

Purton Magazine



*Bradon Forest Under-16 Netball Team
Winners of Wiltshire round of the National Schools Netball Tournament
who now go through to the South West Regional Tournament in Bournemouth
[See page 28.](#)*

February 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

The result of the Oldham East and Saddleworth by-election will be old news when you read this but the very unusual reason for holding that by-election may still be reverberating. A special court had found that the sitting MP had lied about an opponent in last May's general election and invalidated that result.

For every election there needs to be an electoral roll of eligible voters and in this issue of your magazine, the Exhibit of the Month on [page 34](#), introduces us to the Register of Parochial Electors for the Parish of Purton from exactly 100 years ago. So much has changed in a century. Back then the entitlement to vote in Parliamentary elections only came through ownership or occupation of property in the Parish as well as 'lodgers' although that last category could have been a convenient way of getting friends or relatives onto the list.

Understandably the vast majority of people on the list are men as women were not given the parliamentary vote until a little later in the 20th century. Anyone searching for their ancestors will be able to download a scanned copy of the document.

Indeed, the A to Z series on [pages 38 and 39](#) has reached "F" and includes an *F for Families* that wonders which family has been living in Purton the longest. We would be pleased to publish details of any family currently living in our community that can trace their ancestors back into the 19th century and details of how to contact the magazine are on [page 4](#). Perhaps the 1911 Register could provide some useful information for family research.

Future editions of the Purton Electoral Roll might easily include an additional 2000 names if a new planning application is approved. A major new development of 800 (yes, eight hundred) houses is being proposed at Ridgeway Farm on the eastern edge of the village just behind the former Foresters Arms and very close to The Fox.

It seems that the timing of the application has had the effect of minimising the consultation period through the Christmas and New Year period and currently responses to the application need to be lodged before **Thursday 10 February**. The reaction of the Parish Council appears on [page 5](#) and further details about the issues that this application raises are on [page 17](#) together with information about how to register your comments – speed is of the essence.

66

concrete columns will support the rebuilt St Mary's school
– [see page 37](#)

800

new homes are being proposed in a major development near to The Fox
– see [pages 5 & 17](#)

1963

is the year that the Purton Helping Hand group was founded
– see [page 33](#)

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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.

Magazine Committee

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

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Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions

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to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB
tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution enquiries only:

[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Ridgeway Farm Proposed Development for 800 dwellings: (the site is located close to The Fox, between Purton and Swindon off the B4553) – The outline planning application for this development was received just before Christmas and we have until **10 February 2011** to comment on it hence a lot of work is being done to go through the huge amount of paperwork that is involved with this application. We were not aware of the application in time for us to raise awareness of it in the January magazine. The application can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's web site – www.wiltshire.gov.uk – Planning Application number N10/04575/OUT. The impact such a large development as this will have on our doorstep cannot be underestimated; it will have many far-reaching implications and consequences. If the outline application is approved, a full application will no doubt be submitted at a later date and we will have the opportunity to comment on the detail of the plan. However, in many ways the outline application is much more significant in that it will decide if any development is to take place on the site hence our representation and yours at this stage is crucial.

Institute Clock: We have now accepted a quotation from Gillett and Johnson for the refurbishment of the Institute Clock face. The clock is a J W Benson (well respected clock maker) dated 1880. It is a flat-bed two-train clock with dead beat escapement, wood rod pendulum and striking the hours on a single bell. The dial is not decorated in the traditional manner in that some of the roman numerals are upside down. Big Ben is the same so we are in good company. The intention is to repaint the face retaining the upside down numerals as we like to be a little different. So if you notice that the clock face has been removed over the next few months you will know the reason why. We hope when it is replaced it will look splendid with its facelift.

Local Flood Protection: The Parish Council has the opportunity to obtain, at a reduced cost of £2.50, gel sacs as a means of flood protection. The sacs are filled with a gel that expands when wet, but when dry they are virtually flat. When they are dry they measure 60cm x 37cm and weigh 0.4kg. When wet they are 54cm x 31cm, 10.5cm high, and weigh 13kg. You would require 6 to 8 bags for most doors but this is dependent on the depth of the flood and size of the door. If you would like the Parish Council to obtain some sacs on your behalf then please contact the Parish Council Office.

Annual Parish Meeting: This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 28 March in Purton Village Hall. This is your opportunity to find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year and what its plans are for the coming year. A copy of its Annual Report will be given out at the meeting and you will have the opportunity to raise questions or to just sit and listen. We are considering who to invite as a speaker for the evening. If you have a particular topic you would like a presentation on then please let us know. One thought we have is for a speaker to talk about the Cotswold Water Park as it is in such close proximity

and would give an insight into what is available in terms of recreation facilities and what is planned for the future. But as this is your meeting we would welcome your input and views.

Dog Warden: Given the popularity of the opportunity for people to talk to the dog warden in Purton before Christmas we are pleased to report that Sebastian (Dog Warden) will be in Purton on the first Wednesday of each month starting on 2 February from 9 to 11 am, in the Parish Council's meeting room, in the Village Hall car park adjacent to the public toilets. We are aware that dog fouling is currently a major problem in the village. Since Christmas, we have received several reports of how bad it has got, particular in the vicinity of the school and the path between the Angel Car Park and the Vets and also along the pavement in Pavenhill. One person was so offended by the dogs' mess on the path adjacent to the Angel Car Park that he cleaned the path from top to bottom and has done the same in other areas, for this we thank him. Of course he should not need to do this dog owners should take responsibility for their dogs and pick up their dog's mess. It is socially unacceptable to leave it on the ground, and there are several dog bins and litter bins around the village so there is no need to have to carry it very far and no excuse not to pick it up. Please report to Sebastian or the Parish Council any dog owners you are aware of that allow their dogs to foul without picking it up.

Cross Lanes Junction: We have been campaigning for improvements to the Cross Lanes Junction for some time, ideally we would like to see a roundabout there. However, given financial restraints at County Hall, it became clear that at this time money was not available for such a project. We then went to the Area Board as it has a small allocation of money for traffic/highway projects and we are pleased to say we have been successful in securing some of that money to carry out minor improvements to the entrance to Hayes Knoll. We are not sure when the work will be carried out but hopefully in the not too distant future.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website www.communicate.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.

Wootton Bassett Bowls Club ...

... are proud to present the **Beaufort Male Voice Choir** in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 19 March 2011.

The concert will start at 7.00pm. Tickets £10pp or £9pp concessions. Tickets will be available from Monday 21 February at

- Crumps Family Butchers High Street, Wootton Bassett,
- Bowls Club Members
- or Dave on 07923 650627.



We Record ...

Baptism

28 November Cole Finley Roberts at *St Mary's Church*

Deaths

1 January Evelyn Joan Waldron (85)

8 January David Pope

Funerals

8 November John Bryant at *St Mary's Church*

9 December Janine Schneider at *St Mary's Church*

21 December Colin Normington at *St Mary's Church*

23 December Charles Selman at *St Mary's Church*

6 January Gordon Melville Jones (73) at *Immanuel Church, Swindon*

In Memoriam

11 February 1811 Nevil Maskelyne DD FRS, Astronomer Royal, buried at
St Mary's Church

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



Car Parking Strategy

Update for Wootton Bassett and Cricklade

Thank you to everyone who took part in the car parking strategy consultation. The strategy has been developed as parking charges in Wiltshire were a lot lower than in surrounding local authority areas and that, as a result of having four former District Councils, there were many differences in parking charges across Wiltshire.

In Wootton Bassett, the new charges proposed will start from £0.30 an hour and Cricklade will start from £0.20 per hour.

Town and Parish Councils have the options of buying back a proportion of spaces or in Cricklade, managing the small car parks, at their cost, as an alternative to charges.

In addition, funding for concessionary fares and the bus services operator grants will be reduced by central government, this will have a major impact on people who are mobility impaired.

A decision has been taken to use the additional funds generated by the increase in car parking charges to subsidise transport that is needed for the more vulnerable in our community.

ALISON SULLIVAN
Community Area Manager
Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board

Zen Teachings

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Purton & District Age Concern



There are several people whose new year will not be the same as they have lost loved ones over the festive season and before. All we can hope and pray for is that they will find inner strength to help overcome their sadness in the years to come and I sincerely hope their memories will bring a smile to their face again.

We in Age Concern are particularly thinking of and praying for our street warden at the Fox, Janice Normington, and her family on the sad loss of her husband Colin. Colin was born in Staffordshire and came to Wiltshire quite early in his life and he went to a Roman Catholic school in Malmesbury. When he was ten years old he contracted TB and spent a year in Frenchay Hospital in Bristol. You can imagine a young lad in hospital and only getting a visit from his family at weekends and this going on for twelve months. Some ordeal but, knowing Colin like I did, I doubt very much if he complained.

On leaving school he had several jobs, selling paraffin, working in a chip shop and on a farm amongst some of them, before settling down in the building trade, first painting and decorating, then building work, before finally moving on to roofing – I bet he was good at all these jobs because that was the type of person he was. When he was roofing he did mainly Cotswold stone tiling along with his friend and partner in business, John Bentley. I know they did a roof on our old pig sty and outside toilet in our garden – this was some twenty years ago, and I've had no trouble with it. In fact, they were the type of people you could recommend to anybody. Colin had to take early retirement through health problems to do with his heart, and he must have found this very frustrating being the person he was. He was quite a keen angler – whether he took that up after he retired early or not I don't know, but you could be assured that he was a good angler as Colin was the type of person no matter what he did he was good at. He must have been a very patient man as well, sitting there waiting for a bite. Also he was the top man around this area for growing vegetables – here again you need patience. Colin was a great show man. You wonder, when the likes of Albert Clifford, Les Smith and, earlier on, Frank Grinnell and Herby Curtis packed up showing whether the Flower and Vegetables Shows would pack up. Well, the Royal British Legion did and, when we were talking about resurrecting this Show, it was felt that, if we could get Colin interested, we were halfway there. Colin was interested and entered produce until last year, winning plenty of cups but, do you know what, he never took any prize money. He would give it back to me and say 'Just put this in with the funds' and it was a considerable amount I can tell you.

I would think that Colin had to do plenty of the right exercise to recover his health after his heart problems but, being Colin, he not only made the most of it but enjoyed the swimming and the walking. I know that, if I dropped any Age Concern things to be delivered, Colin would always say 'Don't worry, I'll do that'. On about walking, wasn't he the type of person you loved to meet when you were out walking. He was pleasant, knowledgeable, liked talking about nature and the countryside and was always interesting to chat to. He played football for his school and also

Purton at senior level and, for several years, helped the late Don Preddy coach the under-seventeens very successfully.

Colin and Janice were married for forty-seven years and had two sons and grandchildren. There was an incident that happened on their wedding day a long time ago now. John Bentley was Colin's best man and Colin gave John some money to get the drinks in at the reception and said 'You had better give the vicar a tip out of that'. At the reception Colin said to John, 'Can you get some drinks in out of that money?' John said, 'What money?' Colin said, 'What I gave you earlier on'. Well Colin hit the roof when John said he had given all the money to the vicar. Colin shouted, 'You silly ---' and there was deadly silence in the reception – you could have heard a pin drop. I don't know whether Colin ever forgave John but I do know he often reminded him of it. Also I bet the vicar wished he had a wedding like that every week! Mind they had had a couple of brandies before the wedding to steady their nerves! Our thoughts are with Janice, Paul, Ian and their families at this sad time. We will all miss him but our miss will not be as great as yours. We all admire you as a family in the way you looked after Colin – the way you did it was a credit to you all.

Another lady who has been in our thoughts is Louise, our secretary, who has lost her dad. She nursed him with tender loving care just like Janice and her family did for Colin. Louise's dad lived in Tamworth and she has spent a great deal of time there over the last few months, staying there for a whole month until his death just before Christmas. Of course, that is a very busy time for us in Age Concern, so could I thank our committee for their support, especially Sheila, my wife, for taking up the reins again temporarily as secretary (mind she's had quite a bit of experience!). We are so pleased to have Louise back with us and we are thinking of her in the loss of her dad.

It is again with great sadness that we heard of the death of Aron MacDonald, our street warden for Glevum Close and part of Witts Lane. As I have said, she was a street warden – a vital part of our organisation and excellent she was at that. She was a person who was straight to the point and you knew where you stood with her right from the word go. She was the type of person that, if anything had to be done, you could rely on Aron without asking a second time. She was certainly a fighter with the way she has fought her illness over many years – never once did she say to me, 'Would you find someone else to take over my area?' Even over the Christmas period, which is a busy time for our street wardens, she carried out her duties. Mind, I am sure John was a great source of help here, as he was with everything Aron did.

Aron was born in Lincolnshire in 1933 at Whaplode and she married John MacDonald in 1953. Aron had a lot of sadness in her life. She had a daughter Denise and three sons of which there were twins Stuart and Ian, who sadly died. This left Andrew along with Denise and now there are three grandchildren who were her pride and joy. I must tell you now as I have said she was a straight-to-the-point lady, well she was christened Nora but did not like the name so what did she do, very cleverly reversed the letters and got Aron. She was a very talented lady with her hands, doing various crafts, making greeting cards, knitting and sewing and she was also a very

keen gardener, as you could see when you went to her house. Another of her qualities was her lovely singing voice, which she put to good use in the Wootton Bassett Light Operatic Society. Another of her pleasures was a theatre trip or perhaps a coach trip. Aron was a very versatile sort of person and this is highlighted by the various positions she held – cashier, playgroup leader, receptionist at Purton and Cricklade surgery, Wootton Bassett Leisure Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital, teaching assistant and nursing auxiliary at North View Hospital. I think Aron's greatest quality was kindness which we have felt in Age Concern and I am sure other people and organisations have felt the same. To John, Denise, Andrew and their families, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Another lady who has sadly parted from this life is Joan Waldron. Joan hasn't been seen too much during recent years due to her ill health but, on occasions, she could be seen in her buggy going to the shops. I cannot say 'taking her little dog for a walk' because the dog would sit in the little basket on the front of her buggy. I always thought what a lovely sight it was.

When there was some disagreement on the committee of what was then 'Care of the Elderly' you had two breakaway groups – Age Concern and the Helping Hand. Then there was the offshoot of the Carnival committee that supported the Helping Hand. Joan was treasurer of the Carnival committee and the Helping Hand and her husband Harold was secretary of both these as well. They say behind every good man there's a good lady. I know only too well what it is like to have the support that Harold had. We have so much to thank them for. We all look forward to the Carnival, which in turn helps to support the Helping Hand and we all know what an excellent organisation that is with the way they help the community. They talk about coalition in today's Parliament, well we had a good example when Care of the Elderly disbanded and Age Concern started as Harold Waldron was secretary of the Labour party and Chris May was secretary of the Conservative Party. Chris became secretary of the newly formed Age Concern and Harold became Chairman. That certainly got us off to a good start and, of course, Chris went on to be our President.

It is surprising how things or peoples' lives come to light after they have sadly died. That happened to me when I went to Gordon Jones funeral at Immanuel Church in Swindon. Gordon has lived at Hooks Hill for the last couple of years and I got to know him through Purton Methodist Church where he had become a regular worshipper before moving to Purton. He seemed a quiet, shy, reserved person and you would think he led a quiet life. What we did know was that he was always very cheerful and when you saw him with a group of people they would be smiling. What we didn't know was what a full life he had led and what a loved and respected man he was by all the people he had come into contact with during his life. Immanuel Church was packed, with people having to sit in the foyer. In his quiet way, he had touched many lives and I think, in his modest way, he would have been amazed by the number of people who were there. We offer our deepest sympathy to Betty, Bob and Linda, who had made Gordon part of their family.

To all the people who have lost loved ones, their families and friends, we send our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Take care.

We are back in the run-of-the-mill routine but in Age Concern we had a fantastic Christmas. I have already spoken of events prior to the market stall in last month's magazine so I will start with the market stall. We were dead lucky with the weather and the kindness of people. As you know, Andrew provided all different sorts of sausages for people to taste – there were certainly some happy looks on people's faces on tasting them. I would like to thank not only Andrew but all the kind people who made cakes and gave us items to sell and, of course, all you people who came along to support us. Thanks to Sylvia for keeping us warm with tea and coffee – this was greatly appreciated – and on top of the money we made on the stalls we sold £92 of raffle tickets. This leads me on to the raffle – best yet – we sold all of the tickets, some £800-worth. What helps us to sell these tickets is the lovely prizes you all give us, so many thanks for that.

Next the carols under the tree on Christmas Eve. The weather was a little different with the area in front of the Institute covered in two or three inches of snow and ice, so we were going to meet at 10 am to decide if the singing should be inside or outside. At 9.30 am I get a phone call – 'Hi Tony, Kevin here – is the carol singing on?' I tell him what we are proposing – either clear the snow or have it indoors. 'I'll see you down there and, in case you want a hand I'll get a couple of mates'. We turn up at 10am deciding to clear the snow and Kevin Law has brought five mates. Hey presto, it was all cleared within half an hour, so many thanks to Kevin and his friends. (We shall know who to call on for any future snow clearing!) The carols went ahead as usual with the hot punch and mince pies – most welcome on a cold night and as nice as always. The punch is always made by my wife Sheila, who never gets to come out for the carol singing. Congratulations to all the musicians – it must have been very difficult playing on such a cold night. Thanks to them and their conductor Mary New. We did miss Graham and hope he is still making steady progress and will be with us next year. Let's not forget Father Christmas who made a brief visit on his busy night. We had two very kind donations given to us on the night – you know who you are – so thank you.

We took the Christmas tree down on 2 January with the same young men, Nick, Mick, Adam and Ian doing the donkey work. What was normally a morning's job for us was all done in half an hour. Don't worry we have already booked them for next Christmas.

Could I continue on the theme of people's kindness by thanking all those involved in taking the meals out to people from the Luncheon Club when the snow and ice were so bad – the lady who organises the menu, the cooks who struggled in to do the cooking and the people who delivered the meals. It was such a good team effort and was greatly appreciated. In fact, I have had a card thanking us all from the recipients and this was very kind of them. I can assure you we all felt it was a very worth while exercise.

We have been very touched by the many kind donations we have received over the Christmas period, also by the kindness shown to our organisation. It gives us all such a boost to feel that we must be doing something right that you show us such appreciation.

We have a jumble sale on Saturday 19 February at the Village Hall starting at

2pm. Good clean jumble and bric-a-brac can be left at the hall between 12 noon and 1pm. Following on from this we have our annual auction also at the Village Hall, on Saturday 12 March starting at 1pm. Viewing is from 12 noon to 1pm. Items for sale can be brought to the hall between 9.30 and 11.30am. You get 75% of the selling price. If you need a booking form with conditions, please contact me on 770696.

Finally, we have had the offer of a stair lift free of charge but I would imagine you would need a specialist engineer to install it. If interested, give me a ring on 770696.

Sadly, just as I was finishing my piece for the Magazine I heard of the death of David Pope of Glevum Close. He was a nice man, the type of person you would call a gentleman. It is a very sad time for the people of Glevum as David was a very kind and helpful man and, as you would expect from a man of that calibre, an excellent neighbour. If my memory serves me correctly (sometimes it doesn't) David was a member of Toc H when they used to meet in the coach house in the grounds of the Sissells, the house that has just been sold in the High Street next to Long Acre. Their meeting room was at the bottom and, when I was in the Scouts, we met in the top room as that was bigger. It went over the coach house and stables. I think I am right that Toc H members at that time included Jim Bunce, Fred Miles, John and Bill Wheeler and Abner Pratt to name just a few. As I have said, I don't know whether David was a member then or joined later. The Toc H were people who did things quietly to help others. I think that sums David up – if he could help anyone, he did it in a quiet sort of way. We offer Mrs Pope and her family our deepest sympathy on the loss of such a lovely man.

TONY PRICE

Purton & the Great War 1914-18

Many thanks to all who purchased a copy of my book. Sales have raised a total of £460 for *Combat Stress*, and the last few copies are available through Rick at In Touch Services. The research continues and if anyone has any detail no matter how small regarding the Village and WW1 please get in touch. I have had contact with a few people since publication obtaining more material for further research opportunities. What was interesting again was seeing how and where copies were sold. To date 13 copies have been sold to village residents and 25 copies outside the village. Maybe this shows that interest is smaller within Purton or maybe it highlights that Purton natives have moved far and wide (furthest copy sold was to Canada) but still keep in touch via the Internet and publications like the Magazine.

I must thank again the Museum for its assistance. I have left some information sheets regarding the War graves within St Mary's Churchyard in the hope that visitors will take the opportunity to pay respects to those who lie within the community. I have also left a laminated information sheet inside the South porch at the Church to hopefully encourage visitors to take time to visit the graves using the details and map provided. Remembrance is an act mainly carried out just once a year, I pop down to the Churchyard at least once a month to make sure the graves are tidy. Whilst a couple of the graves appear to have visitors most do not. Please find time to pay respects if possible. Many thanks again for the support given.

BOB LLOYD, bob.mech00@tiscali.co.uk

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.org.uk



We nervously watched the weather forecasts as the date of our Birthday/Christmas party approached, but all was well and it was indeed a merry band of members who met at the Silver Threads Hall on 15 December, loaded with bags of appropriate table decorations and food – much of it home-made, as one would expect with the WI! In no time at all, the Hall was ornamented with tables set for six or eight people, nibbles were circulated, cups were laid out for later coffee/tea, and a tastefully decorated birthday cake was set up, to be admired now and eaten later in the evening. And on to the platform came the entertainment – a large harp, accompanied by its player, Chris Hinder, who quietly played background music throughout the first hour of dining, a generous act not always agreed to by musicians but which added a real touch of class to the proceedings!

After the meal, when the detritus was disposed of and a small amount of business had been discussed, we settled down to an enjoyable half-hour of entertainment by the Choir. Carriages came on time and a group of contented ladies then went on their way home.

A few members went together to the pantomime at the Wyvern theatre, again just able to avoid the bad weather. Peter Pan was the attraction, with Paul Nicholas as Captain Hook. The theatre was packed mostly with children and their families, but we gave as good a shout as anyone and were suitably hoarse next day!

More serious times ahead, as we shall soon be paying our annual subscription of £30.00 (which covers good monthly magazines), plus a little extra for tea/coffee and biscuit at the meetings. You can read all about it on purtonevewi.org.uk if it is available to you. If not, please be extra sure to look at the Information Table and also refer to your WFWI Newsletter for details of current events.

Our next meeting is on 16 February and the speaker will be Julia Wilkinson, on “Living on an Island off Hong Kong”, followed by Social Time.

See you there? If you aren't yet a member, now is a good time to join!

CONSTANCE REED, tel 771571



Carnival 2011

3 - 11 June – Theme: Musicals

It is getting much nearer to Carnival Week. I do hope you are starting to think seriously on how you are going to be part of the fun and help us to raise funds for the Christmas Vouchers.

There are lots of events taking shape and the next issue of the Magazine will be full of details.

Don't forget we need lots of help so, if you have a little spare time, please contact me.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

Purton Guide Dogs

Since the last entry in the December Magazine, I have to report on two stalls I did in conjunction with the Swindon Branch. The first was at *The Friends of Christchurch* Christmas market, where I took £62.62 in Trading Goods and £22.97 for the Purton Puppy account. The next venue was 'Christmas at Steam' where I took £82.92 for the Trading Goods, £48.50 for the Tombola and £6.41 for the Puppy account. The next Purton venue will have been our January Jumble on the 8th in the Village Hall, if the weather permitted. Thank you all for your continued support.



BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Purton Twinning Association

Dates for your Diary

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

Our visit to Héric is open to members of the Twinning Association and anyone else from Purton who would like to visit with us. Accommodation will be kindly provided by host families in Héric. We hope to be able to hire a minibus if there are enough people interested. Based on a full minibus of 15 people, the cost per person would be about £70. This is based on dividing the costs equally and includes Group booking Portsmouth to Caen (departing Thursday pm returning Monday am), bus hire, green card insurance, ferry return fare and fuel. Please contact Mrs S Brown 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

School Reunion

Did you go to Bradon Forest School and leave in the summer of 1981? If so we are organising a school reunion on Friday 13 May 2011 at The Old Bank Brassiere (top floor), Old Town, Swindon, 7.30pm. Please try to come and invite anyone else (students or teachers) from our year that you are still in touch with! RSVP to 07846 040323 by text please.

*TANIA CURRIE
(née Cotton)*

Snow Reports

February is often the coldest and snowiest month of the year. Even though we are in a mild snap, as your Magazine goes to press, the following articles are still likely to be relevant until spring is firmly with us.

Grit Bins & Gritting of Highways

Grit Bins - During the bad weather which we have just experienced, a number of people contacted me with regard to road gritting and grit in the public bins.

Unfortunately some of the bins were emptied quite quickly and I was told that a white van was seen going round taking the grit. Plus some of the grit appears to have been used by residents for their own private use. If you see anything suspicious please let me or the Police know.

If the grit is used for private use, this is seen as theft and of course deprives the public for areas we all use. Please, if you need grit for your own use, it is best to obtain your own supplies.

The grit is for the purpose of public highways and public footpaths in the locality of the bins. To achieve best performance of the grit, the areas should be cleared of snow and ice first. However in extreme circumstances it can be put down onto icy patches to achieve grip.

The programme to keep grit bins filled is ongoing. Prior to the cold weather they were all filled and were later topped up again and Highways have been given an up-to-date list of bins needing further supplies. This is in the process of being arranged however there are many communities needing the grit and there is a large list for the Council to work through and allocate out from the resource the council has.

Wiltshire Council had also offered to all the Parishes and Town Councils a 1 ton supply of grit to be held within the communities, for use should the grit supplies run out. Purton Parish has now taken up the offer. However there could be a wait for this to come through due to the commitment of grit for elsewhere.

Purton has around 20 grit bins in and around the Parish – this includes 2 out at Purton Stoke plus the Area Board was able to offer the Parish a further grit bin.

Highway Gritting - The road gritting programme has set routes. Wiltshire Council routinely treat all class A and B roads, and the more important lower class roads. This should ensure the majority of road users live within a reasonable distance of a salted road. Routes which are not on the precautionary or extended routes are not necessarily untreated – they just have a lesser priority. The intention is to treat as much of the network as possible once the main routes are treated.

JACQUI LAY – Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon



Road Safety in Snow

Below: How silly is that?

As a member of The Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers, I was concerned, following the snowfall just before Christmas (Saturday 18 December 2010), to see quite a few vehicles being driven with snow-covered roofs, bonnets, lights and Registration Plates. Although this cannot be all local residents but for those that are, perhaps I can enlighten them on some issues.



There are two issues here, one of the Statute Law dealing with responsibilities to clear snow and debris from the vehicle and Criminal Liability, if any, for 'Failing to do so'.

The 'Liability' of the Driver to compensate others who may be injured or 'Whose Property may be damaged by debris falling from a vehicle'.

Reg 100 RV Construction and Use Regs 1986 has been used to prosecute drivers whose load has been blown or fallen from the vehicle, including the roof, and whilst snow is not part of the load, Reg 100 may be used in extreme cases.

Reg 104 RVCU Regs 1986 state that you should always be 'In proper control', including a clear view of the road and traffic ahead'.

In a nutshell, if the snow falls from the roof of your vehicle onto another vehicle windscreen and contributes towards a crash then you will be liable!

Vehicles being driven with even partly frosted/frozen windscreens or large deposits of snow on the bonnet are being used illegally and their drivers' are liable to prosecution.

There is a 'Catch All' obligation to exercise 'Due care and attention and reasonable care for other road users' and the offence of 'Failing to do so'! It could be driving through deep puddles and splashing pedestrians or where that snow falls from the vehicle. Once the vehicle warms up there is a good chance that the snow on the bonnet can blow back onto the windscreen and obscure your vision. If snow or ice falls from the vehicle and causes damage or injury, then the driver cannot argue that it would have been 'unreasonable' to clear the 'Snow and Ice'! Your Insurance Company may have very serious issues regarding any claim where 'Due care and consideration' has not been applied.

Rule 229 of the Highway Code will give you some clues.

Hope this helps others obey the law.

CHRIS GLEED (M.A.I.R.S.O.)

Under 5's Bazaar

Huge thanks to everyone who helped or supported the Purton Under 5's Pre-School Xmas Bazaar. Despite the snow, everyone had a great time with just over £1,100 raised. On a more serious note, please can all drivers around College Road layby and Reid's Piece slow down and show more care and attention at school times with all the children around. Many thanks.

PURTON UNDER 5'S PRE-SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Planning Alert!

In case you have not heard ... Ridgeway Farm outline planning for 800 houses



Just before Christmas (and therefore missing the Magazine deadline for January) an application for Ridgeway Farm was submitted. It is for a new development of 800 houses on the eastern edge of Purton Parish – behind the former Forester Arms.

The consultation period for the application closes in a few days time. Given that the publicity was not able to be issued formally by Wiltshire Council until well into January an extension to the consultation period was requested by several parties and Wiltshire Council has acceded to these requests. The closing date is now **10 February**.

All documents relating to the application may be found at: <http://planning.northwiltshire.gov.uk/DCOnline/AcolNetCGI.exe?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=73920> (and then clicking on “Documents”).

The justification for these houses is quite complex because it relies on how the following are interpreted:

- The rescinding of the Regional Spatial Strategy;
- The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016;
- Policy DP10B (makes provision for 1000 dwellings at West Swindon);
- The Moredon Bridge Appeal (200 houses); and,
- The Localism Bill

The interpretation of the above by Wiltshire Council planners is quite contrary to most, if not all, interested parties (with the exception of the developers) even including the government’s Highways Agency. By the time the February Magazine is issued the position may be clearer, so to obtain up-to-date information contact the Purton Parish Council, your unitary councillor Jacqui Lay, or Ps and Qs. Ps and Qs issues regular updates (Village Alerts!) on the situation so do register for these at advice@purtoninfo.org.uk.

Ps and Qs has issued a 30-page critique of the policy and technical compliance aspects of the application, with a short bulleted summary. These summary issues may be used by anyone to formulate their own letter of objection and may be obtained by emailing advice@purtoninfo.org.uk or by visiting www.purtoninfo.org.uk and downloading them from there. Full details concerning how to reference the letter of objection and to whom it should be sent (by email is quite acceptable) are also available from Ps and Qs.

In addition, to sending a letter of objection, please add your name to the electronic petition at: www.ipetitions.com/petition/ridgewayfarm. This petition was begun last year in anticipation of this application. There are hundreds of signatures already but we need as many as possible. Every single one counts so **it is critical that everyone votes not just one per household.**

Compiled by Richard Pagett for Ps & Qs

Green Tips – Local Businesses – a Star in our Community

Recently I had an excellent meal at The Maharajah in Purton and spoke to the owner, Khalique Ali. The Maharajah has had a 5-Star rating for Food Hygiene and Safety for 15 years. Khalique can be very proud of this achievement, a fact that had apparently prompted North Wilts (now Wiltshire Council) Environmental Health Services to ask him for some help. He told me that in 2007 he had shared his expertise with other owners and chefs of Bengali restaurants and takeaways. Khalique was asked to assist in a food safety seminar at Monkton Park specifically aimed to help Bengali and Indian caterers.



He had created a system to maintain a very high standard in his own restaurant and the results of this system met all the food safety requirements expected by North Wilts. He agreed to help other caterers who were having difficulties in achieving the required standard of food hygiene and safety. Khalique told me that he was uniquely placed to assist at the seminar because he had a good food safety system and, of course, he spoke Bangladeshi and English. He could help other caterers who had problems understanding the requirements set down by the Environmental Health Services because they had been written in English. He explained what standards had to be achieved to the caterers in their own language and how his own system had helped him to “tick all the right boxes” for so many years.

I am told by Khalique that all of the people at the seminar have gone on to be successful in obtaining an acceptable standard for Food Hygiene and Safety. Fifteen years of having a 5-star rating is certainly an accolade and well deserved. Being able to help others in their pursuit of similar high standards is very creditable too. Well done Khalique!

It is important to support all our businesses in our parish so that we have a thriving micro-economy. We have a surprising number of enterprises in Purton and Purton Stoke (just dip into the adverts of this magazine for instance). It is such a shame to see trades and suppliers from outside the locality working in the villages when we have such a wealth of home-grown talent on which to draw.

If we value the community we live in then we have to nurture local businesses and organisations – they are an important part of the community. And, of course, anyone who is at all concerned about their carbon footprint should shop and hire locally anyway.

P.S. it is not too late to write to object to the Ridgeway Farm development – see the article on page 25. For the latest updates on this and other village matters you can join the *Ps and Qs Village Alert!* – a regular electronic bulletin, contact: advice@purtoninfo.org.uk

Compiled by Jane Smith for Ps & Qs

Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities

Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities

New members are always welcome

Contact: Jane Smith (772422) Jacqui Lay (770704) or via our web site:

www.purtoninfo.org.uk

Church Floodlighting

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



- 2 January St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Harry Bunce** on his first anniversary.
Loved and missed always.
From Edna and the family
- 14 January St Mary's Church was floodlit to mark the second anniversary of the death of **Val Davies**.
Love Brian
- 21 January St Mary's Church was floodlit in memory of **Aron Macdonald**
- 27/28 January St Mary's Church was floodlit in remembrance of **Susan Morley** whose birthday it would have been on 28 January.
Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.
- 15 February St Mary's Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Ron Gunter**, a dear Husband and Uncle, on the 10th anniversary of his death.
Loved and remembered by Betty and family.
- 20 February The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Gerty Holland** on her birthday.
From all the Holland family.

Floodlighting contact: Libbie, tel 771018

After 8

Our December meeting was a very jolly affair at Mary Smith's.

We were greeted at the door by Mary with the words, "Got as far as putting the tree up with the lights, the box of decorations is on the floor next to it, please help decorate the tree as you go in the lounge."

What a wonderful idea – I think I'll try that next year – tree decorated in record time

With a glass of mulled wine in our hands we sang carols with gusto accompanied by Marion and Barbara on the piano.

Santa had left a sack of recycled unwanted presents. Most people were delighted with their new gifts. Items ranged from a carved wooden cat, a book on cheese, novels, smelly candles, necklaces, address book with anecdotes and a book on *Wrinklies' Wit* that kept us amused all evening.

We then realised how late it was and we hadn't even thought about the nibbles. The Christmas spread was wonderful – spiced biscuits, nuts, cheese, stollen, sausage rolls etc, etc, etc.

We ended the evening with a final carol. All agreed a wonderful evening which made us all more ready for Christmas.

Our next meeting will be the members' *Late Christmas Meal* on Tuesday 15 February. The venue is *The Maharajah* – please ring Jan on 770124 to book.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH



1st Purton and Lydiard Scouts – plus photos

Winter Camp 2010

Winter camp began on Friday evening when we had to carry all the kit half a mile to the centre in the dark, after we had eventually driven most of the way up one of the roads through the Brecon Beacons, which was covered in snow and ice (*right*). After we had arrived and sorted everything out we played a few games of table football (which Purton and Lydiard won), had some hot chocolate, and went to bed.

In the morning we played some more table football (which 7th Swindon won most of). Then we had a great breakfast and got ready to go

outside. There we built an igloo (*below*) and a snow wall, by shovelling snow into plastic boxes to make bricks and using more snow to stick them together. After that



we went in for lunch. Then we played a few more games of table football (which 7th Swindon won most of) and then we had a snowball fight, and went sledging on cardboard boxes. Eventually we came inside and built a model of the International Space Station, out of two 2-litre coke bottles, a pill bottle, loo roll insides, lollypop sticks and some tin foil. After that we split into 2 groups. One group did stomp rockets, which involved filling a 2-litre bottle a third full of water, putting

a bung in with a hole which fits the nozzle of a bicycle pump, then you pump it up until the pressure launches the 2-litre bottle into the air. The other group were making matchstick rockets, which involved wrapping tin foil around the head of a match and leaving some exhaust holes, so that when you heat the match head in the tin foil it ignites and the gases blast out the exhaust holes launching the rocket. Then Purton and Lydiard tried some more matchstick rockets, using up two boxes of matches. After that we had a roast dinner. Then in the evening we watched *Star Wars - Return of the Sith*.

On Sunday morning we played even more games of table football (which 7th Swindon won most of) and had another great breakfast. Then we went outside and did more sledging. But at 11 o'clock we all came in and had a hot chocolate, then we began to clean up. For lunch we had pizza, and then we packed up. Sadly, we had to leave to come home. The roads were not slippery once we got back to the main road.

It was a great weekend.



WILLIAM BARBER

Gambia Day

1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Troop and 2nd Cricklade Explorers arrived at the Village Hall on 24 October 2010, ready for Gambia Day. We Scouts had been studying Gambia as part of our Global Challenge badge. It forms part of the Gold Scout Award.

Previously we had each written a letter to a scout troop in the Gambia. We told them what life was like in England. Now it was our turn to learn about life in The Gambia.

The day was run by *RhythmWorks*, who were Graeme and Anna, a husband and wife team who organise workshops covering lots of aspects of African life.

Following an informative introduction, we all had a go at playing African drums of all shapes and sizes (*right*). It seemed very complicated at the start as there were so many places to hit the drum for different sounds, and you had to hold the drum between your feet as well. Eventually we got the hang of it and managed to play some good rhythmic tunes.

We had a break for the food sampling. Anna had prepared a really tasty curry, and a dessert of lots of fruits blended with cream. A few of us went up for seconds, and between us we finished it all off.



RhythmWorks provided us with large, ornate face masks to decorate. There was glitter, glue, lolly sticks, crepe paper, pipe cleaners and shaped softwood. It was great fun and we got stuck in enthusiastically, producing fabulous masks (*left*) and rather a lot of mess!

From then on we mainly did drumming, preparing for a performance later. We studied tempo, rhythm and melody which together make up the basis of African music.

Our arms were aching after all the playing so we had a short break before our parents arrived. They sat in the hall and listened to our brilliant playing. All the scouts had a drum, and were kept in time by Graeme, who warned us of each rhythm change coming up. It sounded great.

By the end of the day we felt we had all learned a lot from our Gambian experience. Many thanks to *RhythmWorks*, and to our Leaders Chris and Marie for organising everything.

CALEB WILLIAMS, APL Eagle Patrol
1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Troop

Purton Diary - February 2011

3	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	PADS Pantomime at Village Hall: <i>The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe</i>
4	F	7.30pm	PADS Pantomime at Village Hall
5	Sa	2.30pm	PADS Pantomime at Village Hall
		7.30pm	PADS Pantomime at Village Hall
6	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
9	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill
10	Th		Last day for comments on Ridgeway Farm Development see page 5 and 25.
		10.30 am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
11	F	9.30am	Age Concern minibus to Swindon for all areas of the village
		2.00pm	for 2.30pm: Wreath laying for 200 th anniversary of burial of Nevil Maskelyne at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Dodecantus Ceilidh with <i>Jugged Hare</i> at W.B. Memorial Hall
		7.30pm	Helping Hand Evening of Entertainment at Silver Threads Hall
13	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Celebration of Marriage Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
14	M		St Valentine's Day
		7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
15	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8 <i>Late Christmas Meal</i> at The Maharajah
16	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Julia Wilkinson – <i>Living on an Island off Hong Kong</i>
19	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble Sale at the Village Hall (<i>doors open to receive jumble from 12 noon to 1pm</i>)
20	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Holy Communion at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
22	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club

		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Duncan Coombs - <i>Bulbs for a Colourful Spring Display</i>
23	W	2.30pm	Songs of Praise at White Lodge
		6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
24	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: Bob Browning - <i>Collecting and Recollecting</i>
<hr/>			
27	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

Every week

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

● **Moon Phases**

3 February ● 10 February ○ 18 February ● 26 February

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.

Purton Luncheon Club

On behalf of the Luncheon Club, I would very much like to extend a most heartfelt thank-you to Tony Price and his Age Concern colleagues. During the December snow and subsequent icy cold snap they came to our rescue by, on three occasions, delivering meals to our members who would otherwise have gone without. The drivers and helpers in their 4x4s coped marvellously in the perilous conditions, delivering over 100 meals. Our members were enormously grateful to them for their efforts and very touched by their concern and care. My thanks also to the cooks for coping in difficult circumstances and for the small gifts that also helped our members to feel suitably festive in spite of the weather!



I would also like to thank Gill Woodward and the 2nd Purton Brownies for the delicious, home-made Christmas cakes that were given to every member, elegantly decorated and each with its own charming Christmas card. They were very much appreciated. My thanks to all involved.

ELIZABETH WARD, President

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

Tickets £25 to include a 4-course meal
available from 1 February 2011
Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila 770970,
Alison 772896, Val 771201

Purton Age Concern
JUMBLE SALE

at the Village Hall
on Saturday 19 February
at 2.00pm.

Lots of bargains, bric a brac,
books, toys, nearly new,
raffle and refreshments

Purton Age Concern
ANNUAL AUCTION

at the Village Hall
on Saturday 12 March
Viewing 12 noon to 1pm
Sale starts at 1pm
Auctioneer -
Mr Roderick Wightman

**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 Best One (Spar Shop),
Bottom Square,
Lindsey Hall 771890.
Sue Richardson 772581
or from any PADS Member.

Tennis Club

Race Night

With Entertainment
Saturday 12 March,
7.30pm
at The Red House

Helping Hand

Social Evening

With Entertainment
Friday 11 February
7.30pm
Silver Threads Hall
Finger Buffet Etc

Pop/General Quiz

Date: Friday 4 March 2011

Venue: Silver Threads Hall Purton

Time: 7.30 pm

Licensed Bar

Maximum 6 Per Team

£5 per head to include hot supper

Raffle

Ticket only event

Available from Helen Griffin (771645)

Bernie Dudman (331477), Kim Hiles
(772182)

All Proceeds Towards World Challenge
Morocco Trek



Dodecantus

Presents

Valentine Weekend

CEILIDH!

(Music by Jugged Hare)

Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall

Friday 11 February

From 7pm

Tickets and Info from

Tim Lewis

01672 539607

Inc. Food

£15

Patient Participation
Group



G4P

You and your Doctors' Surgery

(Purton and Green Gable Surgeries)

What can your Surgery do for you, and what can you do for your Surgery?

Now is your chance to find out!

PURTON VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 10 March

7.30 till 9.00pm

Entrance is Free

Tea and Coffee available

Appointments

What is the future for your Surgery?

Health Issues

Repeat Prescriptions?

What is an EMIS account?

Fire Safety Advice - Night-time Routines

- Close inside doors at night to stop a fire from spreading.
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on – like your freezer.
- Check your cooker is turned off.
- Don't leave the washing machine or dishwasher on.
- Turn heaters off and put up fireguards.
- Put candles and cigarettes out properly.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.
- Do not stoke up open fires or wood burners.

On The Lighter Side

A Moral Tale

Dan was a single chap living at home with his widowed father and working in the family business. He soon realised that he was going to inherit a fortune when his ageing father died, so he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune. One evening, at a trade conference, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die and I will inherit £20 million." Impressed, the woman asked for his business card.

Three days later, she became his stepmother. Women are so much better at financial planning than men.

By the Roadside



Time to Pay

A man in the USA suffered a serious heart attack and had open heart bypass surgery. He woke up from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns in the ward of a Roman Catholic Hospital. As he was coming around from the anaesthetic, a nun nurse began to ask him questions about how he was going to pay for his treatment.

She asked if he had health insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, 'No health insurance.'

She then asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, 'No money in the bank.'

She tried again: 'Do you have a relative who could help you?' He said, 'I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun.'

The nun became quite agitated and told him firmly 'Nuns are not spinsters, sir! Nuns are married to God.'

The patient replied, 'In that case please send the bill to my brother-in-law.'

Questions On Being Retired

Q1: How many days in a week?

A: *6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday*

Q2: When is a retiree's bedtime?

A: *Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.*

Q3: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

A: *Only one, but it might take all day.*

Q4: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

A: *There is not enough time to get everything done.*

Q5: Why don't retirees mind being called Senior Citizens?

A: *The term often comes with a 10% discount.*

Q6: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

A: *Tied shoes.*

Q7: Why do retirees count pennies?

A: *They are the only ones who have the time.*

Q8: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

A: *"Nuts!"*

Q9: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

A: *They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.*

Q10: What do retirees call a long lunch?

A: *Normal*

Q11: What is the best way to describe retirement?

A: *The never ending Coffee Break.*

Q12: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

A: *If you skip classes, no one calls your parents*

Q13: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

A: *He is too polite to tell the whole truth.*

Q.14: What do you do all week?

A: *From Monday to Friday, nothing. Then on Saturday & Sunday I have a good rest.*

What's in a Name?

A caller reported at 7.14pm that someone was at their front door on a High Street in America, yelling "help". Police Officers responded and learned that the person was calling a cat that was called "Help".



Year 7 Writers Workshop: The Bradon Forest School Library, in conjunction with the English department, organised a writers' workshop for the whole of Year 7. This involved four completely different writers leading separate sessions on a carousel format. All 220 students had the opportunity to try out non-fiction, illustrating, 'writing to entertain' and poetry. Brian Clegg, a non-fiction science writer, guided the students through the process of writing specific non-fiction including the purpose, audience and research techniques. They then had a proof-reading exercise and discussed marketing and how to get your book noticed. Karin Littlewood is an award winning illustrator who has produced many children's books. She helped the students to work through the process of illustrating and everyone had the opportunity to work on their own drawings. Ash Dickinson is a young poet, writer and comedy performer. He is a multiple 'slam' champion and has performed at a wide variety of festivals. He entertained the students with his crowd pleasing 'slams' before they wrote and shared their own poems. Dave Smith is a comedy writer who has done 'stand up' as well as writing for various publications. He worked through the different outlets for writing before teaching various tools for writing humour. The students then had to identify those tools from various examples, and had a go at writing something funny themselves!

The purpose of the day was to get the students thinking about different styles of writing, widen their reading experience and inspire them to write their own. Mrs Kelly, Head of English, said, *"It was a really interesting and varied day with something for everyone. The contributors enjoyed the day too. Win - win!"* Mrs Fernandez, one of the English teachers who helped co-ordinate the day said; *"The whole of Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed their day and gained a great deal from it."*

Wiltshire Schools Netball Tournament: (See front cover picture) Bradon Forest's U16 Netball team travelled to Dauntsey's School in Devizes to play in the Wiltshire round of the National Schools Netball Tournament. Our first match was against Sheldon School who were runners-up in the North Wiltshire tournament who we beat 14-1. The next match was against Goldolphin (who last year went through to the South West Regional Tournament as runners up) and we won 8-2. The last match was against Marlborough College who had only beaten Goldolphin by 1 goal. After a close run match the final score was 7-8 to Marlborough College. The runners up and winners of each group went through to the semi-finals. Bradon went through as runners up of Group 2 which meant that we faced our local rivals Dorcan (who came through as runners up from the previous tournament). Bradon Forest won convincingly 11-6, which we went through to the final – only to realise we had to play Marlborough College again! It was a very closely contested game from the start with each team keen to become the overall tournament winners. The final score was 7-6 to Bradon. The girls, supporters and staff were ecstatic, we were victorious! Each of the girls received a gold medal and certificate for winning and were a credit to the school throughout the day. Bradon Forest will now go through, along with Marlborough College (runners up), to the South West Regional Tournament in Bournemouth in January 2011.

Swindon Schools Badminton Tournament: A team of Year 11 boys went to the Swindon Schools Sports Partnership U16 Boys Badminton tournament at Ridgeway School. We were placed into two groups. In our group were Ridgeway B and Isambard. Against our first opponents Ridgeway B, we won all of our matches (singles and doubles) with an overall point score of 105 for Bradon Forest and 50 to Ridgeway. We then played Isambard and again won all of the matches scoring 105 points overall with Isambard scoring 43. In the final, Ridgeway A players were on great form (the former winners) and had also won all their group games against Dorcan and Swindon Academy. A 100% victory for Bradon Forest and as newcomers this was an amazing confidence boost. We are looking forward to the Wiltshire County Finals in February 2011.



Swindon School's Pom Dance Competition: The squad (called the Bradon Allstars) had been practising their routine for weeks at lunchtimes and after school. The routine was two minutes long and had to include the use of pom-poms. The Bradon Allstars pulled out a virtually faultless routine which proved to be good enough to put them in first place and crown them as the 2010 Swindon School's Key Stage 3 Pom Dance Champions! The squad are back in training learning a new routine for the UKCA National Cheerleading Championships held in Manchester next year.

National Cup Basketball Update: Despite the weather calling a halt to all of the Year 11 boys games before Christmas the Year 10 boys and Year 11 girls have begun their National Cup campaign. The Year 10 boys remain unbeaten and have qualified for the regional zonal round with a game to spare after beating Wey Valley Sports College (Weymouth) 70-25, Bishop Wordsworth School 39-38 and St Johns School Marlborough 83-27. The Year 11 girls have started strongly beating St Edmunds Sports College (Salisbury) 93-21 and will now play the Gloucestershire winners in the next round.

Drama News: 'The Miracle Well', which is the sequel to last year's successful production 'Mary Theresa's Cupboard', was performed in December. The play was devised and written by students and David Calder. The cast included students from Years 7 - 11. The production was very enjoyable and thought-provoking. The individual performances, staging and the concept of the play were very impressive and professional. Well done to all involved.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

Silver Threads Club of Over-60s

We are looking forward to a good year and would welcome new members. There is plenty going on and we can arrange transport if required. For more details, give me a ring on 01793 770251 and find out more.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

Purton Historical Society



Our next meeting is on Thursday 24 February in Lydiard Millicent Parish hall at 7.30pm when Bob Browning will talk on "Collecting and Recollecting". Evidently he has spent his whole life collecting odd but interesting objects, I'm told that coat hangers and Cunard toilet paper play a part. To think I wonder where we will put Paul's collection of books, at least they can go on shelves or in boxes.

Cricklade Historical Society have their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 February in the Town hall at 7.30pm.

Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 10 February in the Civic Centre at 7.30pm. John Clark will be telling them of the fun of "Underwater Treasure Hunting". As we saw the other year, he has certainly found some interesting treasures.

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 9 February at the Broadgreen Centre. The evening will be a "Double Act" by two of their members. Remember if you take your membership card with you, there will be reduction on the visitor's fee.

The History Society of Dauntsey's School have a lecture on Wednesday 2 March at 7.30pm. The subject is "The Dissolution of the Monasteries: A Revisionist History" by Dr James Clark of the University of Bristol. The lecture is free of charge but you need to secure a place by contacting spenceja@dauntseys.wilts.sch.uk.

Our Spring Course starts on Wednesday 2 March in the Silver Threads Hall when we will continue our study of the Romans. See Paul's article on page 47.

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Maskelyne Bicentenary Commemorations

There is a splendid memorial on the wall of the chapel of St Nicholas in St Mary's Church. Six of the twenty lines, translated by Lesley Murdin, record the following:

*In the cemetery of this church
Are deposited the remains of
NEVIL MASKELYNE DD FRS
Astronomer Royal*

He rendered a life well lived

In the certain hope of the reward to come



On 11 February 2011, exactly two hundred years after his burial, members and friends of the Purton Historical Society will gather at the tomb of Nevil Maskelyne to lay a wreath in his memory. A number of important guests have been invited as well as representatives of organisations in the village that have expressed an interest in the project and agreed to become involved. If you would like to join us come to the church, where tea and coffee will be served from 2.00pm. The ceremony takes place at 2.30pm after which everyone assembles in the church to be addressed by one of our visitors. Please do support this first event of our 50th anniversary year.

The Fall of Rome and the Making of England

A series of six weekly talks organized by the Purton Historical Society

Venue: Silver Threads Hall, Purton.

Speaker: Mr P Booy B.ed Hist. Hons.

Dates and Times: 7.30pm - see dates below

Course Fees: £20 on the night, £18 if booked previously.

Further Information contact Inez Gale 770138 or Paul Booy 770755

Week (1) **2 March**

Rome and Christianity : Dividing the Empire : Emperor Constantine

Week (2) **9 March**

Caesar invades Britain : Claudius conquered Britain : Why did Boudicca Revolt?

Week (3) **16 March**

Town life in Roman Britain : Country life in Roman Britain : Defending Roman Britain

Week (4) **23 March**

The fall of the Roman Empire : The Germanic Barbarians : How violent was the fall

Week (5) **30 March**

Who were the Anglo-Saxons? : Hengest and Horsa :

Who was King Arthur, the once and future king?

Week (6) **2 April**

The return of Christianity : The Celtic Fringe : Alfred burns those cakes



Above: A German barbarian being barbaric

Children In Need Ball

There is a lot of interest in our masked ball and tickets are starting to sell. If you want to make sure of getting a table, don't leave it too late. As previously mentioned you can reserve a table or individual ticket with a 10% deposit and the balance payable over the following two months. Tickets are £50 per person and the date is **Saturday 28 May**.



We are also looking for donations to our raffle and prestige auction. If you have any new items you would be prepared to donate to the raffle or have anything which might be suitable for our auction (an experience or something rather special) or for any information please ring Tony/Sue on 01793 772581.

TONY RICHARDSON

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.

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.



■ STONE AGE?

I read with interest the letter in the December issue from a resident who believes that moving out to a village from the great Swindon metropolis is equivalent to moving back to the technology stone age.

Now, I know that kicking Internet providers is currently good sport, but there is also a lot of misinformation – not all broadband services are the same. After all, everyone knows that “Heinz” beans taste the best, so why are you not surprised when “SADASCO” value beans taste like water – you get what you pay for, well it is the same when it comes your choice of broadband.

Purton is not in the technological stone age, currently supporting up to 8Mbps (if you are close enough to the exchange) but this is only just the first element in the chain. Next comes what level of service (or contention) you’ve paid for – “Heinz” or “SADASCO” – and finally (which is possibly the one that is greatly mis-sold) is how much “true” Internet bandwidth does your ISP actually have, and how many millions of users are contending for it. At this point, if you are paying “peanuts” per month you are getting “beans and water” with no flavour, or to put it another way, hundreds of cars trying to go along Collins Lane at the same time – the result is congestion and slowness.

This is the situation that will, and is already actually, getting worse because

as broadband speeds rise, it will become more and more apparent that low cost ISPs do not have enough bandwidth to the internet to deliver an acceptable service level for the number of customers they have.

With specific reference to the writer of the letter, being so close to the exchange (and assuming there are no faults on the phone line) they should be capable of reaching 7-8Mbps (from “Heinz”) as for “SADASCO” value service – the letter says it all.

If the writer of the letter wishes to get in touch, we will happy to look into their problem.

(Acknowledgement and thanks to Heinz for using their brand as it so clearly demonstrates my point.)

Bev Wildeboer, Lde Data Communications Ltd

■ PURTON SHOPS AND PARKING

I am intrigued by the letters recently published regarding the parking restrictions recently imposed throughout the village.

Living in the top of the village it is necessary for me to negotiate the road junction at the Upper Square both on foot and in a vehicle sometimes several times a day. This proves precarious because of inconsiderate and illegal parking.

There is a need for restrictions and in my opinion they did not go far enough. It is evident the restrictions are not being enforced and therefore

are not working. I presume it is the same individuals who parked with no consideration to others are now parking on the double yellow lines.

As to say the restrictions are affecting the shop trade is questionable. If individuals adhered to the time restrictions in the lay-by, used the second lay-by and adequate non-lined road parking, problems would not arise. Often there are spaces in both lay-bys but vehicles are still parked on yellow lines directly outside of One Stop. The same situation is often evident outside of the Post Office. More often than not these vehicles do not exhibit a disabled permit.

Disabled car badges are available for those who have genuine disability restricting mobility. Laziness is the only excuse for not using the village shops. The most one needs to walk is fifty yards, even if the lay-bys are full. One has to walk further than this when using supermarkets or shops in Swindon. It is evident why the obesity problem is escalating in this country.

The restrictions were put in place for safety for the whole population. Having to walk a few yards is a price worth paying to save a life or prevent someone being maimed. Who knows it might even do certain individuals some good.

Derek Downs

■ WAR MEMORIAL & VILLAGE CENTRE

I feel as chairman of the Red House Social Club I should reply to the comments made by Tony Price in the January issue of the Parish Magazine.

Firstly, it was stated that a very interesting meeting of the users of the Centre took place and I would like to ask the question on behalf of the members of the Red House Social Club why this did not include us!

Secondly, it was stated that quite a lot of concern was shown about the Red House Social Club and questions could not be answered!

I am sure I could have answered a lot of queries regarding the Red House Club and indeed have done so, to many of the people who attended that meeting.

Just so that the members are aware we have asked for a meeting with the Trustees during 2010 on a couple of occasions, but so far no meeting has been forthcoming, and on behalf of the Red House committee we beg the question why!

Terry Crumbie

■ THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

When I moved to Purton in 1970, I met a group of people who introduced me to Purton and the years to come. They were Winnie Haynes and family, Jenny & Terry Clifford and Joan & Harold Waldron. They made me feel at home and it was not long before my life became very involved in village life and working alongside Harold & Joan with Helping Hand and Carnival.

They were part of a group of caring people who started Helping Hand in 1963 and devoted a large part of their lives working and caring for people on Purton. They were Secretary and Treasurer for many years and, when Harold died, Joan continued as Treasurer until she finally retired with her dog and a little steadier life.

Joan will be missed very much and our thoughts and our thanks go to the Waldron family who, like their parents, have devoted a lot of time to the village. Rest in peace together once again.

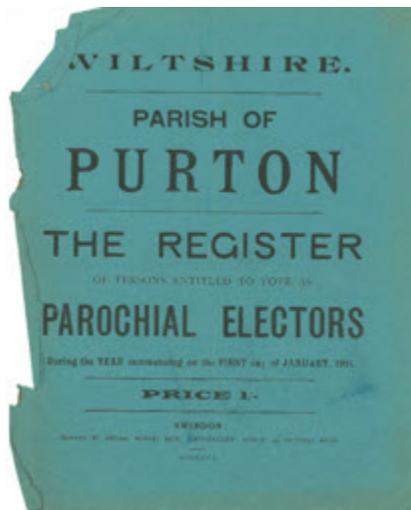
Thanks for the memories ...

*Pauline Ward,
Chairman, Helping Hand*

Exhibit of the Month: 1911 Voting List

I've always been fascinated by the way that our rights and responsibilities as citizens have changed over the years and was interested to find a document in the Museum collection entitled "Parish of Purton: The Register of Persons entitled to vote as Parochial Electors during the Year commencing on the First day of January 1911". It gives a snapshot of the village one hundred years ago. It consists of a blue paper front and back cover and 14 single-sided inside pages. It is 31cm tall by 25 cm wide, in rather poor condition, and was available to the public at a price of 1 shilling (5p).

The first obvious point to note is that almost all the people on the list were men. The 1884 Representation of the People Act enabled any man who occupied property or land with an annual rateable value of £10 to vote which meant that about 24% of adults could vote. The 1894 Local Government Act which set up County and Parish Councils gave the vote (for those elections only) to married women over the age of 30 who qualified through occupation of property.



The 1911 list is divided into several categories:

1. **Ownership voters** entitled to vote in Parliamentary and Parish Elections. These were people who owned property (buildings or land) in the Parish but didn't necessarily live there. We notice as an example that 4 gentlemen of the surname Batson were entitled to vote because of their shares of Common Farm. 2 of them actually lived in Devon and 2 in Dorking, Surrey. Others like Henry James Dash had an Ownership Vote because he owned Quarry Farm in Purton. In total there were 137 Ownership voters.
2. **Occupation Voters** entitled to vote in Parliamentary, County and Parish Elections. These people rented their property and all but 3 of a list of 400 of them had a dwelling house as their qualification. 2 of these had a land tenancy qualification and 1 land and tenement.
3. **Occupation Voters** entitled to vote in County and Parish Elections but not Parliamentary. There are 283 of these. Some of these are on the list because they are already in List 1 and therefore owner/occupiers. Henry Dash is an example. He and other owner/occupies have an asterisk against their name to say that they don't qualify for a second Parish vote. Some in List 1 are not in List 3, for example the Batsons as they didn't live here. But there are also several women in the list such as Louisa Hewer, of The Hyde, who qualified under the 1894 Act.
4. **Ownership and Occupational Voters** entitled to vote in Parish elections only. Most of these lived outside the Parish but owned property in Purton. For example,

James and Thomas Arkell, of Highworth and Stratton St Margaret respectively, had a Parish Council vote due to their share of the Angel Hotel. There are only 17 in this List.

5. **Lodgers** entitled to vote in Parliamentary and Parish elections but not in County elections. We might think lodgers would be a largish group but there are only 8 of these, all men. Most of these seem to be a way of getting a relative onto the list. For example Jasper Godwin of Common Farm is declared landlord to George (bedroom 1st floor) and Henry Godwin (sitting and bedroom furnished) in the same property.

It wasn't until after the First World War that women were given the vote in Parliamentary elections through the 1918 Representation of the People Act which allowed all men over the age of 21 to vote. Women over the age of 30 were given the right to vote and women could sit in the House of Commons as MPs. 75% of adults could now vote. The 1928 Representation of the People Act gave women the same voting rights as men, allowing **all adults** over the age of 21 to vote. Property qualifications were abolished. The age was subsequently brought down to 18 in 1969.

Looking at the 1911 List, it almost seems like the old system would have collapsed under its own weight of bureaucracy if the later Acts hadn't intervened.

There will be, as ever, a clearer picture on our website at www.purtonmuseum.com and there will even be a link so you can download a scanned copy of the document for further research. Who knows, you might find some of your ancestors in it!

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

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

 *Purton Tennis Club* Things have gone rather quiet on a lot of fronts as we wait for longer brighter days. We are looking at our maintenance programme with a view to early spring cleaning of the courts to nip the emerging weeds quickly before they take hold and mend any damage that has occurred over the winter. Minor vandalism continues to annoy and be a cost we can do without. To boost depleted funds we are holding a **Race Night on Saturday 12 March** at the **Red House** when all will be welcome to join us for an evening of fun and entertainment. Do make a note of it in your diary.

The league matches continue with interruptions for bad weather. We have to be very careful with ice which can be invisible to the eye but lethal to the foot. Much as we enjoy our sport, no one wants to pick up unwanted injuries which could well ruin the summer season.

Our membership season runs from January to December so its not too late if you're thinking of joining or re-joining. Membership Secretary Steph Brown will be pleased to hear from you.

CAROLINE McLEAN

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



I woke this morning to the uplifting news that England had won an Ashes' series in Australia for the first time since 1986. I am hoping that this will give impetus to cricket in England and especially in Purton in the coming season.

Although, as I write, the New Year is only a few days old, a series of indoor coaching sessions are underway for both junior and senior members. Details are available from me.

In season 2011, two senior teams will play in the Wiltshire League on Saturdays and two in the Swindon Evening League on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Junior teams – U9/U11/U11 and U15 – will compete in tournaments and leagues on Sundays.

From the Archives

Leaders in the 2nd XI averages for 1958 were as follows:-

Barrie Bunce	172 runs	Average 15.64
Tony Watts	172 runs	Average 14.67
John Sansum	127 runs	Average 11.55
Eric Dodson	160 runs	Average 11.43
George Eason	40 wickets	Average 5.43
John Sorsby	46 wickets	Average 6.76
George Young	34 wickets	Average 8.18
Barrie Bunce	33 wickets	Average 8.82

JOE GARDNER, 770681

Purton & District Darts League



The League fixtures for the first half of the season are now complete and went well. The team at the top of the league so far in the pairs is The Club at Cricklade followed by Purton Club X and, in the singles, is Purton Club X followed by The Club at Cricklade. The team holding the whole league up is Red House A. Well done to all teams playing in the league and good luck for the second half.

The Leatherbarrow Cup was played on 9 December 2010 at the Angel. Teams consisted of two men and one lady. 18 teams entered this year and had a very enjoyable evening. The evening was finally won by Nicki Pickett, Dave Warner and Alex Clark and the runner up team was Lynn Cutter, Mark Cutter and Shane Kinnett. Prizes were presented by Chairman Bim Herbert. Congratulations to all.

The Christmas Charity pair darts competition was held on 16 December 2010 at Purton Workingmen's Club. 23 pairs entered the evening, finally being won by Dave Warner and Alex Clark and runners up were Martin Richell and Ian Arnold. Prizes were donated by Purton Workingmen's Club and presented by Lou Davies. There was also a raffle on the night with prizes donated by Purton Workingmen's Club and PADDL. A great evening and a total of £200 was raised for Jubilee Gardens. Well done and thank you to all who participated in the event.

ALISON EVANS

St Mary's CE Primary School

At the time of writing, we are enjoying some seasonal good weather which is meaning that work with the new school can continue in earnest. Those of you following developments will see that the concrete pillars that form the frame of the school are sprouting around the base. There will be 66 of these concrete columns supporting the school when they are finished – 15 down with 51 to go as I write!

At St Mary's, January seems to begin quietly in terms of sporting and other inter-school fixtures although towards the end of January, we have a number of year 6 children representing our school in the Wootton Bassett Schools' public speaking competition. This will be a first for us but I am sure that it will provide an interesting experience for our team as they have a taste in public speaking in a large forum. I look forward to telling you more of their experience and others like it in due course.

On a less pleasant note, those of you that use the path way that borders our new school will not only be able to see the work in progress but will also be extremely frustrated at the amount of dog mess that builds up both on it and beside it. We appeal regularly to the consciences of those who irresponsibly allow their dogs to foul the path and feel that there ought to be greater pressure on Wiltshire Council to improve signage and also to provide appropriate, regularly cleaned refuse bins for dog owners to put waste in. We support wholeheartedly anyone who wishes to help keep the pathway clean for both children and adults.

As always, thank you for your support within the community.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Blacklands, Red Gables, Highridge Close and The Masons*. 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.

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 25 February 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).

DISCLAIMER

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F is for ... Fair

When we came to the village 30+ years ago the boys were at St Mary's and one day they came home very excited. The fair was coming and they had a free ride ticket each. Evidently Scarrott's Fair was coming to Matthews field in Station Road. So we duly went to the fair and they had a wonderful time as all their new school friends were there. It wasn't very big but to them it was wonderful. I think we must have gone each night. I think it was only there for about 3 days. They never asked to go to fairs in Swindon or elsewhere but they were happy at the village fair. I can't remember when the fair stopped coming. Perhaps someone else has more information.

F ... is for French connection

Purton's link with the French village of Héric began in 1995 leading to formal twinning in 2000. Over the years contacts between the two communities have developed with annual visits, often linked to events in Purton or Héric.

The village of Héric is in the department of Loire-Atlantique and lies approximately 15 miles north of Nantes, alongside the main road from Rennes. The village has a similar size population to Purton, supports a number of shops, a church, nursery and primary schools, a cinema, a sports centre, two village halls and a camping site. Agriculture is the main industry in the area although there is a small industrial estate on the edge of the village. Many of the villagers work in Nantes or other nearby towns.

By road and ferry, the easiest routes to Héric are via Portsmouth to St-Malo or Caen. Héric is approximately 100 miles from St-Malo, 175 miles from Caen and 375 miles from the Channel Tunnel. Nantes is between 6 and 7 hours from London by train via Paris or Lille.

The simplest way to make and develop contacts in Héric is by joining one of the visits organised by the Twinning Association, which acts as the focus for the links between the two communities. The Association is planning a long weekend visit in early May this year. For further information on the visit see page 18.

F ... is for February

By common consent, February is not the favourite month especially as it is still considered to be in winter. Even Shakespeare recognised the prevailing mood: *"Why, what's the matter that you have such a February face, so full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?"* Yet February does offer a few opportunities to lift the gloom with trees and shrubs just beginning to show early signs of returning to life – and there is also Valentine's day in February that can provide a flutter or two in the heart for some people.

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 "G is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 February, via the addresses shown on [page 4](#).*

F ... is for Friendship

Many visitors to Purton comment on how friendly they find our community and that is a lovely reputation for our village to have. It doesn't take much and costs even less to be friendly even to those we might not have met before and keep our reputation growing.

F ... is for Flowers in church

We are so lucky to have such a beautiful church, St Mary's, in our village. We are also grateful that there are people who spend time and effort keeping the Church looking at its best. One way you can get involved, if you would like to, is by helping with the church flowers.

There are people who buy flowers (or bring in flowers from their garden) and fill two of three vases on a particular Sunday ... maybe on an anniversary. Another person may pay for flowers, but may not feel that they have the skills to do the decorations themselves. In St Mary's we try to accommodate all wishes and all offers of help.

If you would like to get involved with the flower rota please do contact Libbie 771018 to discuss it further. We shall welcome you so much, whatever your skill level. We are looking for enthusiasts as well as experts! This is one special way you can help us keep the Church looking lovely for all to see and share.

F ... is for Floodlighting

Have you ever passed St Mary's Church at night when it is all lit up by the floodlights? It is a truly beautiful sight. If you would like the church floodlit, on a particular night, please contact Libbie and it can be arranged. Libbie not only books the date (£15 for the night) but also can usually arrange for a message to be published in this Magazine, if wanted.

Floodlighting the Church is a lovely way to celebrate a happy event, an anniversary, a memorial date ... whatever you want. Please contact Libbie Sheppard (771018) a few weeks before the date, just to make sure the date is free.

F ... is for Families

There are several family names that are recognisable to many in our community especially as members of those families have been living in Purton for a few generations. Their names appear on graves and war memorials and their descendants are still on the current electoral roll. But does anyone know which family has been living here the longest? If you can trace your ancestors back through several generations of living in Purton, please write to Purton Magazine so we can try and establish which family has been living here the longest.

From Cricklade Fire Station

During December crews from Cricklade attended 16 emergency calls as follows:-

1/12/10 at 1233 barn fire, Hankerton
11/12/10 at 1732 car fire, A419 northbound
13/12/10 at 0714 living room fire, Private residence, Latton
18/12/10 at 0508 domestic smoke alarm, private residence, Cricklade
18/12/10 at 1051 major fire at sports centre, Wootton Bassett (10 pumping appliances)
25/12/10 at 1056 serious house fire, Gas Lane, Cricklade
plus 10 co-responder calls, Cricklade

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



Swindon & Cricklade Railway

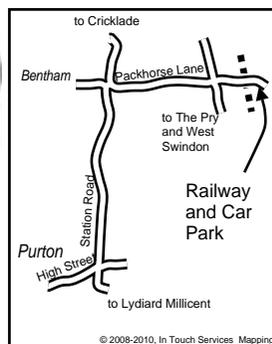
Due to concentrated track maintenance, trains will run on the following times only during February and March:

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.

Blunston 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-cricklade-railway.org.

Right: Pannier Tank No 4612 near Bunsdon



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