

Purton Magazine



*Bulb Planters at Berriman's Wood - see page 30.
photo: Sarah Stebbing, Woodland Trust*

January 2011

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

Although this is the January issue of your magazine, we are hoping that most readers will be receiving their copy before Christmas, not least because of the extended holiday period. It follows that the magazine committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

This is also a good opportunity to thank each of our many distributors who deliver many copies each month, come wind and rain – and, more recently, snow and ice. They will also be collecting annual subscriptions (maintained at £5.00 for yet another year) and your help with early payments would be much appreciated by all concerned.

Perhaps another demonstration of the value of your community magazine is that we could be the first to bring you advance notice of a partial solar eclipse in Purton (and some other parts of Britain) on Tuesday 4 January 2011. Details of the timings can be found on [page 42](#).

Things solar are also appropriate with an article on [page 28](#) about one of the most famous people associated with Purton. The fifth Astronomer Royal, Revd Dr Nevil Maskelyne was a major scientific figure in the 18th century and his family were landowners in the Purton area for over 300 years. Following his death at the Royal Observatory on 9 February 1811, his body was buried two days later here, in St Mary's churchyard.

The New Year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Purton Historical Society and they are arranging several local events to commemorate the Maskelyne Bicentenary including an exhibition in the summer at the Museum and a lecture at Bradon Forest school by the Curator of the History of navigation at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Numerous other events are being planned and it is quite possible that the current Astronomer Royal will be visiting Purton, although it is not known whether such a skilled scientist would ever need an electronic satellite navigation system to get here.

Having lowered the tone of this editorial, readers might be interested in the findings of some recent, topical Internet research. It seems that there have been more than 50 women who have given up their maiden name to become Mary Christmas on marrying since 1837. All that is needed now is for a Mr Newyear to have his proposal of marriage accepted by a girlfriend called Abi!

64%

maximum obscuration of the sun's disk during the partial eclipse
– see [page 42](#)

130

exhibits of the month in Purton Magazine since 1991
– see [pages 33](#) & [42](#)

400

English bluebells purchased and planted in Berriman's wood
– see [page 19](#)

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

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Magazine Committee

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[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Councillors – last month we were pleased to report that we had co-opted two new Parish Councillors this month however we are reporting that Cllr Dee Kenrick resigned from the Parish Council on 15 December as she is moving away from the village. We would like to wish Dee well for the future and to thank her for her work during her term of office. Likewise we would like to thank Chris her husband for his help and support whilst working with the footpath gang over the past few years.

Cemetery – you may have noticed that we have been having some work carried out in the cemetery over the past few weeks on the Garden of Remembrance walls and Sun Dial. We would like to thank Richard Bunce for undertaking this work.

A further project we are embarking on is to plant a laurel hedge at the entrance to the cemetery to improve its appearance.

Public Toilets – The public toilets have been the object of mindless vandalism and criminal damage and we are liaising with the police and will robustly prosecute anyone who is found to be responsible. If you see anybody acting suspiciously then please contact the Police by telephoning 0845 408 7000.

Dog Control Orders – Wiltshire Council is carrying out a consultation on introducing new dog control orders. It is intended to replace the various existing controls on dogs. If you would like to take part in the consultation then please go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/dog-control-consultation.htm

Bus services in Wiltshire over the Holiday Period – This year, a number of special arrangements will apply to bus services in Wiltshire over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

As Christmas Day and Boxing Day fall on a Saturday and Sunday this year, Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 December are classed as public holidays, so in many cases, a Sunday level of service will be running on most bus routes on those days. A similar situation will also apply on Monday 3 January.

Unfortunately this means that many communities will be without any bus services for a period of 4 days and so it is important that those passengers who do not have access to alternative transport are aware of this situation and plan accordingly.

Helping you to drive safely in bad weather – Wiltshire Council has published some advice notices which may be of interest given the bad weather we are experiencing. For copies either contact Wiltshire Council on tel 0300 456 0100, by text phone on 01225 712500 or look at their web site www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

Cashless Parking has come to Wiltshire Car Parks – From 29 November you can register your stay in a Wiltshire car park by paying by text, internet or telephone. To find out more visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/paybyphone

Equipment – The Independent Living Centre keeps a list of items for sale or free to a good home that help people to remain independent. From wheelchairs to scooters, armchairs to stair lifts, a recycled item can save you money and help the

environment. Contact the Independent Living Centre for the full list at www.ilc.org.uk or phone 01380 87100701.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:

N10/02146/FUL *Land at Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, Stables and arena and create new access*

N10/03719/FUL *Weathercock Stables, Stoke Common Lane, Erection of hay storage building*

N10/03218/FUL *Land at Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, Stables and menage*

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.

The Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a happy and peaceful new year.

Purton United Charities

The distribution of the charity funds will be made on Saturday 29 January 2011 at Purton Village Hall, between 2pm and 3pm.

Qualifications to receive the Charity are:-

- Only one payment per household.
- In the case of a married couple this will be paid to the husband providing he is of retirement age.
- Widows and single women providing they are of retirement age and are unable to work. (evidence of inability to work must be supplied)
- Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year to qualify.

If you are unable to attend on the day due to illness or disability only, you may apply in writing by no later than 20 January 2011 to:

Christopher New, 52 Byron Avenue, Wootton Bassett SN4 8HA or

Roger Lawrence, 30 Waite meads Close, Purton

or any other Trustee.

CHRISTOPHER NEW, Secretary: Purton United Charities

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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](#).

Purton & District Age Concern



I don't know whether to apologise for my short piece in last month's magazine because you might be rejoicing that the modern technology went wrong. We thought my piece had all gone to Rick but in fact it was only the first part. But never mind, whether you like it or not I will start with that first with apologies to the family of the late John Bryant.

Purton Age Concern has lost a great supporter with the death of John Bryant – we have lost a good, kind friend and so have a lot of people. I would say with John, if he was your friend, you had a friend for life. In fact during his illness it was suggested that a sign was put up outside saying 'closed for lunch between 12.00 and 1.00' to give them chance to have something to eat. But seriously, isn't it lovely that so many friends still wanted to visit, none more so than Tony and Lyn Young. I suppose you would call Tony John's mate as they enjoyed so many things together. He was a bit of an apprentice to John with the shooting and gamekeeping that John enjoyed, particularly after selling his farm. Tony gradually took over from John on several things, including being a trustee of Poor's Platt at Purton Stoke.

John was born in 1924, one of five children, and the family lived at the Grove farm, which was between Littleton Drew and Alderton. John's father was tossed by a cow when John was a young lad and sustained two broken thighs. Within a week they were out of the farm as they were tenant farmers and John and Phil, John's younger brother, went to stay with an aunt and the other children went to stay with other relatives. It was a year before the family got back together. John's father obtained a farm at Woodshaw and the children went to Wootton Bassett school. In his early youth, John went to work on an airfield in Lincolnshire and was billeted in a farm house where, from what I can gather, he was a terrible tease to the farmer's daughters. Phil followed John up there when he left school and stayed at the same farm house. The daughters did not know what to expect but Phil was a lot quieter than John – Joyce was only ten and dreaded the thought of another tease arriving. Of course, the two daughters were Joyce and Doris, and John eventually married Doris, who sadly died in 1998 and Phil married Joyce. A close neighbour said 'Joyce has been an angel in their midst, looking after and caring for everyone who needed it'.

John and Phil were both called up for service in the 1939-45 war – John served in Burma, known as the forgotten war, while Phil was in India. John had a short break in India and he managed to look Phil up – a lovely surprise – and by now he was Sergeant John Bryant. When the war was over, John came home on a troop ship and, as they say, you are never off duty when in the forces. His job was to escort a prisoner back to Shepton Mallet prison. The irony of this was that, when he got there, they didn't want him. I never did hear what happened to that prisoner but something else I do know is that, while John was having his hair cut in Webber's (now Best One) he got chatting to Albert Buxton the barber and they found out they had both travelled home on the same troop ship. When John came out of the army, he married Doris and then farmed in Lincolnshire for a year before buying New Farm in Bentham Lane. Ann, John's daughter, was born in 1952 (everyone knows

your age now Ann, but don't worry, you don't look it). Doris helped John on the farm and Ann remembers such a happy childhood. When Doris and John brought the cows in, John would put Ann on the back of the old bull who liked to follow the cows in to milking. He was a very docile bull as you can imagine and, when John had the sheds wired for electricity, the electrician could not quite reach. John suggested that he should stand on the old bull's back – whether he did nor not I don't know, but the lights were fitted. I am told that the children of New Road and Bentham wouldn't dare go in John's fields – was that out of respect or fear? There were several farms in the Bentham area and it was always John's aim to be the first to get a bale of June hay – he invariably did.

John was a very determined man, who didn't suffer fools gladly and called a spade a spade. It could be a bit daunting if you were out with him for a meal – once he sent a cup of tea back because it was only warm and, on another occasion, when the waitress asked him if he had enjoyed the meal, he said, 'It's the worst I've had in forty years!' On about his determination – when we were in Bentham last July for our coffee morning, John asked Alan Webb if he had some cabbage plants. Alan duly obliged, John showed him where he wanted them and Alan put them in. As John got weaker he used a Zimmer with wheels on and a basket on the front and he would put fertilizer in the basket and go round feeding the plants – I am told they had some lovely cabbages.

When Ann met Gary, he became part of the family and John was so pleased. Gary was a little bit in awe of John and when he and Ann wanted to become engaged, he plucked up courage and went to see John. They talked about football and cricket and then Gary managed to say 'could we get engaged?' 'Yes' said John and they went straight back to talking about cricket. Gary recalls how John sent him back from a shoot, up Bishopstone way, to get a set of car keys as he had lost his. Gary was hoping to borrow one of the very posh cars at the shoot to drive back to Purton but John presented him with a battered old Land Rover with no windscreen or side windows. It was a freezing cold day – you can imagine what Gary was like when he got to Purton! John and Doris loved Gary as if he was their own son and were so happy when the two got married. John's first love was always his family and what joy his two grandchildren Sharon and Mark brought him. He was such a proud grandfather and welcomed their partners Debbie and Mark into the family circle. The icing on the cake for him was when great granddaughter Ella was born sixteen months ago – he lived long enough to see her take her first steps.

John loved cricket and was a very good cricketer himself – in fact he was carried off the field shoulder high by his team in Lincolnshire for scoring the highest number of runs ever. He was a good left handed bat and used to play in the end of season cricket match, Thompson's garage against Purton, something I did as well. John was also very sociable and enjoyed the company of a group of friends who met at each other's homes for meals and also had a new year's eve party with a few games. These friends, knowing he was going to Australia to visit his sister, got him a hat with corks on and engineered it so that he won it. He was tickled pink and took the hat with him on his trip.

I think what really tells you the type of person John was is this – as I said

previously John did a bit of gamekeeping and he bought a Labrador puppy to train as a gun dog. All was going well until, on hearing the first gun shot, the dog ran home. Most gamekeepers would have got rid of Bob – that's the dog's name – but not John, he thought the world of him. Bob was not allowed into the bedroom but near the end the nurse said 'I should let the dog in as animals have to grieve as well as humans'. Bob was allowed in and Ann was sitting with her father – one of John's last movements was to put his hand down on Bob's head. Bob licked his hand as much as to say goodbye. To Ann, Phil and Joyce and all the family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy in the loss of a true country gentleman and thank the whole family for their kindness to us over the years and a share in donations in lieu of flowers.

Thinking of Geoff Webb from last month and John – I could have filled the magazine with their lives or even written a book. I had great respect for the two of them. They were both looked after with such tender loving care by their families and they are both going to be missed so much.

Another person who has sadly died is Reg Bastin, or Dimp as he was known to many, of Reid's Piece. Reg was a very inoffensive chap who was a cockney by birth, born in Stepney, which I believe is within the mile of Bow Bells that earns you the right to be called cockney. Reg, along with his family, with the exception of his dad who was serving in the Army, was evacuated to Purton during the 1939-45 war. Their first port of call was Battlelake Farm, Braydon – talk about going from one extreme to the other. There were quite a few evacuees billeted in Braydon and I think I have mentioned before how, having so many extra children at St Mary's, temporary class rooms had to be found and one of those was the dance hall at the Angel. After a while Reg's family were found a house in the row behind what was then Durnford's shop but is now One Stop. When the war finished, Charlie, Reg's dad, was demobbed and they settled in Purton, eventually moving to Reid's Piece to the same house where Reg died.

Reg had several jobs on leaving school and he always struck me as being a very conscientious person who could be relied on – when he said he would do something it was done. Reg became firm friends with the late Tom Rawlings and anyone who knew Tom would know how mechanically minded he was. Well, Reg's hobby was watches and he loved nothing more than tinkering around with them and taking up the challenge of putting one right that had broken, although he was never a serious threat to our local watch man, Brian Broad. As I have said, he was friendly with Tom Rawlings and in turn was a great friend of the family, insomuch that, when they went on holiday either at Weston or Weymouth, Reg would turn up halfway through the week to spend a few days with the family. Later on, it was Thailand that Reg chose for his holidays – a bit different to Weston and Weymouth.

Reg had several jobs, including working at Hills, Iles, a bread round, ice cream seller, finishing up at Clares where they made supermarket trolleys, and he even did a bit of market trading, going to London to buy things to sell at Salisbury market. I wonder if that's where he got his ideas of practical jokes. He loved nothing more than to attach a piece of cotton to a coin, leave it and go and hide and when someone tried to pick it up, he would pull the cotton. Reg led a very quiet life and

never did anyone any harm; in fact, in his quiet way he helped people. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends and we thank them for donations in lieu of flowers being shared between us and the Helping Hand.

I hope that I haven't bored you too much with my reminiscing as it is quite a lot this month. Could I first of all put you right about the day of our Burns night supper and Ceilidh. It is **Saturday 22 January and not Friday** as I put in last November's magazine and is at the Village Hall, 6.30 for 7.00pm. Tickets cost £16 each – give Ron and Heather Harris a ring on 770850 if you would like to come along but don't delay as tickets are going fast even as I'm writing this.

Christmas started early for us in Age Concern, or should I say an extra Christmas, as the way you, the village, support us it is like Christmas all the year round. We had to put our tree up early on the Institute as the four young gentlemen who kindly offered to put it up for us again this year, namely Adam and Ian Humphries, Mick Looker and Nick Webb, could only do it on Sunday 21 November – our usual procedure is the last Saturday. Well, that was OK but our usual supplier of trees was not getting them in until the 23rd but was trying to get us one early. On the Friday prior to the Sunday he was still searching with no guarantee of getting one. I phoned Arthur Griffin and had a chat, the outcome was a phone call to Robin Gough and within an hour we had a tree at our house. That's not all, he wouldn't let us pay for it so the tree we put up to thank the village didn't cost us a penny. Mr and Mrs Orr-Ewing always give us a donation to pay for the tree every year, with a little bit extra, but when we told them that the tree this year had been a gift, they still insisted on giving us a generous donation so to all these kind people could I say a very sincere thank-you. I must add here that we are all very pleased that Mr Orr-Ewing has made a complete recovery after his major surgery earlier this year and sincerely hope the good progress continues.

Our two parties went very well – the first for the less able elderly in the Silver Threads Hall with a Christmas tea and entertainment by the Jolly Roger went down very well and some of the people made a great effort to get there in the icy weather. Our men decorated the hall the night before and what a lovely job they made of it with a Christmas tree as well. The next party was at the Village Hall with numbers down a little on last year but here again we had Christmas tea with the same entertainment by the Jolly Roger. He certainly had everyone singing and their feet tapping. Could I just thank our hard working committee for all they did to make these parties a success and also the ladies who came in to help. There was Chris Shepherd helping to prepare the food then the four young ladies who came in to do the washing up – Jane Farr, Julie Clifford, Alison Mainstone and Suzanne Taylor. That is such a lovely gesture – they come in and take over, giving our people who have been working all day a chance to sit down and listen to the entertainment. Here again the men decorated the Village Hall on the Friday morning before so that Friends of Guiding could have the benefit of it for their Coffee and Carols – here again it looked lovely. Our principle guests for the evening were our minibus personnel as a small token of our appreciation for all their work, such a vital part of our organisation. You might be reading this before Christmas Eve and I will just put in a reminder about our carols under the tree at the Institute at 7.00pm with hot

punch and mince pies and music from Graham and Mary New's band. We are so pleased that Graham is recovering well after his recent illness.

People have been so kind to us over the Christmas period, like the gentleman outside the village who often puts a note in my hand and says 'You know what to do with that'. Then there is the old school master who generously gives us a cheque which seems to be quite a regular feature each Christmas and always quite rightly says that he was taller than me once, although I think he has more of a claim to fame than that, but to both these gentleman many thanks as to the other kind people who have given us donations and also prizes for our raffle.

Once we get into the new year we have to start work fundraising. I have already spoken about the Burns night, next we have a jumble sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 19 February, starting at 2.00pm. Following on from this we have our annual auction, but this year it is on Saturday 12 March, so start looking for items you no longer require. You get 75% of the selling price and we have our usual professional auctioneer Mr Roderick Wightman.

I think that is enough for now except for wishing you all a happy and peaceful new year.

TONY PRICE

Purton Evening W.I.

The meeting of 17 November began with a talk by Pamela Clement on "Christmases of Yesterday". This delightful lady has visited us before, and is well-known on the WI circuit, so we already knew that we were in for an interesting and amusing evening! Her memorabilia and her stories meant that we were engrossed and, indeed,, afterwards she was surrounded by members gently handling the old and delicate souvenirs of past Christmases. She brought back so many memories, all of them happy.

The competition was, appropriately, for a "Christmas Decoration" but there were only two entries and was won - somewhat to her embarrassment! ... by the President. She took the opportunity to ask that members should refer to their programmes before a meeting to check whether there was a competition and if so, to do their best to produce an entry. It was not a matter of winning or losing so much as decorating the hall, taking part, and bringing an extra dimension and cheer to the meeting!

Business matters were dealt with by President Barbara Compton assisted by Joan Garlick, and included a comprehensive report on the WI Autumn Council Meeting at City Hall, Salisbury, which was attended by the Committee. A talk for "Water Aid" was impressive and we hope to hear more, perhaps at one of our own meetings.

A wreath from our WI had been laid by the President at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9 November at the Purton War Memorial.

Our next meeting will be on 19 January when Barry Davies will tell us about *Through my Lens*. The competition will be *A Photograph of Wildlife*.

A Happy New Year to All, from All!

CONSTANCE REED

News From The Trustees

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre:

We have had a very interesting meeting with the users of the Centre and we greatly appreciate them giving up their time to meet us. It was a good meeting with some twenty-two users attending. They were given copies of the balance sheet on which questions were asked and, as far as possible, satisfactory answers were given.

Everyone seemed pleased with the improvements that had been achieved from a grant of Landfill Tax via Community First and Hills. We had various questions on all sorts of issues concerning the Centre, most could be answered but there were some we could not. There was quite a lot of concern about the Red House Social Club and here there were questions we could not answer.

The Trustees present felt it was a good, useful meeting and we were all pleased with the way the Clubs look after their areas. We hope to have another meeting next year and would like to thank everyone for coming.

The Millennium Hall foyer, kitchen and toilets floors have been finished after all the problems we have had, so many thanks for your patience and understanding – let's hope we can move on now.

The Tennis Club have submitted plans for floodlighting the two tennis courts at the Centre. As far as the Trustees are concerned, we agree in principle to the plans. There are some objections on the grounds that it will affect the wildlife such as birds. The courts are never in complete darkness now, as you have the street lights from The Hyde shining all night plus the lights from the Village Centre from 5.00 to 11.30pm so really there is not a problem. To be on the safe side, being a member of the RSPB, I telephoned them and they could not see any reason for not installing the lights.

Village Hall Complex:

We are gradually getting there with the refurbishment of the kitchen with the plans drawn up. Instead of getting someone to quote for the whole job we have got specialists in their own field who are known to us to quote for the various things that need doing. We are a bit wary after the disaster with the disabled access and the Millennium Hall – better the devil you know as they say. The total cost is about £10,500 and a lot of people have been very generous towards this total but we need to look for grants. Nevertheless we are still open for donations if anyone would like to give.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Poppy Appeal 2010

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal in Purton and Braydon. The grand total of £6542.27 has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal, which includes monies raised by the Purton Royal British Legion Branch during 2010. Special thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard again this year



JOYCE BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Where's our new Vicar?

This seems to be the question on the lips of many in the village! From the time that Jane Haslam left, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has been working with the Deanery and the Diocese in their appointment process. Early on we were told that we seemed to be a 'thriving concern' and a church that 'cared for a wide range of ages and worship styles'.

We then went into a period of 'vacancy development' where not only did we have to continue the day to day running of the church, but also consider whether we could do things differently or better. We also undertook a survey around the village to determine the type of vicar that we would like.

We have always been aware that we would only benefit from a part-time priest, as Jane, and Brian Fessey before her. The Deanery were concerned that such a post would not be attractive to many and therefore were of the opinion that it should be combined with another part-time post if possible within either the Deanery or the Diocese.

In October we expected to be told that either such a post had been found or that we could go ahead and seek a part-time vicar. Instead we learned that the potential matching part time post had disappeared and also that the Diocese had been reviewing its financial position and had raised concerns about the high cost of part-time vicars (apparently 96% of a full-time post due to fixed costs such as housing). They felt they needed to review this situation before advising as to how we could move forward.

We heard their verdict in early December. Firstly the good news – we are able to go ahead and appoint a part-time vicar, subject to some minor changes in the associated paperwork. But they have also decided that this post will come with a part-time housing allowance, instead of the vicarage.

This is better news than we had feared – we might not have a vicar at all, or would be forced to share with another parish some way away, but it does mean a whole new way of working. It presumably means that any new vicar might well not live in the village unless we were somehow able to provide one ourselves, and if they did, their house is unlikely to be suitable to be used in the way that we are all used to.

The PCC is very aware that whatever is decided at the moment might well reflect not only on the way the next vicar of Purton operates, but on future generations. Although we want to move forward, advertise and see if there is any interest in our part-time position, we feel that we must pause a moment to explore what this means to us and how we and a new incumbent could cope with a very different way of working.

To that end we are asking the Deanery and Diocese to explore some of the issues that will arise for us and are requesting a meeting with representatives from these bodies early in the New Year.

We are sorry if this is not the news we had hoped for or expected. We will continue to let you know what is happening as soon as we know ourselves.

PURTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Green Tips – Happy New Years to all our readers



Communities for generations have relied on people volunteering. As each generation comes and goes we all benefit from our time as a volunteer and hopefully benefit from those who then help us as we perhaps get older or are in need ourselves.

Being a volunteer also has added bonuses, not only in the good feel factor and sense of achievement, but can give extra skills and confidences plus is now seen as an accolade to be added onto a CV giving an applicant an edge, perhaps, to gain a job placement.

Volunteering in our local communities gives us the opportunities to get to know each other and to know what others may need.

There is a whole raft of things to do, from simple tasks such as doing a bit of shopping, walking the dog and helping around the home to bigger challenges; running small events, being part of organisations, driving the Age Concern mini bus, being part of a group like the Scouts, Guides, Church, member of the Parish Council, a Governor at the Schools, or even working with Ps and Qs. Purton is rich with volunteering groups to join and to be part of. These groups make Purton into the caring community that we have. Being part of a group gives newcomers into the village the opportunity to make friends and get to know what is needed.

It can be hard however to encourage all of the community to get involved. Why is this? Is it because some lead very busy and active lives or the TV beckons and keeps people indoors? Is it that the thought that if you are working with young or vulnerable people it is necessary to have a CRB check which puts people off? Not all volunteering jobs need a letter showing they have passed the CRB check. However, for those that do, it is done to safeguard everyone to include the volunteer, though it can be tedious as a CRB check is not transferable if an individual moves from organisation to organisation.

CRB is the abbreviation for Criminal Records Bureau. Volunteers who want to work with children and/or vulnerable adults will be told if they need to have this check and this depends on the role they will have in the organisation running the activities. The CRB checks are looking for information or “Disclosure” and is obtained by the police through the Police National Computer. The police will check to see if a volunteer has committed a crime which led to them being added to the Children’s or Vulnerable Adults Barred List or has something recorded that may make them unsuitable for the work for another reason. It is an offence for a person who has been barred to apply for a paid or voluntary job working with children or vulnerable adults.

From 2011, organisations who are registered with the CRB, that are working with children and/or vulnerable adults, will have to seek Enhanced Disclosure for more of their volunteers as Standard Disclosure will not be available.

A volunteer who needs a CRB check fills in their application form giving information about themselves. A representative from the organisation will check the form and all the identifying documents which the volunteer has provided. Then this representative will fill in a separate section concerning which documents were

provided. The form is then sent to the CRB. It is not a difficult process and is quite straightforward. There is a charge for this process, paid by the organisation. At the moment, Enhanced Disclosure costs £41 per application.

Some have challenged the need to be CRB-checked.

See www.liberal-vision.org/2010/11/27/a-very-unlikely-heroine

You can still make some New Year resolutions, even though it is January ... so will yours be 'I am going to volunteer and get involved in a project in 2011'?

Compiled by Jane Smith and Jacqui Lay 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

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

Children In Need



Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a good Christmas. Now that it's all over, it's time to start planning this year and, as I mentioned in last month's magazine, Purton Children in Need Committee are organising another ball. This is by popular demand so we're hoping to sell all the tickets.

This will be slightly different from previous balls in that it will be a Masked Ball. Dress will be, as before, posh frocks and tuxedos but you are also asked to wear a mask. This means that the ladies will no doubt go crazy with lavish creations whilst the men will look like a bunch of Zorro impersonators. Never mind.

We're still working on the details but it will be held in a marquee at the Village Centre. There will be a three-course meal, bar, live music and, we hope plenty of dancing, a prestige raffle and auction, comedian and whatever else we come up with.

The date is Saturday 28 May, tickets will be £50 per person to include a complimentary cocktail on arrival. Tickets will be on sale in early January and we would appreciate early payment to secure them. There has been a lot of interest in this event so tickets may not be available nearer the event. At this time of year, we realise that money may be in short supply so you can pay a deposit to secure the ticket/s with the balance payable over the following two months. Tables seat ten and can be booked complete though tickets are available individually.

For further information and tickets call Tony or Sue on 01793 772581. See you at the Ball.

TONY RICHARDSON

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Pavenhill, Upper/ Lower Pavenhill and Paven Close*. 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.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



At our last meeting Purton & District Gardeners' Guild held its traditional American Supper as a welcome preface to all the festivities to come. It was well-attended by over fifty members on a very cold night – though we had little idea of what weather was to come later in the month. As usual, members produced a most wonderful spread. The committee never makes any suggestions, yet somehow a balance between savoury and sweet finger foods is miraculously maintained. This year the committee also offered a glass of wine to all members, which was happily welcomed.

After eating a wide array of foods – and not quite clearing the board – we all settled down with our coffees to enjoy *Chalice*, the local folk group of which one singer, Val Evans, is also a Gardeners' Guild committee member. They sang a wide variety of songs, some wistful, some happy, one environmental song an impassioned plea for humanity to realise the damage it is doing before it is too late, and finished with a selection of carols in which all the audience joined.

A truly enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting is the AGM on 25 January, after which we will hear Anita Barrett on 'Cricklade in Bloom'.

DIANA THOMBS, Chairman, & MOIRA WHITE, Secretary

Remembrance Day Service

Could I congratulate all concerned with the way the service went at the Cenotaph? I would go so far as to say it was one of the best services we have had – the sound system was excellent, with people speaking clearly into the mike and, of course, the engineers who set it all up, Lynda, Malcolm and Chris Warren, did an excellent job. You could even go inside the Silver Threads Hall if you wanted to as they had fixed up a speaker in there.

Colin Pearson, the Parade Marshall, had everything under control as usual and let's not forget the new British Legion standard bearer Jeff Simpkins, who did an excellent job. We had the police on duty stopping the traffic as well as being at the service. That brings me to the lady in charge of the service, Judith Wells. Wasn't she brilliant. Helen from the Parish Council co-ordinated it all before the actual day – it was her first year at doing it, so well done Helen. The Cricklade Band were up to their usual high standard and finally the Cenotaph working party had it all looking spick and span for the occasion – we have a new volunteer, Geoff Tappern, so thanks to him as well.

What a great village tribute this was to the ones whose names are on the Cenotaph and many others beside.

TONY PRICE

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 28 January from 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).

From Cricklade Fire Station

During October and November crews from Cricklade attended 34 emergency calls as follows:



5/10/10 at 0225 barn fire, Wanborough
9/10/10 at 2022 standby duties, Swindon Fire Station
12/10/10 at 1948 generator fire, school premises, Purton
15/10/10 at 1927 reported car fire, A419 south bound, false alarm
17/10/10 at 0118 automatic fire alarm, residential home, Station Road, Purton. False alarm
20/10/10 at 2040 road traffic collision, person severely trapped, A419 Castle Eaton junction
8/11/10 at 1957 automatic fire alarm, residential school, Calcutt St, Cricklade
9/11/10 at 1112 automatic fire alarm, residential school, Calcutt St, Cricklade.
11/11/10 at 1505 automatic fire alarm, flats, Salzgitter Drive, Toothill
14/11/10 at 1041 person requiring first aid at public event, High Street, Cricklade
16/11/10 at 1334 automatic fire alarm, industrial premises, Chelworth Ind. Estate
16/11/10 at 2336 road traffic collision requiring water rescue, B4696, Ashton Keynes
18/11/10 at 1842 large garage and outbuilding fire, High St, Kempford.
24/11/10 at 0505 log store fire, Dunfield, Near Kempford
26/11/10 at 1315 automatic fire alarm, Chelworth Industrial Est, Cricklade
28/11/10 at 1213 automatic fire alarm, Cockram Court, Swindon
28/11/10 at 1220 standby duties, Swindon Fire Station
28/11/10 at 2015 chimney fire, public house, Ashton Keynes
29/11/10 at 0942 trailer fire, A419 Northbound
29/11/10 at 1158 automatic fire alarm, Broadleaze, Down Ampney, Glos.
30/11/10 at 0832 grill pan fire, Cherrytree Road, Cricklade
30/11/10 at 1322 automatic fire alarm, doctors' surgery, High St, Cricklade
plus 13 co-responder calls, Cricklade

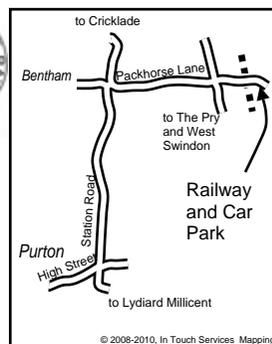
If you would like any further fire safety advice or are interested in becoming a retained Firefighter please contact us on **0800 389 7849**.

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

Due to concentrated track maintenance there will be **no** trains running during **January**.

- In **February** diesel trains will operate on Sundays and on half-term Wednesday 23 February from 11am until 4pm.
- In **March** diesel trains will operate on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am until 4pm.

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 or www.swindon-



Church Floodlighting

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



- 3 December St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on the anniversary of his 20th birthday.
Very much loved and missed by his family and friends.
- 9 December The Church was floodlit in memory of my Mother, **Elsa Trotter's** birthday. Born 9 December 1928
- 12 December St Mary's Church was floodlit in memory of **Peter Webber** on the 1st anniversary of his death.
Much loved Father and Grandfather.
From Tony, Anne and Jill.
- 19 December St Mary's Church was floodlit in memory of **Len Fryer** who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 19 December 2008.
There was no time to say goodbye.
There was no chance to hold your hand.
How you left so suddenly
I'll never, never understand.
Still devastated, Trish
- 4 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Mike Gale**; a special husband, Dad and Grandad.
Loved and sadly missed by Inez and all the family.
- 5 January The Church will be floodlit for the 18th anniversary of **Ian James Freegard**.
Remembering Ian.
From Mum and Dad, Sandra, Helen, family and friends.
- 7 January The Church will be floodlit in memory of our son **Dale Herbert** on the 3rd anniversary of his death.
Always loved and sadly missed.
Mum, Dad and family.
- 8 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Bob Wightman MBE**, in celebration of what would have been his 99th birthday.
Love and Best Wishes from all the Wightman family.
- 10 January The Church will be floodlit on 10 January, which would have been **Ken Gooding's** birthday.
From the Goodings family.

Floodlighting contact: Libbie, tel 771018

Berriman's Wood Bulb Planting

On Sunday 21 November 2010, Purton Parish Council held a bulb/wild flower planting event at Berriman's Wood with some of the local community. The Purton and Lydiard 1st Scout Beaver Pack came along and the Beavers were very enthusiastic and had fun planting the plants and bulbs along with some of the parents. A few other people came along who were originally involved in planting the trees at the Millennium. The Parish Council's Rights of Way Chairman led a team who put up some bird and bat boxes on various trees around the wood. It was very nice to have Sarah Stebbing from Woodland Trust present to oversee the event.

In August this year the Woodland Trust gave the Parish Council a £100 grant to spend on celebrating the 10th anniversary of Berriman's Wood. While on our annual parish walk and celebratory picnic to Berriman's Wood, it was decided from those present to spend the grant on planting wildflowers in the autumn. The Parish Council also decided to grant another £100 to spend on bulbs and flowers, so in total we had £200 to spend.

The Parish Council worked together with Sarah Stebbing and DASH (Wildflower Nursery in Swindon) to decide which bulbs and flowers were native to this area. Denise from DASH supplied us with a wide variety of wildflower plants and was very knowledgeable about them. We purchased 400 English bluebells, 300 wood anemones, cowslips and primrose seeds. Sarah organised with the contractor to have four areas strimmed just inside the wood to enable us to do the planting. All the plants were split between the four strimmed areas, which in time will spread around the rest of Berriman's Wood. The bird and bat boxes were very kindly made by volunteers.

The morning went very well; weather wasn't too bad, a good time was had by all ... and all are looking forward to next spring to see the fruits of our hard work. The team's hard work is acknowledged with the photograph on this month's front cover.

HELEN GRIFFIN

Town and Parish Council Budget Forums

Councils and other public sector organisations are facing tough financial challenges over the next four years. Tough choices will need to be made and we want to hear your views.

We have scheduled four Budget Forums and invite you to attend one to hear your feedback and thoughts on the challenges, choices and options that the council and police face. Our partner organisations, Area Board and Wiltshire Assembly members, and local residents are attending these forums that will focus on budget allocation and choices:

Chippenham Town Hall	Tuesday 11 January	6 - 9pm
Devizes Corn Exchange	Thursday 13 January	6 - 9pm
Salisbury City Hall	Tuesday 18 January	6 - 9pm
Trowbridge County Hall	Wednesday 19 January	6 - 9pm

Our plan focuses on;

- Making Savings

-
- Protecting the vulnerable in our communities
 - Investing in our priority services, and,
 - Helping communities to help themselves

Central government will reduce our grant funding by approximately 25% over the next 4 years and their requirements will be formalised by 17 December.

Tough decisions need to be made and we want to hear your views. Please attend one of the forums and I look forward to seeing you.

JANE SCOTT, Leader, Wiltshire Council

Get Ready for your PPG!

Everyone knows what facilities are available at their local surgery, such as how to make appointments online, the Doctors and the surgery hours ... or do they?

Many of us do not know how to get the best out of the surgery until needed, and then there is a scramble to find out how to access the services.

Enter the PPG: PPGs, or Patient Participation Groups, are Independent bodies which aim to improve communication between patients and their surgeries. The Purton and Cricklade Practice has taken the first steps towards founding a PPG.

The Surgery invited a number of people to form the Purton and Cricklade Patient Participation Group in order to get the ball rolling, with the aim of encouraging more people to join in as we progress. The group has already met several times and we're to be called G4P – Group for Patients.

Wootton Bassett New Court Surgery and many others around the country have had a PPG for many years and they have proved invaluable, increasing health awareness and co-operation between the practices and the patients.

All PPGs work under the guidance of the National Association for Patient Participation. For more information see www.napp.org.uk.

What next? On Thursday 10 March 2011 there will be a presentation in Purton Village Hall to outline the objectives of the Group. Watch your local magazine and Surgery Notice Board for details.

A PPG is not a fast-track for appointments, or a vehicle for complaints – for which there are recognised systems in place already. A PPG is independent of the surgery, focussing on the needs of patients to make their experience of the surgery as pleasant and stress free as possible.

We look forward to meeting as many patients as we can in the months ahead.

After 8

The programme for the next quarter is as follows:

Tuesday 11 **January:** Jan's New Year Quiz led by Jan at her house.

Tuesday 15 **February:** "Late Christmas Meal" - venue to be announced.

Tues 15 **March:** "Passage to India" led by Gill at Sandra's.

All meetings start at 8pm unless otherwise stated.

Contact or Janet for further information.



Purton Historical Society



I'm writing this piece just a few days after the Christmas Social, and what a fabulous evening it turned out to be. The *Western Players* did themselves proud with their Murder Mystery, although I still think that my suspect really did it. All those years reading "Whodunits" did not pay off. It was a great evening with friends and we were sorry that a few missed it due to seasonal sniffles. We must thank the Committee for all their hard work. Also to think that some of our members were questioned as suspects, some of our senior members at that.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday 27 January at 7.30pm in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. Dr John Belt will be talking about *The White Rajah of Sarawak*. At the end of the 19th century the second White Rajah came to live at Purton House. So come and find out more. Friends and visitors are always welcome for a small charge of £2.

Talking about money, Jacqui will be looking to collect subscriptions of £12 at the January meeting. Good value I reckon after seeing our programme for the year, especially as it's an extra special year being our 50th year and also the 200th anniversary of the death of Nevil Maskelyne, the Astronomer Royal.

Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 13 January in the Civic Centre at 7.30pm. David Head was closely involved dealing with emergencies in Berkshire and will be recalling The Windsor Castle fire.

Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 19 January in the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Alan Kirton will be giving his talk on "Posters in the Time of Crisis".

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 12 January at the Broadgreen Centre at 7.30pm. Well, your guess is as good as mine, as Andy Binks will be talking about "A man with a Stick"



*EVE BOOY,
Secretary*

*Roger Lawrence
and Roy Gregory
are questioned
by Security in
connection with
a murder.*

Purton Diary - January 2011

1	Sa		New Year's Day
2	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Covenant Service at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
3	M		New Year Bank Holiday
4	Tu		Partial solar eclipse starts before dawn, sunrise 08:13, max 08:17, ends 09:28, obscuration 64%
8	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Village Hall (Guide Dogs)
9	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Service at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
10	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
11	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Social Afternoon
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
		8.00pm	After 8: Jan's New Year Quiz led by Jan at her house
12	W	10.00am	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		2.30pm	Purton Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill
13	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
14	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the Village
15	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale by Silver Threads at Silver Threads Hall
16	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Service at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
17	M	7.30pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: AGM & party
18	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
19	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Barry Davies - <i>Through my Lens</i>
20	Th		Last date for postal applications for Purton United Charities
22	Sa	6.30pm	<i>for 7pm</i> : Age Concern Burns Night at Village Hall
		7.30pm	Jubilee Gardens Quiz Night, Young Farmers Hall, Purton Stoke
23	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

25	Tu	2.00pm 7.30pm	Silver Threads Club Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: AGM followed by Anita Barrett - <i>Cricklade in Bloom</i>
26	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
27	Th	7.30pm	Holocaust Memorial Day Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: Dr John Belt - <i>The White Rajah of Sarawak</i>
29	Sa	2.00pm 2.00pm	Jumble Sale by Helping Hand at Village Hall <i>to 3pm: Purton United Charities distribution at Village Hall</i>
30	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Service at Methodist Church Parish Communion at St Mary's Church Sung Evensong at St Mary's Church

Every week

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

Moon Phases

● 4 January ● 12 January ○ 19 January ● 27 January

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.

Fire Safety Advice – Candles and Portable Heaters

- Never leave lit candles near curtains or other flammable items of furniture.
- Never leave the house with lit candles still burning.
- Do not leave candles burning near an open window or under a shelf.
- Always use a safe and sturdy holder for your candles that can catch the dripping wax.
- Keep burning candles out of reach of young children.
- Make sure all heaters are well clear of furnishings.
- Always follow instructions for use.
- Keep your heater clean.
- If in use, have your chimney swept regularly.
- Don't dry laundry by the fire.
- Use a fireguard if you have young children.
- Try not to sit any closer than 1m from the heater.

St Marys CE Primary School

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of all our Christmas performances and celebrations. The children, staff and parents have all worked hard this year to deliver a warm Christmas message from St Mary's. We haven't had the luxury this year of our large hall but thanks to the sterling effort of our lower school hall and the generosity of the local community, we have been able to deliver Christmas with our usual distinctive style.

Progress with the new build has been slow of late. The cold weather has meant that there has had to be a pause in laying the slab on which the school can be built. Before the cold snap, the builders had been making significant headway, which has meant that they have been able to factor a certain amount of poor winter weather into their time calculations. I am sure that the New Year will bring better weather and a chance for Cowlins to get back on track. The next milestone after the foundations are in place is the appearance of the frame on which the block work can be set against. We look forward to things taking shape soon.

Whilst we have been without a permanent site at the top of College Road, we have had to be more creative about how we use space in our community. St Mary's Church has helped us to gather together as a whole school regularly and the Village Hall has been the venue for our school Christmas discos. We have even used alternative routes to move our children around the village – there are some wonderful photos of the children all walking to the church through the fields amongst the snow. There is very much a 'can-do' attitude amongst the school community and we have been very grateful for all the help and support we have received from the Purton neighbourhood.

All of us at St Mary's CE Primary School hope that 2011 is a successful year for you and we look forward to sharing our news with you.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher



Difficult Financial Times

These are indeed difficult financial times for many families but there is a lifeline which is available and will indeed help many. The four Credit Unions in Wiltshire have worked together and can now offer loans of up to £500 at an interest rate of 2% per month* (calculated only on the reducing balance of the loan) to borrowers who can demonstrate the ability to repay. These loans are called *Moneyline* loans.

What are Credit Unions? They are non-profit making co-operatives, regulated by the Government and are run in Wiltshire by trained volunteers. Local residents can join their Credit Union for life for £2 and would normally save for a minimum of three months before a loan would be considered. However *Moneyline* loans are available immediately – new members are also encouraged to save even small amounts into their Credit Union account while paying off their loan but are not compelled to do so. The application process is rigorous and takes about ten days to investigate the borrower's ability to repay.

The policy of Credit Unions is to help their members through a tough period and offer a genuine alternative to high cost lenders. £500 borrowed from a doorstep or Internet lender and repaid evenly over a year will cost £410 additionally in interest. From *Moneyline* the interest would be £63, a saving of £347!

These *Moneyline* loans are offered by your Credit Union and initial investigations are done by Community First, a registered charity in Devizes. Applicants should in the first instance contact:

- Community First, on 01380 736387
- or directly to their intended Credit Union
- North Wilts Credit Union 01249 248313
- West Wilts Credit Union 01225 709865
- South Wilts Credit Union 01722 421881
- Kennet Credit Union 01672 562666

All these Credit Unions have been encouraged and supported in offering *Moneyline* loans by Wiltshire Council and the Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords operating in Wiltshire.

The volunteer officers of your local Credit Union would be very happy to discuss this initiative with councillors and to work together, for instance to set up "Collection Points" to better serve parishioners in the more rural areas. Please contact your local Credit Union on the numbers above in order to move forward with us in providing this help.

[Please note that this is a monthly interest rate not an annual compound rate or the more usual AER figure published by many finance organisations. Publishing this article does not imply any endorsement by Purton Magazine . Ed.]*

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.

To Monkey Bay, from Purton with Love

BOOST MALAWI

'Imagining what it's like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion, and it is the beginning of morality'. Ian McEwan.

I have spent the last few months banging on to anyone who would listen about my recent trip to Malawi. It was profoundly eye-opening for many reasons but one of my most persistent gripes upon my return was how much I missed the sense of community I experienced in Monkey Bay ... a community I felt that we in the UK had lost. You may remember that in my article in the October edition of the Purton Magazine I appealed for donations to buy textbooks for the school I had been working in whilst in Monkey Bay. Well, you will be pleased to know that my misgivings about our absence of community spirit have been proved wholly unfounded by the residents of Purton.



I was delighted to receive so many kind and encouraging letters and emails in response to the article, and so touched by people's generosity in terms of donations. Although this is an ongoing endeavour, the first consignment of donations was sent out to Malawi on 11 November. This included contributions of stationery to enable teachers to plan more creative and interactive lessons.

The collection of stationery was as follows:

Pens	106	Chalks	106
Pencils	307	Exercise books	41
Clours pens, pencils and crayons	367	Craft glue	2 bottles
Rulers	22	Sellotape	2 rolls
Erasers	73	Paint	4 pallets
Sharpeners	46		

I must also thank GH Knight, The Stationer, Cirencester, for their substantial contribution to the above totals. Thanks also go to individuals who sent in books for the school library which will be dispatched in due course.



We also received some astoundingly generous monetary donations from several Purton residents which have been sent out to purchase the desperately needed textbooks for the class I taught, Standard Six. So far, we've collected a grand total of: £361.55, or 88,340 Malawian Kwacha.

I cannot begin to convey what a massive difference this will make to these children and I am so grateful for the donors' kindnesses. I remember asking

my class “what do you want to do when you are older?” and of course, they had big ideas. Doctors, teachers, pilots; they were all favourites. One very bright girl called Shakira proudly told me that she wanted to be an engineer. For us, these books and pens might seem somewhat trivial items, but I believe that for the children of Monkey Bay they are a real chance to come closer to achieving their dreams of a better future. They are, in short, a lifeline.

I am humbled once again by this experience. I came back from Malawi feeling very lucky; food, medical care, education and community services are all available in this country. Now I feel very lucky to be part of a very active community of people here who are open-hearted and open-minded enough to set their own daily struggles to one side and make a difference to a stranger’s life thousands of miles away for no other reason than simple human kindness. So, for this, I’d like to thank you most sincerely.

I’d also like to tell you a little about how this project has progressed over the last few weeks; there have been some very exciting developments. A volunteer called Ben Rogers arrived in Namakoma Village, two weeks after I did, to embark on his teaching project. He had been very successful in



business but had found his achievements in that area somewhat empty, so he decided to train to be a teacher. Having returned from several months in Malawi, Ben has now founded a brilliant organisation called *Boost Malawi*, of which a number of volunteers including myself are committed trustees, which aims to assist existing organisations and initiatives in Monkey Bay and the surrounding areas. We are all agreed that Malawi needs a helping hand and not a handout in order to achieve sustainable developments. Please visit www.boostmalawi.org.uk/ to have a look at all the wonderful projects we hope to help. We have sponsorship programmes, environmental conservation initiatives, as well as orphanage, enterprise and road safety projects. And, of course, the education projects are still going strong and we are aiming to better equip schools with the resources they so desperately need.

If you have not yet donated and feel that you would like to help this worthy cause, please visit the website or contact me at alice@boostmalawi.org.uk. This is just the start of my efforts to help Monkey Bay, so if you would like to keep updated on my latest fundraising news then please also take a look at my Malawi blog, <http://kukumbukira.blogspot.com/>. Our little bits of good are certainly coming together now and I believe they will soon begin to make big differences.

Alice McCarthy

Maskelyne Bicentenary Commemorations

11 February 20 and 21 May 20 August 2011

1732 – 1811

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Purton Historical Society and the bicentenary of the death of the most famous person associated with the village, we are planning some special events for 2011.

Rev Dr Nevil Maskelyne DD MA FRS, fifth Astronomer Royal, was a major scientific figure of the 18th century. His family were landowners in the Purton area for over three hundred years. After he went to Greenwich in 1765 his annual holidays were spent at The Ponds, Purton Stoke. Following his death at the Royal Observatory on 9 February 1811 his body was returned to Purton to be buried in St Mary's churchyard two days later.



In his lifetime Maskelyne contributed a great deal to astronomical research; supervising trials of the first practical marine chronometer and compiling tables that enabled mariners to calculate their positions at sea. He measured and determined the specific gravity of the earth and was involved with surveying, especially in America. His work received international recognition.

There is much we would like to arrange to enlighten the residents of Purton and district about Nevil Maskelyne, the time in which he lived and all he achieved. An exhibition relating to Maskelyne will be displayed in the Museum throughout the summer. On 21 May Dr Richard Dunn, Curator of the History of Navigation at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, has agreed to give a lecture at Bradon Forest School. In addition we hope to hire a planetarium on 20 May, produce an education pack and arrange a family activity day to be held on 20 August. For these and other aspects of the project professional help and advice is essential and costly, so we have been advised to apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

On 11 February there will be a ceremony at St Mary's Church with some specially invited guests. The present Astronomer Royal is aware of our plans so he may visit Purton during the year! We have received letters expressing interest and the willingness to become involved from the Purton and Lydiard Scout Group, the Guides and Brownies, Bradon Forest PTA, the Cricket Club (a Maskelyne played in one of the club's first matches in 1836 and four of the family were members in the 1860s), the Evening WI, PADS and the Young Farmers (three generations have lived at Pond Farm.)

Our Museum Curator, Brian Freegard, is the Maskelyne project manager. He is leading a working party from the PHS committee to organize events and after many weeks of effort the grant application has been prepared and submitted. It will be nine years since an occasion of unifying importance was arranged in the village, the Queen's Golden Jubilee, so we trust that our plans come to fruition in 2011.

JEAN BELT, Chairman

Purton Library

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to visit your local library? You might be surprised how much it has to offer. Joining the library is simple, we just need to see proof of name and current address. The library card is valid at any Wiltshire Council library and is a passport to a wealth of resources, many of which are free.

You will find a wide range of popular fiction and non-fiction titles just right for those long winter evenings and the staff are always happy to recommend books to try. The library also has books in large print and a selection of audio books on cassette and CD. The audio books are particularly helpful for people with visual impairments but can also be enjoyed in the car or even whilst doing the ironing!

Children are well catered for with books for the very young through to teenage. During the school holidays look out for special storytimes and activity sessions, including the annual Summer Reading Challenge which helps keep reading alive during the long summer holidays.

DVDs for adults and children are available to hire with a 3-for-2 special offer every Friday.

The library is an excellent source of local information, particularly for people who are new to the area. You can also have free Internet access, with printing, scanning and Microsoft Office facilities.

The library has a team of volunteers who deliver the Home Library Service to people who are unable to come to the library due to illness or disability. If you know of someone who could benefit from this service or would be interested in becoming a volunteer yourself, please ask for an application form at the library.

For more information about the library please contact us on 01793 770870 or visit the website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries.

Our opening times are:

Tuesday: 2-5 & 6-8 Wednesday: 10-1 & 2-5 Friday: 2-5 & 6-8

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our customers a Happy New Year and hope to welcome some new members in 2011.

PAT HUGHES, JANET SAUNDERS and ALI CARTER

Influence the Future of Policing in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Police Authority (WPA) is seeking the public's views on the future of policing across the county with a short questionnaire on the authority's website.

Wiltshire Police Authority's annual budget of £108 million must be reduced by £15 million over the next four years to meet government spending cuts.

It is the police authority's responsibility to ensure the police continue to provide an effective and efficient service across the whole of the Force area.

WPA Chairman Chris Hoare said: "We are committed to keeping officers on the streets and protecting the frontline as far as possible but we want people to give us their views and tell us what they value in their police service."

Please visit the authority's website - www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk - to read more about these plans and give your views via a short questionnaire. You have until 9 February 2011 to complete the questionnaire.



Year 12 Presentation

Evening: On Tuesday 1 November 2010 'last year's Year 11' students came back to Bradon Forest for their Presentation Evening. This was the final Awards Assembly of their five years at Bradon Forest. It was an enjoyable evening with many parents and relatives attending.

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

Students collected their GCSE certificates as part of the evening. In addition, each faculty was asked to nominate a small number of students who had excelled themselves in a particular subject through effort, commitment and achievement. The evening was a great success and provided an opportunity to publicly thank and praise our excellent team of staff (teaching and support), parents and governors for all their hard work and teamwork that ensures Bradon Forest continues to serve its students so well.

Meat Marketing Board Competition 2010: Shona Hargreave has been selected as one of the regional finalists for the Red Tractor 'Make it with Mince' Challenge 2010. The judges were very impressed with Shona's recipe, "Shona's Scrummy Surprise Burgers". The next stage of the competition involves seven students from across the region cooking their recipes for James Martin and other judges at the Bristol regional heat early in 2011. They will have one hour to cook their recipe in an exciting cook-off. The dishes will be judged on originality, cooking skills, presentation, and of course taste. Good luck Shona!

Bradon Forest Interform & North Wiltshire Cross Country: The 2010 Bradon Forest Interform Cross-Country competition was as muddy and as boggy as last year, but the effort put in by the students was just as impressive. Students ran in year groups so had the challenge of finishing in the best position they could in order to score the most points for their tutor group.

The thirty students who recorded the fastest times in their age groups in the Bradon Forest Interform competition earned the right to represent the school at the North Wiltshire Schools Cross Country



Championships. The event took place in the grounds of Grittleton House School. Conditions were ideal – a little chilly but the sun was out and there was no sign of wind or rain – unlike interform cross country! All students showed great determination in a tough competition and we could not have asked for more effort. Congratulations to Tom Campbell in Year 11 who won the inter boys race. Georgia Clifford in Year 7 also needs congratulating as she finished second in the minor girls event. Well done to everyone who competed.

India Link News: Mrs Shelley reports: During the end of Term 1 break, I travelled to India with colleagues from our partner schools, St Laurence, Bradford on Avon; St Sampson's, Cricklade; and Bowerhill, Melksham. The visit is part of our ongoing work with *Connecting Classrooms*, established by the British Council. During the visit the delegates were lucky enough to visit five of our link JNV schools in Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. The group was greeted in typical Indian style: there were full marching bands, delegates were adorned with flower garlands and treated to wonderful dances demonstrating traditional Indian culture. Bradon Forest School has been successfully linked with these schools for a year. Bradon Forest has an enthusiastic group of India Link students who meet regularly outside of school to work on joint projects with the schools. Many of the Principals from these schools visited us in February – it was fabulous to meet up with them again and to see how their visit had inspired them to reflect on their own teaching methods. It was also



wonderful to see our students work displayed in their classrooms.

The trip also gave teachers from Bradon Forest and St Laurence Schools the opportunity to plan and prepare for the forthcoming joint student visit in April, when 26 students will be travelling to India, visiting and working with our *India Link* schools. They are very excited at the prospect of staying in the boarding schools with the students. The group is busy fundraising, and has been involved in all kinds of projects in order to raise money for this trip of a lifetime.

Year 7 Maths & English News: The Mathematics Faculty recently opened its doors to parents of Year 7 students, for a 'Maths Parent Power Evening' to show them the sort of work that the students of Year 7 would experience in Mathematics this year. The parents were split into groups and shown some key techniques and some of the resources that we use. They were also given pocket-sized reference posters and a booklet showing what Mathematics looks like at each level. Nearly 100 parents came to this event. For English our Year 7 students have an exciting day to look forward in December. Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, who have funded the event, we have four visitors who will be running a series of workshops. All Year 7 students will have the opportunity to work with each of the presenters: Ash Dickinson, a poet; Karin Little, an illustrator; Brian Clegg, an author of science books and Dave Smith, a comedian and humorous writer. The event is being organised jointly by the English Department and our Librarians, Mrs Sykes and Mrs Styles.

Salvage Competition & 'Trashion' Show: This charity competition has been designed by Charlies Charity with Kaya Consultancy to promote sustainability and innovation to students in Wiltshire. Entrants were invited to submit designs for an outfit or garment using clothes, fabrics and leftover bits and bobs. The idea is to show how we can incorporate recycled material into today's fashion. We had seven finalists short-listed who were asked to make prototypes of their designs ready for the Salvage Fashion Show which took place on Saturday 13 November 2010 at St John's, Marlborough. The show was a very enjoyable event with 130 students (mainly sixth-formers) from several Wiltshire schools taking part. The Bradon Forest students had an excellent time and although they did not win the top prize, they were a credit to the school. Well done!



Welcome to 2011. When this edition of the magazine is published, 2011 will be close to its 'infancy'. I hope all readers and their families have enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and on behalf of the Bradon Forest School community I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

On The Lighter Side

New Year's Resolution

Ladies, why not resolve to make use of this facility!

Badge Holder through the Paying Barrier

The GWH hospital staff car park attendant told a driver "You can't park there, it's for badge holders only". "But I have a bad shoulder" protested the driver.

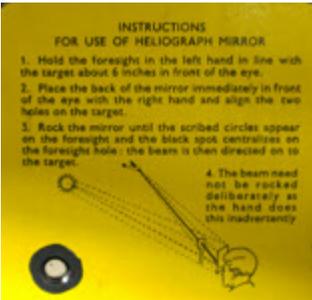


Exhibit of the Month: A Heliograph Mirror

There will be a partial solar eclipse visible from Purton on 4 January 2011 and that got me to thinking about the sun. Now that we are past the winter solstice, the days are getting longer again and Yule and the other winter festivals of light seem to have done their job in coaxing the sun back from the low horizon.

In the Museum collection we have an item called a heliograph, although in reality it is a heliographic survival mirror. It is about 4 inches square and has a hole drilled in one corner. There are also scribed circles on the mirror face and a black spot in the corner by the hole. It comes in a white canvas wallet and probably dates from the Second World War. People in distress and in need of rescue could use it to flash a light towards potential rescuers.

Opening the wallet, reveals a small white stick with a hole at one end – the foresight. Fortunately the mirror has the instructions on the back:



1. Hold the foresight in the left hand in line with the target and about 6 inches in front of the eye.
2. Place the back of the mirror immediately in front of the eye with the right hand and align the two holes on the target.
3. Rock the mirror until the scribed circles appear on the foresight and the black spot centralizes on the foresight hole: the beam is then directed on to the target.
4. The beam need not be rocked deliberately as the hand does this inadvertently.

There was another version of the heliograph which could be used for signalling by Morse code or other pre-agreed codes. This is shown in the bottom picture. It comes on a stand ... so that the hand does **not** rock it inadvertently. Once set up to point to the people you are signalling, the mirror is deliberately rocked on a swivel and the light beam passes through a hole in a plate in front of the mirror. As the plate obscures the light in other directions, only those in direct line between the sender and target can see the signal. It is therefore secure and doesn't give away the position of the sender. Early versions of it were used with success in the Sudanese and Boer Wars of the 1800s. There is more sunshine there than here!

Let's hope for clear skies here on 4 January, but the pictures at www.purtonmuseum.com will certainly be clearer!

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer



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.



■ CHURCH PEWS

On a recent visit to OUR village church, I was shocked to see that the front pews had been removed! Why? And why was there no mention in the Purton Magazine beforehand to explain to the villagers that you were considering this action, so we could have our say? After all, it is our church.

As far as I am concerned, this is the most prominent part of the church. When we get married, it is where the bridegroom waits for his bride. When our children are confirmed, that is where they sit. And for that final service it is where we sit for our final farewell. There was more comfort for the mourners in the pews rather than the odd chairs that I saw on my recent visit.

So please can we have an explanation as to who and why this was decided?

I and others may not be regular attendees, but that doesn't mean we do not care what happens in our church, and I'm sure a lot of us support the church in other ways.

So please let us know why this was done, and what other plans you have for this wonderful building, and also how much longer before we have a new Vicar for our church?

Audrey Wheeler

(This letter was received just too late for the December Magazine. As such, it was decided to pass the letter directly to the PCC for a reply.)

■ RESPONSE TO MRS WHEELER'S LETTER FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Firstly we would like to say how sorry we are that you were so shocked by the removal of the pews. We did put an explanation of what we were doing in the March issue of the Magazine, but you might not have seen that.

This has been done initially as a trial, to allow more room at the front of the church for our changing styles of worship including our monthly all-age worship, use by Purton schools for worship and concerts and special services involving many people such as at Harvest Festival.

At the end of the trial period, we have to decide whether to restore the church to its original arrangement or to continue with the new plan. As a result we made the decision not to spend unnecessary money making good until we are sure whether we are to go ahead with this arrangement – it is this that has resulted in the unfinished look.

If it is decided to continue, the front of the church will be finished appropriately.

As for the new Vicar, please see the article on page 22 of this issue.

■ JOHN BRYANT

Ann, Garry, Sharon, Mark, Joyce and Phill would like to thank all neighbours and friends for sending cards, attending the funeral and the generous donations in memory of John Bryant.

A special thank-you to Tony and Sheila Price of Age Concern for their support and kindness.

■ PURTON SHOPS

It is good to read about Andrew and our village Butcher's shop. We are so fortunate in Purton to have an assortment of shops from Hairdressers

to Chinese Take-away and for many we would be lost without them.

However with the new parking restrictions (Yellow Lines) I wonder how long they will continue due to lack of trade with these restrictions ...

Unfortunately we are an aging society who in some cases need the facility to park near by when shopping for various reasons. I would therefore ask those who initiated the placing of these restrictions what instigated the lines and the feeling that they were necessary?

John Bartlett

Purton Twinning Association

Dates for your Diary

10th Anniversary Visit to Héric: 6-8 May 2011

It may be possible to take a Minibus (we are currently obtaining costings), please contact Mrs S Brown on 01793 778632 if you are interested.

Alternatively here are some rough ideas of cost:

- Portsmouth - St Malo Return (5 - 9 May), based on 2 adults, 1 car, inside cabin on outward journey £232.00
- Portsmouth - Cherbourg Return (6 - 8 May), based on 2 adults, 1 car £192.00
- Portsmouth - Caen Return (6 - 8 May), based on 2 adults, 1 car £181.00



Purton Twinning Association AGM – Tuesday 24 May 2011

Tandem Race in Héric – 10/11/12 June 2011

Some Association members will be attending.

Music Festival in Héric – 17/18/19 June 2011

Again some members will be attending

Family History

The microfilm reader with History of Baptisms (1598-1936), Marriages (1762-1910), and Burials (1737-1950) in St Mary's church, Purton will be situated in the Museum, Purton, for interested families who wish to follow their ancestry.

If you are looking for records up to the present day, contact:

Wiltshire & Swindon Archives,
Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre,
Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 3QN

R.B. LAWRENCE

PURTON PLACARD

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

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,
or 771201

Jubilee Gardens Quiz Night
Saturday 22 January 7.30pm
Young Farmers Hall, Purton Stoke
£12 per team of four
Hot supper included
Bring your own drink
Tickets from The Bell Inn,
Purton Stoke

Jumble Sale
for Guide Dogs
8 January
Weather permitting
2pm in the Village Hall

**Purton Amateur Dramatic Society
Present**

THE OLD WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A SHOE

**A pantomime by
Norman Robbins**

**Thursday Feb 3rd,
Friday 4th and Saturday 5th,
curtains open 7.30pm**

**Saturday Matinee,
curtains open 2.30pm**

AT PURTON VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £6.00 and Concessions £4.00

Licensed bar applied for.
Tickets available from The Spar Shop,
Bottom Square.

Lindsey Hall 771890.
Sue Richardson 772581
or from any PADS Member.

Purton Age Concern
**Burns Night
Supper & Ceilidh**
Saturday 22 January
6.30pm for 7.00pm
at Purton Village Hall
Tickets £16 available from
Ron and Heather Harris
(01793) 770850

Helping Hand
Social Evening
With Entertainment
Friday 11 Feb, 7.30pm
Silver Threads Hall
Finger Buffet Etc

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



Season 2010 was one of mixed fortunes. Our young players met with considerable success and the effectiveness of the club coaching was seen when two youngsters moved into a higher grade of cricket – Tom Bowler to play for Corsham and Wiltshire and Craig Miles to play for Lansdown and to sign a 3 year contract with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. Several other players left the area with the result that our weakened senior teams could not compete on equal terms and relegation to the Wiltshire League followed.

Where are the cricketers in Purton? If you are reading this your village team needs you. Come and join us!

From the Archives

At 9.00am on 12 January 2007 a scene of devastation met the members of the committee when they arrived at the ground to discover that the previous evening's gale force winds had ripped the roof from the club's garage building and the debris was spread over a large part of the ground – the fence at the Purton House side of the ground stopping further progress for the lighter pieces of wood and metal.

JOE GARDNER, 770681



Purton Football Club



League wins over Launton Sports 5-1 and Tytherington Rocks 5-0, progression in the Supplementary Cup after a 3-2 win against Farnborough Town Reserves and progression in the Wilts Senior Cup after knocking out local rivals Cricklade Town 4-1 that sees the team now face a tough 3rd Round tie away against probably the strongest team left in the competition Bemerton Heath Harlequins. It was a very good November for Chris Pethick and his Hellenic side currently lying 5th in the league. The team have lost the services of Stephen Avenall and Luke Alford who have both returned to their previous club, Shrivenham, of the Hellenic Premier league.

In the Wilts league, Purton Redhouse have slipped down to 6th place in their league with two defeats and a draw in their last three league games but are still in the Corsham Cup where they will meet Bradford Town in January at the Red House.

At Youth levels the Under 15s, 13, and the Under 11s "A" and "B" are well up their respective leagues but the Under 14s and the under 16s both are finding the going tough in their leagues.

There are still a lot of matches left for all our teams to play and support at all the teams matches is really appreciated by the Management Committee and all the players representing their teams.

ALAN EASTWOOD, President/Chairman

Purton & District Darts League 2010/2011



Pos	PAIRS	Games	Won	Lost	Points
1	The Club at Cricklade	12	12	0	82
2	Purton Club X	12	10	2	78
3	Purton Club B	12	8	4	71
4	Royal George	12	7	5	62
5	Red House B	12	6	6	56
6	Red House C	11	9	2	56
7	Purton Club C	12	7	5	54
8	Angel B	12	5	7	53
9	Purton Club A	12	5	7	53
10	Riffs Bar	12	4	8	45
11	Haydon Wick	12	4	8	44
12	Bell Inn	12	2	10	40
13	Angel	11	2	9	32
14	Red House A	12	1	11	20

180's

Nick Vincent	Angel B	John Woodward	Red House B
P Normington	Angel B	G Brown	Red House C x2
M Symes	Haydon Wick	P Jones	Red House C
D Warner	Purton Club A	Tony Brown	Red House C x2
Mark Cutter	Purton Club B	B York	Riffs Bar
P New	Purton Club B	T York (L)	Riffs Bar
Stuart Longhurst	Purton Club B x2	Justin Frost	Royal George
Chris Martin	Purton Club C	Wayne Franklin	Royal George x2
M Richell	Purton Club C x4	A Moulden	The Club at Cricklade
I Arnold	Purton Club X	L Evans	The Club at Cricklade x3
M Channon	Red House A	R Ellis	The Club at Cricklade
Colin Giles	Red House B	S Osborne	The Club at Cricklade

Purton Tennis Club

For anyone who may feel a bit nervous about returning to tennis, taking it up for the first time or wondering whether to encourage members of their family to play, we are offering discounts so that potential players can have 'tasters' to see how they enjoy playing tennis with us and getting an idea of what is on offer if you join a tennis club. SO ... we'll look forward to hearing from you!

It has to be said that in the run-up to Christmas the courts spent a long time under snow and ice and, though they looked very nice, they were of course unplayable but nature has a way of evening things out so we're sure that we'll have a splendid patch of mild weather to make up for it. We do however, get a bit discouraged at the occasional outbreak of vandalism which damages our netting, puts graffiti on the clubhouse, breaks locks and so on. We try hard to keep our courts in good order and mending things is an expense we can do without.

Recently boys playing football were spotted using the Margaret Belt practice

wall which is not designed for their entertainment but for the smaller and softer tennis ball. We'd be grateful if anyone notices anything happening on the courts which is clearly not as it should be if they would report the matter either to us (phone numbers above) or the council who keep the police informed of misdeeds whenever possible. Thank you!

And so we wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope all your wishes come true. And anyone who reads this column regularly knows exactly what we are wishing for!

CAROLINE McLEAN

Get fit and have fun in 2011 ...



Contact us on 01793 770525 or 01793 770082

email us at play@purtontennis.net

or visit our website www.purtontennis.net for gift vouchers & membership details

Purton Tennis Club

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

November/December meetings were spent largely on Christmas preparations. Lots of things have been made, both for the girls to take home and also to give as gifts to others. 2nd Purton Brownies made and iced Christmas cakes to take home – quite a messy affair! They also made cards and gifts for the Lunch Club members. 1st Purton Brownies made and decorated salt dough Christmas tree ornaments for the residents of Hooks Hill. The evening they spent with the Hooks Hill residents was a very lively card-games evening finishing up with some carol singing.



Unfortunately, attendance at our Coffee & Carols evening this year was very low, which we are attributing largely to the poor weather and the icy conditions underfoot. Thanks must go to those die-hards who braved the elements to attend.

Other activities have been squeezed into the programme. 2nd Purton Brownies had a fun evening cracking codes, doing some secret writing and silent walking – any silent activity at Brownies is always a challenge! Rainbows started work on a new Rainbow Roundabout badge for which their first challenge was to make a sandwich whilst blindfolded whilst Guides spent one meeting out on a night walk.

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

Guide Weekend at Oxenwood

On 5 November 2010, Bebhinn and I went on a Guide camp. This camp lasted 3 days and was AMAZING! We did loads of fun activities (mostly outdoors). We made our own pizzas out of pitta bread, learnt smoke signals, made bird houses, made up our own fire dance (that was really funny!) and loads more things. On the last night we had a camp fire and sang lots of songs. The best activity was when we made fake wounds. They looked so realistic! The food was really nice. We had roast dinner, jacket potato, spaghetti and lots more things! What I enjoyed most was meeting people from other packs and making new friends. I made a friend called Kira. She is really nice. The camp was really fun and I will definitely go next time! Thank you to all the leaders who helped run this weekend!

KIRSTIE AMBROSE, 1st Purton Guides

The logo for 'A to Z of Purton' features the word 'A to Z' in a stylized font. The letter 'A' is filled with colorful balloons, 'T' is a solid grey, and 'O' is a zebra print. To the right, the words 'OF PURTON' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline, set against a background image of a large, historic stone building with a tower.

A to Z OF PURTON

E is for ... England

Purton young man, Craig Miles, at the age of 16, has already earned the reputation of an up-and-coming cricketer. He played his early matches in Purton's under age teams and quickly progressed to the 2nd XI and 1st XI before joining Gloucestershire CC's Academy for young, promising players. As an U14 player for Wiltshire he produced some outstanding performances finishing the season 2008 with 17 wickets for 92 runs at an average of 5.41 runs per wicket with a best performance of 5 wickets for 11 runs. He was selected for the South and West England regional squads at U14 and U15 levels and in 2009 he toured Barbados and Trinidad. He was selected to appear in the prestigious Bunbury Cricket Festival as a result of which he was presented with his U15 England cap by David Collier of the English and Wales Cricket Board.

At the end of his first season away from Purton he has been offered and signed a three-year contract with Gloucestershire consisting of a two-year summer contract which will culminate in a full time professional contract for the 2013 season.

Let us hope that Craig follows in the footsteps of other players who appeared at the Bunbury Festival – Freddie Flintoff and David Gower – and plays for ENGLAND'S test team.

Well done and congratulations, Craig!

E is for ... Ewart

Ewart (Iles), who was born at Purton Stoke, was introduced to cricket when his parents moved to College Farm in Purton. He played his cricket with Purton stalwarts Josh Haskins, Alf Woolford, Joe Staley and team captain, Stephen Brown. Ewart was a successful player and when he married a Goatacre girl and took up residence there he continued to play for Purton. At the end of the First World War Ewart decided to leave Purton. He made a playing field available to the children of Goatacre and this field gradually developed as the home of Goatacre Cricket Club where since 1928 its reputation has been established and maintained in no small part to the efforts of Ewart and members of his family.

E is for ... E-mail

Readers might be interested to learn just how many e-mails the magazine now receives each month ... a typical month is about 72. Indeed, it might now be very difficult to put the magazine together without electronic communications. To send your contributions to the Magazine, eg articles or letters for the Postbag, our email address is mail@purtonmagazine.com

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 "F is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 January, via the addresses shown on page 4.*

E is for ... Edge of the village

We live in the area that could be called the edge of the village. Ringsbury Close was developed in the early 1960s on the ridge of high ground on Purton's western escarpment. We moved in May 1969 and since then I do not think a day has gone by when we have not enjoyed and marvelled at the view to the west from our back windows. The estate agent's blurb described the house as having "far-reaching views" but I have to admit that this attraction did not then figure largely in my considerations: I was just happy to have found a home with a large enough garden, three bedrooms and, oh joy, central heating. It was only once the move itself was accomplished that I properly took in what it was that had given me such a sense of freedom and space on the day we looked at the house.

Behind us is a level field extending the whole length of the Close and about fifty metres wide. Our situation is so perfect because, beyond the field and its bordering hedgerow the land drops away exactly in line with our windows into a small valley with higher land extending on either side. Do not be thinking of impressive heights and steep valleys: this is a very English, sweetly gentle gradient, but still one that affords us beautiful views of fields and woodlands both north and south to the far horizon about twenty miles away. At the spring and autumn solstices the sun sinks below the horizon directly behind our kitchen window. We have enjoyed spectacular sunsets at every season as well as the glorious scarlets and purples of under-lit clouds long after the sun itself has disappeared. Below this glory there is the landscape itself, with colours that change every season. We are very lucky ... but we do know it.

E is for ... Education

With tuition fees currently confusing the coalition government it is interesting to note that all of 150 years ago, Purton was ahead of the government of the day. Back in 1860, a full 10 years before the then government accepted full responsibility for the education of the nation's children, the Revd. Coates was able to raise enough money to build the older part of St Mary's school.

Now, with the new school being built, there are several people in the village who are anxious that the old school building is not demolished. Surely it is not beyond the wit and wisdom of Purtonians to modify the building for community use as there must be so many past pupils (and teachers) who have lots of happy memories embedded in that very special building. It has become one of the most recognisable buildings in the village and perhaps it should be saved. Ideas for future use could well be aired in future issues of this Magazine.

E is for ... Exhibit

Purton Magazine has carried the Exhibit of the Month from the Museum since the series started in November 1991. In those 9 years there have been 130 Exhibits representing the history of the village and the ways life has changed. Somewhat more than the British Museum managed in their recent series *A History of the World in 100 Objects* on the BBC!

E is for ... Eclipse

We don't get to see many solar eclipses and the last total eclipse visible from Britain (11 August 1999) was confined mainly to the far south-west and was a bit of a wash out with veiling cloud.

There will be a partial eclipse visible from parts of Britain on 4 January 2011 and that includes Purton. It will start before dawn so the sun will rise in eclipse towards the south-east. Maximum obscuration will be 64% of the sun's disk and the event will be over completely by 9.28am. If you are to stand any chance of seeing it, you will need to have an unimpeded view of the sky low in the south-east and we will need to be lucky enough to have clear skies.

The next one ... again only partial ... isn't until 20 March 2015 but will be greater than 80% and during the late morning. The next 'total' isn't until I'm 140 in 2090 ...

E is for ... Electricity

What would we have done without it lighting our Christmas trees and cooking our turkeys? A recent spate of electricity failures in The Hyde tells me that people did and can still cope, but ... please don't use candles on the tree! It was only in 1952 that Albert Biggs, the then owner of Quarry House (next to Quarry Farm), heard that the Electricity Board were obliged to connect farms to the grid for £50 if they and their neighbours could guarantee to buy £30 worth of electricity in a year. £5 of that would be discounted from their bills. Power was duly connected by their engineer Ken Bletsoe. His son Sherwood still lives in The Hyde. Bills are up a bit since, though!

E is for ... Elections

With the disenfranchising of Cricklade as an independent borough in 1782, the electors of Purton were amalgamated into an electoral district that included the Hundreds of Highworth, Staple, Kingsbridge and Malmesbury and which provided two members for just over 100 years. The origins of our current North Wiltshire constituency date back to 1885. In the last election in 2010, 48,669 votes were cast in our constituency equating to a 73.4% turnout which compares favourably with the national turnout of 65.1%.

E is for ... Eucharist, Holy Communion, Mass, the Lord's Supper and more.

This is the last meal that Jesus held with his friends on the night before he was crucified and came alive again three days later. The disciples shared bread and wine together and this special supper is remembered and re-enacted every Sunday at St Mary's Church and twice monthly at the Methodist Church too. Everyone is welcome to share bread and wine or have a blessing.

E is for ... Everyone reading this as it seems an excellent opportunity to use this new section of our magazine to wish each of you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

'Twas the Month after Christmas

'Twas the month after Christmas,
And all through the house,
Nothing would fit me,
Not even a blouse.



The cookies I'd nibbled,
The chocolate I'd taste
At the holiday parties
Had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales
There arose such a number!
When I walked to the shops ...
less a walk than a lumber.

I'd remembered the marvellous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The wine and the Rum Bells, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd *not* said, "No thank you ... please."

As I dressed myself up in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt ...
I said to myself, as only I can,
"you can't spend a winter disguised as a man."

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.
I'll just want to chew on a celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot ... and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore ...
But isn't all that what January's for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all, and to all a Good Diet!



Author Unknown

*Found by Avril Ainscough in Hallington Parish Magazine
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