPHONE signs needed replacement so temporary ones reading TARDIS and PURTON STOKE were fitted.

The first decision to make was whether we wanted to restore it to its original 1937 condition with the appropriate telephone equipment etc. or not. We decided that for our village the design, location, appearance and colour were the most important factors i.e. the form rather than the function. We therefore began by removing everything that was no longer required or made the kiosk look untidy. The back panel, which had been used to hold the telephone equipment, was taken out, and replaced with a white one. The ground around the kiosk was levelled, and stray wires and surplus concrete patches were removed. In the rear panel there were many holes that had been used for wiring and then abandoned over the years. These were all covered, in some cases by discontinued half pennies.

Now we were ready to paint. First, all ten surfaces were washed and rubbed



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down and an undercoat applied. (I wanted to paint it in the colours of the rainbow in layers from the bottom, but I was overruled). Instead we gave it two topcoats of special "post office red" paint. (Surprisingly other colours, green, yellow, white and battleship grey have been used at some locations in the past. Ours however, had 73 years of red paint on it). The inside top surface was painted white and the four Tudor crowns were painted gold. Kiosks installed after 1953 had Elizabethan crowns. A lock was fitted to the door.

Apart from an iconic feature at the entrance to the village, what will we use it for?

We found out that BT had organised a competition to find out how communities were going to use their adopted kiosks. They included installing a mannequin dressed as a seasonal, historical or fictional character, with the story in the local magazine, an art gallery, a place for advertising, an information centre about local wildlife etc., an exhibition of local photographs, a Tourist Information Point, a poetry box for original or favourite poems, and a "swap box" for books, fruit and veg. etc. One favourite was as an exhibition space for locals to entertain, educate or amuse their fellow villagers.



All of the above are being considered, but as a start a Halloween theme seemed to be a good idea. Hence the witch, the spiders and the bats that led to Jackie's comments after she first walked across the road to see what this strange woman was doing in the phone box!

I know a lot of people are going to rush down to see the gleaming red kiosk so I should add that there has been another striking change too. Matthew Scott made two large planters and they have been installed either side of the kiosk. The surplus soil from our annual "Potato in a Bucket" competition was added and Jubilee Gardens completed it with the planting of primula and winter flowering pansies. As a final flourish Village Signs were fixed to the front of the planters.

I know I am biased but I think the Village has gained a classy entrance. It is also worth saying, in these difficult financial times, that the whole venture has been self-financed, so everyone who helped deserves a big thanks.

Keep watching the kiosk for further developments.

*JIM CASLAW*

## Purton Carnival 2011

### **3 - 11 June – Theme: Musicals**

No more news to report until after Christmas and then it will be go-go-go so I hope you will be getting your ideas working in the meantime. Our thanks for all your help and support this year and we hope you will be able to 'give a hand' somewhere in 2011. A very Happy Christmas and Successful New Year from us to all of you.

*PAULINE WARD, Secretary*

# PURTON PLACARD

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

## **Purton Twinning Association Christmas Quiz Night**

Friday 17 December  
Where: Silver Threads Hall, Purton  
Time: 7.30pm for 8.00pm start  
Cost: £5.00 per person,  
which includes a ploughman's supper.  
Teams: No more than 6 in a team  
Prizes for winners and booby prize.  
Licensed Bar will be available.  
To book please contact  
Mrs. S. Brown, 7 Witfield Close,  
PURTON,  
Wiltshire, SN5 4HB

## **Purton Historical Society Christmas Social**

Friday 3 December  
at 7.30 pm  
Silver Threads Hall  
The Western Players will give us  
a Murder Mystery Evening  
£10 to include:-  
a glass of wine or fruit juice  
a raffle  
a Lucky Ticket draw  
Buffet supper

## **Purton Helping Hand Christmas Whist Drive**

Wed 1 Dec 7.30pm  
Silver Threads Hall  
**Christmas Bingo**  
Wed 8 December 7.30pm  
Silver Threads Hall  
Minibus: Tel 770251

## **Thamesdown Ladies Choir A Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church, Purton With Guests the Peartree Peelers handbells**

Friday 10 December  
7.30pm  
Tickets £5 or pay on the door  
Tel 770375, 772587

## **Race Night**

in aid of  
Pinehurst Netball Club  
on Saturday 11 December  
7.30pm at the  
Red House, Purton

## **St Sampson's Church Christmas Tree Festival 2010**

Friday 3 December 7pm – 9pm  
Saturday 4 December 10 am – 4 pm  
Sunday 5 December 2.30 pm -5 pm  
This year the theme will be Pantomimes,  
Christmas shows and Christmas films.  
Join us for refreshments on Friday evening  
and all day on Saturday

After last time's sell-out event  
 St Mary's Church  
 will be holding another  
**Wine Tasting**  
 on Friday 18 March 2011  
 with Francis Young  
 of The Pear Tree Hotel  
 in the Silver Threads Hall  
 7pm prompt  
 4-course meal  
 Tickets available from 1 February  
 Tel 772896, 770157,  
 770970, 771201

**Jubilee Gardens Open Day**  
 Saturday 4 December from 10am to 2pm  
 Sale of hyacinths, Christmas Wreaths,  
 bird boxes, pickles and much more.  
 Refreshments  
 Raffle and tombola  
 Free admission  
**Church Bush Hall, Purton Stoke**



**FAMILY  
 CHRISTMAS  
 DISCO**

**Purton Village Hall**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**5.30-10.00pm**

**Disco, Entertainment, Buffet, Party Games,  
 Glow Stall, Santa's Grotto & Gift, Raffle.**



Tickets in advance only: Kids - £2.50, Adults - £3.50  
 Family ticket for 4 - £10  
 Contact: Sherryor Denise

*Raising funds for Purton Baby and Toddler Group*

St Mary's Church



**Pies and Punch  
 with Carols**

**Saturday 18 December**  
 at  
 The Live & Let Live, Upper Pavenhill  
 6pm

Tickets: Donation at the door - minimum £2.50  
 Tel 770157, 772896, 770970, 771201, 770375



Purton Age Concern  
**CHRISTMAS MARKET  
 STALL**

at the Pavenhill shops  
 9.30am to 12.00noon  
**ON SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER**  
 Come and taste Andrew's famous  
 sausages and find a bargain as well  
 Bric a brac, books, toys, home  
 made cakes and much more!

# PURTON PLACARD

- plus -

Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Village Hall, Purton  
2-4pm

Meet Father Christmas in his grotto, have your picture taken and receive a gift. Also Grand Prize Raffle, Tombola, Cake Stall, refreshments and lots more



Free Entrance

Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup  
Registered Charity 1031501



FRIENDS OF GUIDING

## COFFEE & CAROLS

FRI 3rd DEC - 6.30PM

PURTON VILLAGE HALL

ADULTS £1.50  
INCLUDES DRINK & MINCE PIE

CHILDREN FREE

CAKE STALL REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE QUIZ

Wednesday 15 December  
10am - 12 noon  
at Silver Threads Hall  
**Coffee and Carols**  
**@ Coffee and Chat**  
Festive food and raffle  
Everyone welcome

**Coffee Morning**  
Friday 10 December  
10 am - noon  
**18 Church Path**  
All proceeds to Silver Threads

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

OFFERED: Panasonic VCR. Tel 01793 772350.

OFFERED: 2 office-type chairs, black and chrome. Also black Perspex hi-fi cabinet. Tel 770808.

To advertise in this section please contact [In Touch Services](#).

Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

# 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.



## ■ THANK YOU

Sheila and Robert would like to thank all who attended Geoff's funeral, and also donations to Church and Prospect Hospice.

Thank you also to Revd Stephen Cullis for the lovely service and support.

Thank you Frank for the music; Geoff would be so pleased.

## ■ PURTON TODDLER AND BABY GROUP

We would like to say a big THANK-YOU to the Purton Open Gardens for their generous donation of £500.00. This will help us to replace some very old toys and also buy some new ones, which the children will be able to enjoy for years to come. Your donation is very much appreciated. From the Committee, Little ones and parents of Purton Toddler and Baby Group.

Thank you,

*Sherry Macnab*

## ■ AIR AMBULANCE

We would like to thank all those who helped us raise £300 for the Air Ambulance Service. The donations received, the prizes so generously given and those who supported the Whist Drive on 8 November ... a sincere thank-you to all.

*Gladys*

## ■ RUNNING REPAIRS?

Following my recent leg op I would like to thank all my friends and Purton Helping Hand for their kind thoughts as well as those who have provided me with the means to get out and about. I'm making good progress but the roads of Purton will be safer for a few more weeks!

*Helen Dixon*

## We Record ...



### *Baptisms*

24 October

Alfred James Murphy Fryer

### *Wedding*

23 October

John Paul Townsend and Emma Victoria Rouse

### *Funerals*

29 October

Geoffrey Webb

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

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## Purton Cricket Club [purton.play-cricket.com](http://purton.play-cricket.com)

Season 2011 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the gift, by James Henry Sadler, of the Purton cricket field to the Parish Council. Purton CC is very grateful that the prime object of the gift was to preserve to the club the use of the cricket field for all time and would like to mark the generosity of James Sadler by presenting a small exhibition and a commemorative booklet.



Information regarding James Sadler and cricket club members from the years just prior to 1914 would be most welcome. Cricket club members from this era include the following:-

Arthur Barnes, Bernard Barnes, C Barnes, E Barnes, S Back, J D Back, John Beak, Richard Brown, Stephen Brown, A Brown, H Bull, Arthur Bunce, F Burgess, J Curtis, Francis Drew, F W Drew, T P Delo, Walter Fenley, Doctor Finch, W Fox, C Garrett, J Gardner, L Gough, T Hale, W Haggard, A Harris, Josiah Haskins, T C Hastings, W Hewer, Ewart Iles, R Iles, M Iles, H Matthews, J Matthews, W Matthews, R New, William Osborne, Eric Ovens, Len Ovens, C J Page, G Painter, W A Pethick, W Ricks, D Selwood, Charlie Shailes, F Shailes, R Shailes, W Shurey, George Smith, H Smith, O Smith, J Smith, Joe Staley, F J Staley, Albert Sutton, Gilbert Sutton, Tommy Taylor, G Tolley, Walter Tidmarsh, E Tytherleigh, R Woodward, D Woodward, R Woodward, Alfred Woolford, Bert Woolford, Chris Woolford, Eliot Woolford, Fred Woolford, O Woolford, Robert Woolford, H Ward, E J Webber, T Wilding, J Young.

*JOE GARDNER*

## Calling all Ramblers!

Do you enjoy walking but would like to join in with others? How about joining us to form a walking group? We will be meeting on a monthly basis with the aim of appealing to a broad range of walkers; to cover both parish footpaths and walks further afield; and to organise walks of varying lengths and levels of difficulty.

An initial meeting for anyone interested will be held at 7.30 on Monday 10 January 2011 at Huntersbrook House, Hoggs Lane, to determine how to take this group forward.

Please do join us! However if you are unable to attend but would like to be involved please contact:

*CHRISTINE GILL  
SUSAN PAGETT*

## Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door... and you will save money!

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@purtoncc.com).

The Club held its Annual General Meeting on 3 November. It was held at *The Maharajah* restaurant so that we could relax and enjoy a curry supper after the necessary business was over. It proved a very convivial and enjoyable evening. We were delighted that our President, Bert Hicks, could join us for the evening and he was warmly encouraged to join us regularly for the Friday evening sessions at the Delta Tennis Centre which are proving to be well attended and are excellent practice for match play without the stress and strain of the real thing!

Before the meal the committee heard a joint statement from the two Chairmen, Shane Horsell and Bob Pimble, outlining the highs and lows (not so many of them!) of the past year and looking ahead to next year when we hope to have floodlighting finally installed on the two courts adjacent to the Clubhouse. Our application for planning permission is with Wiltshire Council and we hope to have positive results back before too long.

The present committee was re-elected en bloc with Steph Brown replacing Angela Key as Membership Secretary. Angela was thanked for the time and effort she has given to the club and we know that Steph will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the committee. The running of this year's Club tournament was raised as it did turn out to be rather unsatisfactory for various reasons and ideas and improvements were suggested to ensure that next year's version is better all round. Also, because nowadays there are so many demands on everyone's time, it is proving difficult to get the proper level of commitment from some players in the Winter League and this is making the task for captains to get teams together for each match more time-consuming – not to say frustrating – than it should be.

Ilona Stublely, who is joining us as a part-time coach, was also present at the meeting and was able to introduce herself to members. She will be a real asset to the Club and we hope that next year more can be done to encourage junior players to learn to play the game, improve their skills and continue on to become senior members of the club.

Finally the Club is grateful for the support we have had from the Trustees of the War Memorial and Village Centre Charity and the Parish Councillors throughout the year. We and they try to work together to give the village a good recreational facility available to all 365 days of the year. Like the Windmill Theatre, we never close!

CAROLINE McLEAN

## Fire Safety Advice - Escape Plans

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure the exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case your primary one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes for all occupants to practice your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of home changes.
- Ensure guest staying over know the plan.
- Ensure everybody knows where the window and door keys are kept.

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## Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



Celebrations really were the order of the day in October, the biggest of which was our *Vision* event on 20 October – the culmination of our centenary year. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, leaders, friends and families joined together at St Mary's Church to reflect on the last 100 years and look forward to the next 100. As one person who has no direct links to Guiding commented at the end, 'Guiding really should shout out about its achievements – to have lasted so long and so vibrantly the organisation must be exceptional'.

Another celebration was a presentation to Julie Wadsworth and Eileen White, who have completed 20 and 14 years respectively as Unit Helpers. Each received, to their surprise, certificates and flowers. Many units simply could not exist without Unit Helpers such as Julie and Eileen – people who have chosen not to go into uniform as Guiders, but support the ethos of guiding and wish to share in the fun it provides.

There were more celebrations in the form of promise ceremonies: Rainbows making their promise were Emma, Freya, Georgia, Isobel, Katelynn, Lily-Jo and Mia, whilst in 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies it was the turn of Abby, Emily, Emma, Annalise and Libbi.

A multitude of other activities have featured in the weekly meetings. Rainbows undertook activities based on animals: mouse puppets, cakes decorated as owls, hedgehog pictures and fish shapes. 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies went international by learning about Brownies in Australia, making Danish baskets and playing games from Iceland and Australia. 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies had their powers of observation challenged one evening; they had to identify silhouette pictures of famous landmarks, find likenesses and differences in each other's appearance, complete spot the difference puzzles and make changes to a Brownie and see if others could spot the change. Guides made bead key rings of ghoulish creatures, ate Halloween themed food and played Halloween themed games.

The autumnal weather hasn't deterred us from outdoor activities. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides met one Sunday morning to plant 100 daffodil bulbs at the end of Church Path as a lasting reminder of our centenary. We look forward to seeing them flower in the spring. Bonfire night provided the opportunity for 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies and the Guides to enjoy sparklers, whilst 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies opted for the indoor edible option of bonfire biscuits using lots of Matchmakers and jelly sweets.

Our next community event will be the Friends of Guiding *Coffee & Carols* evening on Friday 3 December in Purton Village Hall. We hope to see lots of you there.

Next month we hope to have a report from Kirsty and Bebhinn, who spent a weekend away at Oxenwood with the Lyneham and Wootton Bassett Guides.

We are now looking forward to a slightly less hectic year as we embark on the second hundred years of guiding, although the leaders are already thinking ahead to events taking place in 2011 so we're unlikely to be putting our feet up for long!

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

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## Race to Infinity

When we moved to Purton in 2008 we were leaving Covingham and, for me, the relative comfort of suburban living. The supermarket, cinema and restaurants were all nearby. We had searched the villages around Swindon with a simple criteria. It must have fields between it and Swindon, somewhere to walk the dog or ride a horse. The concept of leaving the 'town' behind was difficult for me. I had grown up living on the edge of a town and the notion of leaving its safe harbour to 'the countryside' filled me with fear. My wife had reassured me that the people would be friendly and there would still be a pub. I had anticipated isolation, darkness and above all a shortage of a decent Internet connection!



After months of fruitless searching we both saw the same advert on Right Move. It seemed perfect. Purton was fabulous. So close to Swindon it would feel as though we hadn't left. It had a nice 'feel' with some history and attractive buildings. And most importantly to me it was only 48 metres, as the crow flies, from the telephone exchange. How could that distance not allow me the fastest of broadband connections?

In April we moved in. The neighbours were welcoming and very quickly it felt like home. The phone was connected and the broadband router plugged in. I had not had an ADSL Internet connection before and so with some trepidation went through the steps of configuring the Virgin Media supplied kit. I was online. But at 512Kbps? It was like a wet piece of string! How could it be so slow? Support told me not to worry, that ADSL lines needed to adapt and it would improve. It didn't ... much. BT Engineers, support and frequent resets left me with a best speed of 1.5Mbps! And I live two minutes away from the exchange building.

Which brings me to my point. BT is running a competition. The exciting sounding 'Race to Infinity' simply asks users of a BT phone line to register their interest in the latest 'Fibre to the Cabinet' technology. The five villages, or telephone exchange areas, that register the most votes can accelerate this installation meaning faster internet sooner, at least by 2012. The new technology should improve broadband speeds to the village considerably by effectively moving the 'Exchange' equipment to the roadside cabinets around the village, and nearer to your homes. All you need to do is visit <http://bt.com/racetoinfinity> and enter your postcode to register your interest. The competition is free and takes less than five minutes!

A league table at <http://racetoinfinityandbeyond.veadas.net/> will let you see our current position.

## Silver Threads

We start back again after Christmas on Tuesday 28 December at 2pm with a Social Afternoon. We still would like to welcome new members.

Our thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year and we send wishes for a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

*PAULINE WARD, Secretary*

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# A TO Z OF PURTON

## D is for ... Diana Lodge

During the war years I was born at and named after Diana Lodge when it was a mixed farm with all kinds of animals including 4 carthorses (no tractors) and some Weston-Super-Mare donkeys over wintered at the farm each year before returning to beach duty in the spring. As it was a large house the Government ordered us first to take 14-year-old evacuees from London, then a Jewish family from London with an Irish nanny moved in for a couple of years. After this prisoners of war were billeted to work on the farm. First we had 2 Italians, Jan and Joseph (one a Count). They were allowed to use the farm kitchen with its old black range in the evenings. They would catch hedgehogs and roast them coated in thick paste made from pig meal and water. When they were baked the prickles came away with the crust and we ate the meat which tasted very like chicken. When Jan and Joseph were moved on we had Heinrich, a German prisoner who was such a good worker on the farm. In the evening he would make ships in bottles with bits of wood and any old paint. Polish men from a camp in The Hyde also worked on the farm. At this time not many houses had telephones – Diana Lodge's was Purton No5 – Miss Molly Bennett was the operator who connected the calls from the Post Office near The Angel. I remember American soldiers on the Play Close who used to give the children special gifts of coloured plastic like squares in rolls of narrow silver foil – I believe they were used in radar. They also gave us the odd piece of chocolate which was a real treat. A marvellous childhood – we were too young to understand the seriousness of war. Diana Lodge is now a Stud Farm.

## D is for ... Ducks

It was only last June that Purton was able to boast of its own duck house provided, not with an MP's expense claim but through the kindnesses of Holland Handling and Ted Canter. Then, several weeks later, three yellow ducks were to be seen on the ramp up to that superior accommodation. But now they are gone. Indeed, they have now been gone for quite a long while and perhaps the community needs to be told of their (hopefully safe) whereabouts to avoid any further sleepless nights!

## D is for ... Dodecantus

Dodecantus – the name coming from 'dodeka' (Greek for twelve) and 'cantus' (Latin for singing) – is a small regional chamber choir who have performed in Purton and currently have a Purtonian in their number. Regular readers of Purton Magazine may remember that the choir (*pictured right*) has an annual singing tour in



**A to Z of Purton:** *The purpose of this 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 "E is for ..." to [Purton Magazine](#), before 10 December, via the addresses shown on page 4.*

Europe, the last of which was reported in the October issue. Details of the choir's Christmas concert and celebrations this year appear on page 21 in this issue. They are usually available to sing at corporate events, weddings, christenings and funerals.

### **D is for ... Dowager Countess of Shaftesbury**

In 1782 she gave to St Mary's church the 'Last Supper' painting that was stolen in 1994 and successfully returned from the United States of America several years later. Following an extremely demanding restoration project, the painting was replaced and re-dedicated by the Bishop of Swindon on Palm Sunday in 2004. The Dowager's family had long associations with St Mary's and held the patronage (with the right to choose the vicar) from early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of the donation, the Shaftesburys were living in the Manor House next to the church.

### **D is for ... Dog Owners**

Living next to open fields on a favourite dog walk, it is very pleasing to note that the number of dog owners who are cleaning up after their dogs has increased significantly in the last year or so. Sadly there are still a few occasions, especially in the dark evenings, when we have walked dog mess into our house but thanks are due to all those dog owners who have helped to reduce those occasions.

### **D is for ... Dogridge**

On maps of old, Dogridge seems to have embraced most of the top end of Purton. Nowadays the name is taken to mean the Westlea housing estate behind the *Royal George* public house. In all there are 77 dwellings. However some of the houses have come into private ownership. In the main the dwellings are flats, although Westlea still maintains one or two of the houses. The present estate was built in the 1970s. At this time, interesting archaeological discoveries were made. They come from the Romano-British period (approximately 43 - 410 AD) and took the form of ceramic tiles; there was also evidence of four pottery kilns with scattered shards of pottery. Some of the early residents disliked the name Dogridge but the historical associations of the name were seen, quite rightly, as too important for it to be abandoned.

### **D is for ... Domesday**

The Domesday Book was commissioned in December 1085 by William the Conqueror, who invaded England in 1066. The first draft of the book was completed in August 1086 and contained records for 13,418 settlements in the English counties south of the rivers Ribble and Tees (the border with Scotland at the time) one of which was for Piritone (Purton).