

Purton Magazine



Flowering Currant - March 2010
photo: Rick Dixon

March 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

Our front cover photograph this month is such a heart-warming sight, reminding us to keep a watchful eye as blossom by blossom, the spring will soon begin. Even as this is written in the middle of February, there is already a timid touch of warmth in the bright sun and long planted bulbs are beginning to burst out of their winter hibernation to lift our spirits.

Gardeners' anticipations will be quickening and on page 22, we have a report about how Cricklade Bloomers started back in 2003, through to their entry this year into the Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions category. It is clear that much effort by many in that community contributed to their gold medal win last year, especially when one of the judges commented that "everything they did was an excuse to have fun" – and there aren't many better reasons than that!

Although perhaps not as much fun, just over 1000 objections to the Ridgeway Farm development proposals have been submitted – that is a huge response from the community for which the Parish Council records their thanks on page 5. On the same page we also learn about the recent review by Wiltshire Council of its libraries. The outcome is that most across the county will have their opening hours reduced and volunteers are needed if many are to avoid closure. Application forms are available in the Library and from the Parish Council Office.

Every 10 years there is a national census and the statistics generated are used to inform and shape so many national and local decisions, both big and small. The next census is on Sunday 27 March (the same day that the clocks move an hour forward) and it is very important that everyone completes the census form – otherwise we might not receive our fair share of resources and other allocations.

STOP PRESS – we have just heard that thanks to St Mary's PCC's efforts, the Diocese has agreed that we can advertise the post of our part-time vicar with either the vicarage or a part time housing allowance. It seems that the recruitment process can now go ahead and this magazine will bring you more news as soon as more is known.

+1 hour

The clocks go forward
by one hour on
Sunday 27 March
– see page 35

24%

of Bradon Forest students
achieved the new English
Baccalaureate
– see page 44

> 1000

objections to the
Ridgeway Farm
development have been
submitted
– see page 5

CONTENTS

[After 8](#)
[Age Concern](#)
[A-Z of Purton](#)
[Bradon Forest School News](#)
[Burns Night](#)
[Carnival News](#)
[Church Floodlighting](#)
[Church Schools](#)
[Cricket Club](#)
[Cricklade Country Market](#)
[Cricklade Fire Station](#)
[Diary Pages](#)
[Evening W.I.](#)
[Exhibit of the Month](#)
[Family Names](#)
[Fire Safety Advice](#)
[Gardeners' Guild](#)
[Group 4 Patients](#)
[Guide Dogs](#)
[Historical Society](#)
[Lent - a Time to Reflect](#)
[Library Opening Times](#)
[Maskelyne Bicentenary](#)
[New Beginnings](#)
[On the Lighter Side](#)
[Parish Council News](#)
[Prayer for Purton](#)

[Ps & Qs: Going Wild in Purton](#)
[Purton FC](#)
[Purton Placard](#)
[Purton Postbag: Letters](#)
[Rainbows, Brownies & Guides](#)
[Silver Threads](#)
[St Mary's Primary School](#)
[Swindon & Cricklade Railway](#)
[Tennis Club](#)
[Travel Notes - Names & Places](#)
[We Record ...](#)

What's On?

[Activity Week](#)
[Children in Need](#)
[Choirs Unite](#)
[Cricklade Band](#)
[Finding the Bard](#)
[Merchant's House](#)
[Patience at STEAM](#)
[RBL Concert](#)
[Ten in a Bar](#)
[Swindon Choral Society](#)
[Who Likes Singing?](#)

[Willows Counselling Service](#)
[Wonderful Footpaths](#)
[Your Magazine delivered free!](#)

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

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Magazine Committee

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



Purton Library – Wiltshire Council has carried out a review of its libraries across the County in a bid to save money. The outcome is that most will have their opening hours reduced and some are in danger of closing if volunteers do not come forward to staff the libraries.

Purton library is one of those under threat of closure if people do not come forward to staff it. In order to keep it open for a minimum of 3 hours a week 12 volunteers are needed. The volunteers will be trained and CRB checked by Wiltshire Council. The County will provide 5 hours of staff time at Purton but this will be backroom work hence these members of staff are unlikely to be present when the library is open. A new electronic device will be installed in the libraries so that people taking books in and out will be able to scan them themselves. This will be a similar system to the self-service areas that operate in supermarkets. The bottom line is if you want your library to remain open then we need some volunteers to come forward to run it. Application forms are available in the Library and in the Parish Council Office.

Please give this some serious thought as the closure of the library would be a great loss and would impact on the Museum and the Village Hall as the rent received from Wiltshire Council to lease the library building keeps the Village Hall viable. Your help is urgently needed.

Ridgeway Farm Planning Application – Just over 1000 objections have been sent to Wiltshire Council regarding the proposed Ridgeway Farm Development for 800 houses so we very much hope that these objections will be listened to and the application refused. Thank you to everybody who took the time to write.

Elm Trees – You may recall it was mentioned in one of our previous news articles about the offer of Elm Trees for the Parish. We are pleased to say that we have now received the saplings that will be looked after until they can be planted on the new school site of St Mary's. We hope the children will be able to monitor their progress and that the trees will survive to maturity to enable us to enjoy their re-introduction into the countryside following their widespread demise from Dutch elm disease.

Census 2011 – The census is carried out every 10 years and it provides some very important information about our country. It is vitally important for communities, making sure that the facilities and services can be identified. All sorts of decisions are taken based on census statistics, from the number of car parking spaces needed at local supermarkets to where to locate bank branches and even the allocation of fire engines. Number of school places, development of traffic systems and funding for local authorities are all heavily influenced by the census. It's all about planning ahead. The census is a rich source of statistics which affects all of us in one way or another, as decisions about the communities we live in take place all the time. The Census is run by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Please complete your Census form when you receive it. The census is on Sunday 27 March. To find out more go to www.census.gov.uk.

Annual Parish Meeting – don't forget your annual parish meeting will be held on Monday 28 March in Purton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. There will a guest speaker talking about the Wiltshire Council's Library Service and the changes that are taking place that will affect Purton Library. The Police will be present to talk about Policing in this area. The Parish Council will present its annual report and would like to talk to anybody who is interested in becoming a Councillor. There are exciting and challenging times ahead with more powers being given to Parish and Town Councils – now is a good time to get involved and make a difference. We look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Dog Warden – Sebastian Williams the dog warden will be in Purton again on Wednesday 2 March, in the meeting room at the rear of the Village Hall next to the public toilets from 9 - 11am. His last visit on 2 February was popular and provided information that will enable him to pursue some dog walkers who have been identified that allow their dogs to foul without picking it up, Keep the information coming and hopefully we will get some good result and clean up our paths and pavements.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:

N10/04353/FUL 35A *The Hyde*, Raise roof and dormers, proposed front extension and detached double garage

N10/04348/S73A *Corinium House, Church Street*, Works to boundary wall and erection of fencing (retrospective)

N10/03898/CLE 5 *Bentham Lane, Purton Stoke*, Temporary siting of residential caravan for use ancillary to main dwelling

Wiltshire Council has refused the following Planning Application:

N10/03915/S73A *Bridge Paddock, Braydon Road, Leigh*, Removal of Condition 1 of Planning Permission 10/00794/FUL to permanent stationing of caravans for one gypsy pitch

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

Website www.communitate.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.

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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

For further information contact [John Creasey](#).

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Since we last wrote, the diary has been a full one at St Mary's CE Primary School. Notably there will have been a number of visits made by the children to different places to enhance their topics being covered in class.

These visits have included trips to the Sikh Gurdwara in Swindon by our year 6 children, a visit to Bristol Museum by years 3 and 4 as well as visits locally to our parish church and local parks by our younger children in Key Stage 1 and the Foundation Stage. We pride ourselves on the children being a credit to our school and to the village of Purton when we make visits away from school. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the children's exemplary behaviour is nearly always mentioned when we are out and about.

Later in February I am also looking forward to taking three of our year 5 children to the special service being held at St Mary's church to commemorate the life and achievements of Royal Astronomer, Revd Dr Nevil Maskelyne. This particular year group have just finished a very informative topic on Space and they all have a very keen interest in history too.

Three of our year 6 pupils recently represented the school at the inter-school public speaking competition in Wootton Bassett. In the event entitled 'Youth Speaks', they presented views very competently on the subjects of campanology, the art of fencing and a history of the Football Association. We managed to come third this year and the children learnt a great deal about how to present to a large audience as well as achieving a great boost for their personal confidence. Next year, we think we know some of the tricks that might help us do even better! I think we have a few politicians of the future amongst our numbers here at St Mary's, too.

Our Parent Teacher Association very kindly paid for all the children to experience a visiting theatre company at the start of February. The Quantum Theatre Company came and presented a play called 'Calculating Mr One' which cleverly combined maths activities into a dramatic performance. The generosity of the PTA enabled all the children to benefit from this experience.

We also enjoyed a visit from the Barnardo's charity. They came and talked to all the children about their organisation and their belief and work with children no matter what their backgrounds. The children were then asked to take part in a creative piece of fundraising and they were so inspired that they managed to raise just over £600 for the charity. A great achievement and one that supports an organisation that we have a real experience of working alongside to directly support a number of our young children.

The new school build continues to make great progress. There are a large number of people involved on site and we can really see the new building beginning to take shape. We receive regular updates from the build team and they are happy with conditions and progress on their side of the compound. It is an exciting time now in terms of decisions regarding the internal appearance of the new school too. Our children continue to journey across to the site to learn about the construction techniques and procedures – Cowlins have been very accommodating in their intention to involve the children as much as possible. If you pass the site, you really will see this exciting new development in Purton becoming the reality.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher

Purton & District Age Concern



We continue to lose good old Purtonians – the latest one I would like to write about is Pete Simpkins. Pete was born at Upper Pavenhill in 1925. He was the youngest of six children.

He didn't enjoy the best of childhoods having a perforated appendix which, in turn, caused peritonitis. In those days it was life threatening so I gather he was pretty rough. Later on in his childhood, when he was 12, his mother died, so his elder sister took him under her wing. Just a thought, I wonder if he drank any water out of Goose Gog Drink – I wouldn't think that had anything to do with his illness as I would think nearly all the old 'top enders' have drunk from there one time or another.

Pete's sister Lil made a good job of looking after him which was a credit to her as I expect she had to look after her father and the rest of the family. There is something about that family as they always seem to have smiles on their faces and Pete was no exception and was very easy to talk to, especially about the countryside. Still Lil was a good tutor as you could always hear her laughing, especially when she was doing the post round and you told her a little story.

Pete didn't have a lot of schooling and left to work on Paginton's Farm whether at Braydon or Restrop I don't know. From there he moved on to the sawmills at Braydon. I know there was a saw mill at Red Lodge but this was for private use. Then there was a Forestry Commission one, right in the middle of the woods between Red Lodge and White Lodge and there was one at Webb's wood. Which one he worked at I don't know but what I do know is that he left there and started his own business selling logs etc with the lorry he had bought. I thought perhaps he met his wife Mary when he would perhaps go down to the Hope along with Lil and her husband Joe, as Joe would often play his accordion there and Mary was the daughter of Billy and Ma Shurey the hosts, but I was wrong on that score because they became more acquainted when Pete used to deliver the logs to her in Reid's Piece. I have heard of many different ways of men wooing ladies, but this is the first with a bag of logs. Mary was a young widow with a six-year-old daughter, Barbara, and was amongst the first to move into Reids Piece. Anyway the logs did the trick because they married in 1950 and Pete moved into Reids Piece. They had an addition to their family with the arrival of Audrey in 1951 and were a very happy family – Pete loved being a family man.

After some years Pete gave up his business, but not before he would rope various family members in to help him and this only came to light when they were all reminiscing about Pete's life. His next job was at Howard Tenens in Swindon. He was made redundant there after ten years and he finished his working life at Carrefour (now Asda) as gardener and this suited him as he enjoyed working outside. What a great asset he would have been for them, wishing people good morning or good afternoon as they passed. During these years Mary would help out with the finances by running the village private hire business. Barbara had started her nursing career by then and Audrey had joined the army, where she later met husband Dave. Three grandchildren arrived, Paul, Nicola and Mark and then three great-grandchildren – Stephen, Andrew and Adam and there was nothing

Pete enjoyed more than spending time with his family, especially when Dave, Audrey and their family were posted to Germany. Pete and Mary would fly over to see them once a year, although to start with they were a little nervous, but the reward more than made up for that. They also enjoyed coach holidays to Scotland and the Lake District – their favourite places – mind they always booked early so that they could have the front seat.

Pete loved the countryside and the Boxing Day meet of the hunt. The girls were not too keen but later in life he took Lil and a friend and they would go off several days a week. He would go and watch Swindon Town when he was younger and also enjoyed the speedway. He could be found at the Abbey Stadium most Saturday nights when he was well into his seventies. Mary died in 1996 and he found this very hard having had such a happy family life for forty-six years. However, family and friends were very kind to him and helped all they could, especially Barbara who lives in the village but you cannot be there all the time and it is the time you are on your own that is difficult. During these last years Pete's chest condition was deteriorating and six years ago he had a minor stroke and double pneumonia from which he almost died and was subsequently admitted to King's Court Care Home in Swindon, where he was very happy.

The family were able to take him on various days out to Weston and to Westonbirt, especially on the days when they had the wood carvers there. Pete had an electric scooter and most weekends could be seen in the Town Gardens during the summer, enjoying the flowers and having a chat with someone I expect. I am told it was no good visiting Pete while the racing was on the TV. He loved his racing – is this what kept his mind active? The staff at King's Court were wonderful about this, in fact Alex and Paul would put his small bets online for him. He had a big adventure last year when Alex arranged a trip for him to Salisbury races and they met up with Audrey and family there. It was things like this that kept his spirits up and also the trips with other residents to various places.

We in Age Concern always looked forward to seeing him at our party for the less able elderly and we tried to make him feel that the people of Purton had not forgotten him. The family tell us that he used to look forward to these parties and seeing Purton people. The family, I know, will always be grateful to everyone at King's Court for the way they looked after Pete. He was the residents' foreman and always ready to give an opinion on things. They were particularly caring and kind during the last month of Pete's life as he became weaker. We offer the family and friends our deepest sympathy and thank them for donations in lieu of flowers coming to Age Concern.

Another person who has played quite a big part in community life is Joan Richardson, in Lydiard in her early life, and later on in life after moving to the Cedars some fourteen years ago. She took a big part in trying to comfort new arrivals and making them feel at home in their new surroundings. I would also like to congratulate the Cedars for the initiative in asking the residents to do a little history of their lives before coming into care so that a new member of staff would have the background of the person's life and would understand the person better. While I am talking about the Cedars, I am sure the family would like me to thank

them for the way they looked after Joan. She always appeared very happy there. We will have a full obituary for her in next month's Magazine.

We are sorry to lose Chris and Dee Kenrick from our committee and, on behalf of us all, I would like to thank them most sincerely for their help and input during their spell with us, plus their vast knowledge and experience that proved invaluable. Also during their time in Purton they have become part of the village, always helping where possible. Our good wishes go with them in their new surroundings and we hope they will be as happy there as they have been in Purton. We made a small presentation to them at our delayed committee Christmas evening meal.

Could I thank the anonymous lady who kindly gave us a very generous donation just out of the blue. I have often said how lucky we are in Age Concern to receive such kindness. It is the same with the donation from Bim and Marlene Herbert – the result of the collection box they had outside their house for people viewing their Christmas lights. Also many thanks for the donation for the use of a zimmer on wheels, and to the lady who kindly sent us a very nice donation in memory of her husband who she had sadly lost recently. It was a very thoughtful thing to do in her sadness. So our thanks go to all these kind people – it is greatly appreciated.

Our Burns Night went very well according to the feedback we have had, so I think we will be having one again next year. It was a sell out so if you want tickets next year, get in early. It was very hard work for our committee, especially Richard Parks our own personal chef. When I say worked hard, the men started peeling potatoes at 8.30am but the beauty of it is they all do it laughing and joking and let's not forget the piper and Josie, who addressed the haggis, and you for coming along to support us. Could I also thank all the people who made the trifles and gave us raffle prizes, which all contributed to an excellent evening.

Don't forget our Annual Auction on Saturday 12 March at the Village Hall. The hall is open to receive items for sale from 9am to 11.30am. We limit the number of lots so it is best to get in early. Viewing is from 12 noon to 1pm with the sale starting at 1pm. You get 75% of the selling price providing the item makes over £2. Reserves can be put on items but if they don't sell it will cost you £2 for it going through the auction. Have a look for items you no longer require but remember we do not accept useless items, upholstered items without a fire safety certificate, or gas appliances, electrical goods over two years old without a safety warranty, clothes, poor quality or faulty items or books (except specialist books),

On Friday 8 April we are having another of our 3Bs evenings – bingo, bangers and beans – at the Silver Threads Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 and available from Mick Hull on 772453 and you can buy your bingo tickets on the night.

Our first mystery tour of the year is on Wednesday 6 April with lunch provided. This is a 10am start and the cost is the same as last year – £10 for people covered by our street wardens and £12.50 for others.

We paid out on 826 vouchers which amounted money-wise to £6,608. It is obvious to us that there were quite a few people who didn't cash their vouchers, which we appreciate, but the idea of these vouchers is to get yourself a little treat which you would not normally get, so we hope you enjoyed them.

A great concern of ours is the talk of abolishing the cheque system. It will make

life very difficult for many, many people, especially in the country. We pay people like the milkman, plumber, builder or gardener for any odd jobs done with a cheque and we make donations to charities or, as a charity, we receive donations with cheques. In our organisation we need two signatures on cheques that we issue, as do most charities, and this is good for security reasons. When you send a cheque for payment it is very secure – you do not need to send any details, only a cheque. If anyone would like to support us on this issue, the address to write to is The Payments Council, 2 Thomas More Square, London E1W 1YN or you can email ***cheques@paymentscouncil.org.uk***.

Another thing we are very concerned about is the proposed Ridgeway Farm development which will be part of Purton. One of the main issues is that we like to treat all our elderly the same and, as we see it, the money for the Christmas vouchers would be raised in Purton as it is and then shared equally with the new development. In fact, what you would get is two separate villages.

Many thanks to PADS for another excellent pantomime 'The old woman who lived in a shoe'. I know this one is fresh in my mind and we have never seen a bad production from PADS, but I think this one was the best yet. It was brilliant. I am not going to single anyone out for special praise because you were all super, but what I am going to say is congratulations to you all and thank you for giving the village such a high standard of entertainment.

TONY PRICE

Fire Safety Advice - Kitchens

- Keep electrical leads away from water and the cooker.
- Don't put anything metallic inside a microwave.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean. A build-up of fat and grease can easily catch fire.
- Don't leave pans unattended. Take them off the heat if you have to leave the room. Fire starts when your attention stops.
- Turn saucepan handles so they don't stick out from the hob.
- Keep the oven door shut.
- When deep frying dry the food before you put it in the oil.
- Keep a fire blanket in the kitchen. It can be used to cover burning pans or wrap around someone whose clothes have caught fire.
- Don't leave children on their own in the kitchen. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of reach.
- Check the toaster is clean and is away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Don't overload sockets. Use one plug in each socket.
- Don't attempt to fight any fires! Get out, stay out and call the Fire Brigade out!

Cricklade Country Market

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

Exhibit of the Month: A Football Match

I have found a newspaper cutting from the Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic, dated 18 March 1911. It reports on the great Association Football Cup-Tie between Chelsea and Swindon at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground on 11 March 1911, when a record crowd (for that ground) of 78,000 were present and the gates had to be shut on many thousands more. Chelsea knocked Swindon out by 3 goals to 1.

The largest picture (1) on the page shows some of the Purton Moonrakers, on arrival at Paddington, who are adjourning to the "Load of Hay" before carrying on to the match.

Other pictures show "Swindonians en route" (2) but the rakes, mops and smocks of the Moonrakers are particularly evident. I'm not sure what the gentleman in the bowler hat makes of it all!

Among the other photos the paper showed reflected how full the ground was. We are told that the crowd climbed the barriers and encroached on the ground. They are here shown sitting on the grass behind the goal posts (3) with what looks like a lone policeman to control them. They'd all have been turfed out instead today!

I'm sure a wonderful day out was enjoyed by all. I particularly like the advertising hoardings for Job Cigarettes, The Illustrated London News, Bovril, Military Pickle and Oxo ... all with people perched precariously on top of them! Hurrah for Health & Safety!

The pictures on the website will as ever be clearer. Visit us at www.purtonmuseum.com.

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 Evening Women's Institute



President Barbara Compton presided at the meeting of 17 January, assisted by her Committee members. We were reminded of the many events now arising to cheer the coming months, including the Cakes and Preserves Stall to be presented at the Top Shops area on Saturday 2 April from 9 until 11am. All items, and customers, will be welcome – just bring and/or buy, and arrange for good weather!

Two “business cards” were handed out to every member present at the meeting. The idea is this: that if during the course of everyday life a member should meet a non-member who shows an interest in WI activities, she can be given a card with your name and telephone number as a contact. So often we meet non-members who say, “Oh, I think I might come along and try one of your meetings!” but they haven’t a programme and they may not necessarily (to their loss!) take the Purton magazine and sadly, when they depart, the idea melts away. Most WIs need new members and so this idea has been created countrywide. It is up to us to make it work.

Our presenter for the evening was a familiar gentleman: the modest Mr Barry Davies, who always has his camera at the ready and he films every beautiful sight that comes within his range. After all the excitement and hard work of Christmas, the coughs and sneezes and the snow and ice, it was good just to sit and enjoy a series of his photographs, backed by relaxing music appropriate to the scenes. It was such a pleasant evening, accompanied by a good show of our own photographs of wildlife, on a table at the side.

On 16 March we hold our Annual Meeting and it is now the time for our President and some of her Committee to stand down after three years’ service. Sad as we are to see friendly faces leave the Top Table, it is also exciting to see new ones with fresh ideas and full of energy for the coming year. If you haven’t served on this – or any – Committee before, do consider volunteering. The more ladies who come forward, the less work there is for each one to do.

CONSTANCE REED (771571)

Purton's Wonderful Footpaths

You are very lucky in Purton and the Lydiards to have so many country paths; and so many that readily enable a circular walk. Most of these are public Rights of Way mainly footpaths and bridleways.

Keeping these in a useable state is a continuous battle against hedge and crop overgrowth, wear and tear of stiles and damage from animals (human and others). It takes very little time for a stile or gate to become completely blocked by brambles or hedges.

Your Parish Council Footpath volunteers and a small team from the Ramblers do a great job working on a regular basis to keep them open. If you would like to help in any way with this task contact the Parish Clerk.

So, as for paths **“Use them, Keep them open, or Lose them.”**

Note: for Purton and Lydiards the Ordnance Survey Explorer map 169 (latest edition A2) is the one to show all the Rights of Way.

EDDIE BEDWELL, Local Ramblers

After 8



A group of liked-minded ladies gathered on Tuesday 2 November to discuss 'All Saints'. It seemed an appropriate topic, following neatly on from the celebration of Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

We opened with a discussion on the commercialism of Halloween, celebrated on 31 October, involving trick-or-treating in costume, carving pumpkins and apple bobbing. All Souls Day on 2 November which commemorates the departed and follows on from All Saints Day on 1 November.

Who do we consider a 'saint', a person eminently pious especially one certified so in the Catholic Church by canonization? Candidates for sainthood need to be virtuous have performed miracles before being beatified and then having full sainthood. Perhaps we are all saints?

Many religions have saints not only the Catholic Church and the Anglican Church. Do we need saints? Are they a channel giving us access to a higher being? We discussed John Henry Newman, the latest candidate to be canonized, during the Pope's recent visit to the UK. There are numerous saints, more than enough for every day of the year, for every profession and interest. Local churches and parishes and schools are named after them, including our own St Mary's (church and school). Our patron saint of England, St George, was given a special mention along with St Nicholas, who was exceedingly busy over Christmas!

Our evening ended with a good-humoured quiz – had we paid attention during Janet's talk? As is often the case, there were more unanswered questions than when we had started. Many thanks Janet for initiating a lively discussion and for hosting the evening.

SANDRA HORSNALL

On Tuesday evening, 11 January, ten of us gathered at Jan Walker's house for a 'Review of the Year Quiz'.

This has become a regular feature in our programme – each year we cajole Jan into preparing a quiz and every year we meet confident that we have kept ourselves abreast of current affairs, we all read, watch or listen to the news, how hard can it be?

This year our reigning champion was unable to attend so we thought we were 'in with a chance'.

The kitchen timer was set and we were off. Five minutes later after many groans, exclamations and giggles some of us decide to pool our knowledge but even so when the time was up the best score was only 8 out of 12 which four people managed to achieve. I am not too sure whether the problem is retention or recall! The evening is rounded off with a more relaxing 'Famous Face Quiz'. We leave determined to do better next year – but time will tell.

Thank you Jan for your hospitality and preparing such a popular event.

JANET MCCARTHY

New members are always welcome. Please contact Avril or Janet.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The New Year began with new girls in the units: Rainbows welcomed Rhea, Daisy and Yenuri, whilst Megan, Isla, Katrina, Flo, Charlotte, Kayla, Isabella and Aaliyah joined Brownies. In Guides, Bebhinn, Rhiannon, Sarah, Brydee, Alice and Georgia all made their promise.

Rainbow activities have been quite diverse: penguin pictures, learning about road safety with a visit from Jayne Hargreaves, the Purton lollipop lady, and decorating cakes with hearts for Valentine's Day.

Brownies kicked off with hip hop dance sessions, courtesy of Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. A great deal of concentration was required to follow the dance moves and the girls enjoyed the unusual addition to the Brownie programme.

1st Purton Brownies took a trip to the PADs pantomime, *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe*, accompanied by the four eldest Rainbows. They had a great time and entered into the "behind you!" cries with gusto. As a precursor to the pantomime, they held a shoe themed Brownie meeting when they polished shoes, played games involving shoes and made wellie pegs.

As the World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) conference is later this year in Scotland, 2nd Purton Brownies are taking part in their "World Guiding goes Tartan" challenge. They began by learning about WAGGGS and then in a quiz tried to guess what Brownies were called in other countries – who would have guessed that in Bangladesh Brownies are called Yellowbirds? They have also been learning about the four World Guiding Centres, starting with "Our Cabaña" in Mexico. They made Mexican bracelets and tried tortilla chips with salsa. The following week they looked at "Sangam" in India and food featured again – this time poppadums with mango chutney. They tried on saris and made Rangoli patterns using tissue paper. This was followed by a return to Scotland where they made Scottie dog, Loch Ness Monster or Highland cow foam magnets, learnt some Scottish dancing and, of course, had some shortbread. They also found out what haggis was!

Guides began the year looking back by making scrapbooks to detail their Centenary adventures. Now looking forward, the unit is working in Patrols on the Party Planner badge.

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

New Beginnings ... for new Parents

Are you under 21 and about to become a parent or have a child under 5? If so, come along to a new group just for you!

New Beginnings meets at Purton Youth Centre, Reids Piece, Purton every Thursday from 11.15am to 1pm.

Bring a packed lunch and enjoy a place to relax and chat, share fun activities with your child and access the Internet. We have sessions on Cooking & Crafts, advice, support and information ... and lots more!

New Beginnings is delivered in partnership by Cricklade Children's Centre & Purton Youth Development Team. For more information ring 01793 759187 or email: crickladechildrenscentre@barnardos.org.uk

Gardeners' Guild



After a brief AGM in which the previous office holders and committee were confirmed for this year, a large audience enjoyed Anita Barratt's inspiring talk on Cricklade in Bloom. Rarely has the truth of the proverb "great oaks from little acorns grow" been illustrated so completely as in the case of Cricklade and the Britain in Bloom competition. In 2003 Cricklade entered the South West in Bloom competition, previously known as the Keep Britain Tidy competition, which is now run by the RHS. They won a silver medal that year and the judge commented to a councillor that they should form a committee from a cross-section of the community to lead Cricklade in Bloom. The councillor contacted Anita Barratt and so the acorn began to grow.

Initially Anita began with two helpers and a clerk. The group, now known as Cricklade Bloomers, grew to over fifty core members with another forty to be called upon as the need arose. Anita's secret weapon is her spreadsheet, which has the judging criteria listed horizontally and all possible planting locations vertically. Thanks to this level of attention to detail and everyone's enthusiasm, the town won a silver gilt medal in its first year in competition with seventeen other regions throughout Britain in the small town category. In 2010 Cricklade won outright the gold medal, an amazing achievement in just six years and is now entering the Champion of Champions category for 2011.

Anita told us how the judging criteria have developed during the past few years, with far more emphasis now given to both sustainable planting and community involvement as well as to horticultural achievement and overall cleanliness. She described how almost all Cricklade clubs and groups had become involved, from the Scouts and the WI to the Fire Cadets and the Pre-Play Group. She praised Wiltshire Council for its staunch support and local companies which lend both manpower and equipment: diggers are essential when planting thousands of daffodil bulbs on the approaches to Cricklade. The groundsman's unstinting efforts in watering all the planting sites were as essential to the town's success as the entire community's efforts in picking up litter and maintaining the most colourful and beautiful hanging baskets and planters that we all remember.

The final comment must be an observation of one of the judges, who summed up the secret of Cricklade's success with: "everything they did was an excuse to have fun."

Anita's presentation was beautifully illustrated with slides taken by her husband, which showed so clearly what was achieved.

We wish Cricklade every success in the Champion of Champions competition this year.

Our next meeting, to be held as usual in the Silver Threads Hall, will be on 22 March, at 7.30pm. The topic for our speaker Carl Gill, will be 'Growing vegetables in a small garden'.

MOIRA WHITE (Secretary), DIANA THOMBS (Chair)

Going Wild in Purton

Purton Nature Watch

Once again Ps and Qs thought it would be interesting to observe the birds that visit our gardens. Since the last report for our Summer Nature Watch the weather has been harsh on all wildlife in Widham, Hoggs Lane and Vasterne Hill as well as on the people of Purton. But the dull, cold days have been rewarding for the birdwatcher. The daily need to forage as far and wide as possible has brought several new species to the gardens as well as old favourites. Badgers were regular visitors to some gardens in Hoggs Lane and in Vasterne Hill, leaving large holes in lawns. The foxes are regularly caught in the headlights of cars going to Hoggs Lane via Vasterne Hill and Vasterne Close gardens. The resident roe deer have been less restrained as usual and ventured very close to houses in Hoggs Lane.



The number of brightly coloured birds in Vasterne Hill has increased since this time last. Bullfinches have been enjoying nyger seeds on the ground in groups of up to eight or hanging from feeders eating sunflower seeds and certainly brightened the day. A lone linnet in December was a treat as was the flock of redwings in Hoggs Lane. Reed buntings seem to have taken up residence in the field beside Vasterne Hill and are as acrobatic as any tits. A fieldfare has also decided to live in one garden, living off the fallen apples.



The number and variety of tits is increasing and their determination to survive in cold high winds puts some of us to shame as we stay indoors. But then that is probably the most comfortable place to watch the antics of the blue tit, long tailed tit and great tit at the moment! A single coal tit has been seen around Vasterne Hill, which is rare as well. But at last the greenfinches, chaffinches and sparrows are appearing in larger groups, which is very encouraging.

There are a lot of blackbirds in some gardens of Hoggs Lane, Jubilee Estate and the Vasterne area. Some of the larger carrion eaters like crows and magpies are simply a nuisance though. They frighten the smaller birds like dunnocks and finches away. But during the first few weeks of this year there have been more wrens and robins (*pictured left*) than usual. A greater spotted woodpecker was a regular at the hanging feeder during December and January.

Nothing seems to daunt the love life of the woodpigeon: one in January was displaying to another who was clearly unimpressed. There are more collared doves about in the Witts Lane area too and these could be seen feeding with jackdaws at the bird table outside Bartone Cottage.

Other newcomers include the sighting of a treecreeper, pied wagtails in freezing weather and only last week a beautiful brambling was spotted on a bird table. What a gorgeous looking little birds are the siskin and mistle thrush which recently visited gardens in Hoggs Lane. So whilst the sky has been dull the birds have lifted our

contributors' spirits. We hope that you have seen some beautiful bird and animal life in your gardens. Please send me an email if you would like to contribute to the Nature Watch or if you would like to contribute to our garden watch articles.

Compiled by Jane Smith for Ps & Qs
Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities
Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities
New members are always welcome

Contact: Jane Smith or Jacqui Lay (770704) or via our web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk

Your PPG has transformed into G4P (Group For Patients)!

A catchy name helps to identify any organisation, so at our last (second) meeting, we had a think and came up with G4P.

Who are these people I hear you say?

Kim Hiles at the surgery, who I am sure many of you know, last year set about forming this PPG. A number of people agreed to form a committee: namely Roger Mugridge, Sheila Fowler, Jenny Bell, and me, Colin Freemantle. Kim and Linda Hoffen, the Practice Manager, and one doctor also attend the meetings.

As we are starting from scratch, we thought that a presentation to explain what it's all about would be a good idea. We are hoping you will all support us.

By now you may have seen the advert for our first event on:

Thursday 10 March at 7.30 in Purton Village Hall

and posters will be going up around the villages soon. Those of you who use the surgery (and even those who don't) should make a note to come along.

Since our small Group has formed, there have been a number of events which could impact on health care and our surgery, which makes this event even more important. We might even want new members to join our committee.

An increasing elderly population, 'flu of various types, and GPs taking over more responsibility for purchasing care, are just some of the issues that are going to affect our surgery in the future.

In order to keep you informed of upcoming events, those of you who visit the surgery will soon find a new notice board, specifically for G4P.

So please come along:

- Meet us and some of the 30 people who work in the surgery.
- Find out what G4P PPG can do for you.
- Have a say in how the Surgery treats you in the future.

We look forward to seeing you in March.

DISCLAIMER

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

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From Cricklade Fire Station

During January crews from Cricklade attended 9 emergency calls as follows:-



02/1/11 at 13.28 horse rescue, A419 Seven Bridges
03/1/11 at 11.11 water/ice rescue, false alarm with good intent, Keynes Country Park
05/1/11 at 12.06 automatic fire alarm, private dwelling, Minety
10/1/11 at 17.40 flooding, private dwelling, Cricklade
16/1/11 at 14.14 automatic fire alarm, Residential home, Cricklade
plus 4 co-responder calls, Cricklade

Cricklade Fire Station currently has two job positions

A fire fighter on the Retained Duty System responds to fire and emergency calls using the same appliances and equipment as full-time fire fighters. The difference is that Retained fire fighters are 'on call' in their homes or work places rather than at a fire station. This role offers flexible working hours and could suit people with childcare responsibilities. As a Retained fire fighter you would need to live or work within four minutes travelling distance of the fire station during your hours of declared availability. Retained fire fighters can choose whether to provide part cover (days, nights, weekends) to suit station needs, or full cover (more than 120 hours on call).

Being a Retained fire fighter is like having a part-time job – you have to commit to certain hours and you get paid for it.

Candidates for the role of Retained Duty Fire fighter need to be confident and resilient, adaptable to challenging situations, good communicators, flexible, willing to learn and develop and enjoy being part of a team. Previous experience is not required due to the comprehensive training programme provided.

Keep an eye out for the recruitment posters around the town and on the station door for further details or ring the number below.

If you would like any further fire safety advice, are interested in becoming a Retained Firefighter or Fire Cadet then please call **0800 389 7849**. This number can also be used to arrange any talks or visits to the Fire Station.

We Record ...

Deaths

23 January Pete Simpkins (86)

Funerals

12 January Doreen Webb

17 January Joan Waldron

4 February Pete Simpkins

correction:

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

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



WHAT'S ON?

Swindon Choral Society

Supporting charity through enjoyment of singing

Swindon Choral Society will be performing a charity concert in aid of BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development) on **9 April 2011**, starting at **7.30pm** in **Marlborough College Chapel**.



The choir, conducted by local composer Robin Nelson, will be performing Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, supported by Reading Symphony Orchestra, and soloists Elizabeth Roberts, Janet Shell, Paul Bradley & Christopher Foster.

Tickets will be available from 1 March in Brian Taylor Music (Wootton Bassett), Swindon Information Centre and The White Horse Bookshop in Marlborough.

We are a friendly society of around 120 singers and welcome enquiries from prospective new members. Further information can be found on the society's website www.swindonchoral.org.uk. The society has also recently released a CD called "Lift Up Your Heads" which is available at concerts and from the website.

Further information about BUILD is available on www.build-online.org.uk

Ten in a Bar presents 'Full Circle' Arts Centre, Old Town, Swindon Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 March at 7.30pm

Ten in a Bar, Swindon's premier close harmony singing group, once again takes centre stage at the Arts Centre in March for a dazzling show of pure unadulterated singing. The show, entitled Full Circle, takes Ten in a Bar back to their roots in more ways than one.

The group is renowned for its unusual and varied repertoire, so come prepared to journey through a kaleidoscope of musical cultures including the African-American experience (traditional Swahili, gospel, jazz and Jackson), and music from our own Celtic roots. If you enjoy the music of Billy Joel, Sting, Coldplay, Tina Turner and George Harrison, don't miss out on Ten in a Bar's exciting new show.

Tickets: £9.50 Concessions £8.50, available from:

Jane 01793 881798

The Arts Centre 01793 614837

Email: contact@teninabar.com

Website: www.teninabar.com



The Royal British Legion Purton Branch ...

presents its **Annual Concert** at Bradon Forest School on **Saturday 2 April at 7.30pm**, with the **Cricklade Band** and **Ten in a Bar**. Tickets, price £5 each, are available from Legion committee members or on the door. The evening includes a raffle and light refreshments.



Patience at STEAM

Swindon G&S Society are putting on *Patience* at the **STEAM Museum from 10 to 12 March**.

In case you don't know, Gilbert and Sullivan were a sort of Victorian equivalent to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice – they wrote a number of musical comedies which were wildly popular in the last decades of the nineteenth century, and are still much loved today. *Patience* is the typically convoluted tale of a milkmaid, a bevy of lovelorn maidens (old maids more like!), a battalion of ramshackle soldiers and two pretentious young men in velvet suits who write terrible poetry. The show has been described as 'a delicious slice of English eccentricity', and it happens to be exactly 130 years since it was first performed, back in 1881.

Tickets (unreserved) are £10 each (£5 for children) and are available from the STEAM Museum (01793 466646) and from the Information Centre in Swindon (01793 530328). If you book to see the Saturday matinee, you get free admission to the museum on the same day!

Finding the Will: Bard Heads

A comic look at what might have happened next to characters from Shakespeare's best loved plays! A marvellous evening of sex, scandal, madness, murder and a lot of laughs!



Brinkworth Village Hall Saturday 26 March 2011

Bar Opens at 7.00pm : Show Starts at 7.30pm

Tickets Priced at:

Adults £6.50 : Senior Citizens £5.50 : Children £3.50 : Family Ticket £16 (2 + 2)

Contact Yvonne on 01666 510545 or Jo on 01666 510045

Choirs Unite for Latin Mass

Victoria's *Missa Ave Maris Stella*, part of the Celebration of the Mass in Latin according to the Extraordinary Form, will be sung in St Mark's Church, Swindon, on **Saturday 26 March 2011**, commencing at **5pm**.

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the composer in 1611, the choir of St Mark's Church, under the direction of Sam Bayliss BA Hons (Oxon), will be joined by choir members from local churches including St Barnabas in Oxford and Christ Church Swindon. The service will be led by Father David McConkey.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon, SN1 5EH

www.swindonnewtown.co.uk

www.stmarkschoir.org.uk

News from The Cricklade Band

The band is all back in harness now and working on 2011's repertoire. You can see where we are and what we're doing either online at www.thecrickladeband.co.uk or at the Leisure Centre or call in for a list on Monday or Thursday evenings at The Club at Cricklade. We took the name of Cricklade to the City of Bath last year for the first time – they liked us so much they've booked us for two Parade Gardens bandstand concerts in 2011!

What an unusual Christmas period it was, plenty of snow and very cold indeed during our traditional carol playing in and around Cricklade. If you were among the many people in the High Street on the Saturday morning before Christmas it was quite a party in the snow, thanks must go to Chris Atkins, our Town Crier, for adding to the festive atmosphere and publicising Christmas Show 2010. If you saw the band out on Christmas morning and thought our tuba players were pouring hot toddy on their instruments – it wasn't (we'd already had that!), it was hot water to de-ice the valves in the -11°C temperatures. Thank you all for your kind donations to our collecting boxes – because we didn't cancel a single event we can still make our usual sizeable donation to the Prospect Foundation as well as paying for some of the band's annual running costs. We did have one Crew casualty, Lance Allen, who slipped and fell while on collecting duty, breaking his arm in three places – best wishes to Lance for his recovery and the lengthy physio that follows.

Staying with Christmas, thank you to the 140 hardy souls who managed to get to our annual Christmas Show at the Leisure Centre, this time it was -14°C and the car park was deep in snow. De-icing was again on the agenda with band Crew members taking apart the heating oil filter to remove the ice! Once again we turned the sports hall into a rather grand theatre for the evening and there are pictures on the website. We had lusty singing, mulled wine, refreshments, a popular redesigned mammoth raffle supported by Cricklade businesses, more mulled wine and as usual there was mayhem during the 'drama' spot, Tally-Ho at Downton Abbey!

Our BandAcademy offers tuition to people of all ages to play brass instruments and percussion. Also included is some manageable music theory (not compulsory!) and certificated attainment of the stages of learning – all in a friendly, welcoming environment and still at the unbelievable fee of just £1 a week.

Just turn up at The Club at Cricklade any Monday evening at 6.30 or have a look at the details on the website. Of course, if you're already a proficient musician we welcome your interest too – our performance and repertoire is geared towards entertaining dance music, anything but staid or boring and we have a varied social programme too.

For those who aren't interested in taking a musician's role in the band, you could still play your part as a non-playing member of our envied 'Crew', that's our uniformed support team.

You're welcome to get involved with Cricklade's own band – come and see us at the Club or contact us through the details on the website – you'll wonder why you waited so long.

PAUL HEWER

Children in Need Ball

The year is really well under way now and that means that **28 May**, the date of our Children in Need Masked Ball, is ever closer. Tables are going fast but there are still some full tables of ten available as well as individual seats.



Just to remind you, the ball will be held **at The Village Centre** on the date mentioned above, tickets are £50 per head to include a complimentary cocktail on arrival. A silver-service three-course dinner is included as well as an after-dinner comedian and live music from RPM. There is also a prestige raffle and an auction for things that money can't normally buy.

Some people round the village haven't heard about the ball, they may not get *Purton Magazine* so please spread the word.

For tickets/information, please phone Tony/Sue on 01793 772581.

TONY RICHARDSON

Who Likes Singing?

Do you enjoy singing? Then why not join our singing group and sing for the sheer pleasure of making music. There is nothing like the feeling you get from raising your voice in song.

We are an informal group who get together for music and friendship, meeting twice a month in Purton. Even if you think you cannot sing come along – you will be surprised at what you can do.

Nothing embarrassing will happen to you. You will not be asked to go solo. You can sit behind everyone else and be invisible if you like but just come along and give us a try.

Contact Ann Chunn for further details. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Activity Week 2011

Activity Week will be from 15 to 19 August this year. So, if your children are the right age (7 - 11) and might want to come, or you might enjoy helping out for one or more days, please put the dates in your diary. Any questions contact Mary.

The Merchant's House, Marlborough Spring Lecture

'The Trial of Penn and Mead' – A dramatised lecture by Nigel Pascoe QC

This trial for breach of the peace took place at The Old Bailey in 1670 and established the independence of a jury to return a true verdict without fear of the consequences. The performance takes place at St. Peter's Church, Marlborough at 7.30pm Thursday 31 March.

Tickets: £12 (£10 MH Friends) available from The Merchant's House Shop, 132 High Street, Marlborough.

In aid of The Merchant's House Appeal. Sponsored by Brewin Dolphin.

Purton Diary - March 2011

2	W	9.00am	to 11am: Dog Warden at Meeting Room, rear of Village Hall
		7.30pm	Historical Society course starts at Silver Threads Hall: <i>Fall of Rome & the Making of England</i> . Then on 9, 16, 23 & 30 Mar
3	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
4	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer Service, Freshbrook Evangelical Church
		7.30pm	Pop/General Quiz, Silver Threads Hall
5	Sa	2.00pm	Silver Threads Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
<hr/>			
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
		11.30am	Open meeting on pew removal 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: <i>Dorcan Choir</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
9	W	11.45am	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
		2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Ian Taylor
10	Th	10.30 am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
		7.30pm	to 9pm: G4P information meeting at Village Hall
11	F	7.00pm	Easter Bingo at St Mary's Lower School Hall (PTA)
12	Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Annual auction at the Village Hall - viewing from 12 noon
		8.00pm	Tennis Club Race Night at Red House
<hr/>			
13	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
14	M		Commonwealth 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
		7.45pm	Lent Group at 6 Waitemeads
16	W	11.45am	to 1pm: Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
16	W	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Purton Village Hall: Annual Meeting and Social Time
18	F		Red Nose Day
		7.00pm	Wine Tasting in Silver Threads Hall

20	Su	Spring Equinox
	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	Silver Threads Club: Hearing
	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Carl Gill - <i>Growing vegetables in a small garden</i>
	7.45pm	Lent Group, location TBA
23	W	11.45am <i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
24	Th	7.30pm Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: AGM followed by Historical Members: <i>The History of the Historical Society and the Maskelyne Bicentenary</i>
25	F	7.30pm Quiz Night, Young Farmers' Hall, Purton Stoke
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27	Su	Census Day
	2.00am	Start of British Summer Time - clocks go forward
	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
28	M	7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting at Village Hall – all welcome
29	Tu	7.45pm Lent Group, Location TBA
30	W	11.45am <i>to 1pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Methodist Church
	3.00pm	<i>to 4.30pm</i> Mothers Union Cream Teas at Silver Threads Hall

Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12noon</i> : 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	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	11.15am	<i>to 1pm</i> : New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
Th	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Moon Phases

 4 March
  12 March
  19 March
  27 March

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 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 Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila 770970, Alison 772896, Val 771201

St George's Day Band Concert

will be held on Saturday 23 April at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

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 Age Concern **3 Bs EVENING**

Friday 8 April at the Silver Threads Hall 7.30pm

Come and join us for bingo, bangers and beans Tickets £6 - ring Mick Hull on 772453

Purton Helping Hand **Table Top Sale**

2 April at 2pm Village Hall Raffle Refreshments Admission 20p children free

Tables £6 Book on 770251

For your diary Collectors Market

7 May Tables £10

Quiz Night

in aid of Jubilee Gardens Young Farmers Hall, Purton Stoke Friday 25 March, 7.30pm start Hot supper provided - bring your own drink! £12 per team of four. Tickets from Bell Inn, Purton Stoke

Women's World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 4 March at 10.30am at Freshbrook Evangelical Church

Speaker - Mrs June Madgwick from Purton All welcome

PSYCHIC CURRY NIGHT At The MAHARAJAH

Wednesday 16 March, 6.30-9.30pm
Tickets £20.00 (deposit required)
Tarot Reading & Curry Buffet

For details or to book call
Khalique on 770253 or 07887 691219
Mystic Ruth on 778069 or 07961 949132

Each Wednesday from 9 March to 13 April inclusive
Lent Lunches

at Purton Methodist Church from 11.45am to 1.00pm

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy soup, a ploughman's lunch, and (if your conscience allows!!) delicious home made cake.

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

Coffee Morning

Friday 15 April
10am - 12noon
18 Church Path
Refreshments, cakes
books, bric-a-brac, raffle
Proceeds to Jubilee Gardens
Project

St Mary's Mothers Union
Will Be Serving

Cream Teas

on Wednesday 30 March
3.00pm to 4.30pm
at The Silver Threads Hall
£2.00
Raffle etc
Please Come and Join Us!

Wootton Bassett & District Cats
Protection League

Craft Fair

at Ellendune Community Centre,
Wroughton

Saturday 9 April from 11am to 3pm
Many stalls selling items including
Jewellery, Soaps, Candles, Cards and
Cakes,
most of which is handmade.

Tennis Club

Race Night

With Entertainment
Saturday 12 March,
8.00pm
at The Red House

Purton Silver Threads

Jumble Sale

Saturday 5 March,
2.00pm
at Silver Threads Hall
Raffle Refreshments

Come & join us!
Celebrate Easter!

Sunday 24 April

St Mary's Church
10.30am
coffee & cake
All welcome

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

patient Participation
Group



G4P

The W.I. Cakes & Preserves Stall

Saturday 2 April
9-11 am
At the Top Shops Area
Pavenhill, Purton

PURTON PLACARD

- plus -



Years 3-6
Thursday 21 April
10am-2.00pm
St Mary's Church

Easter Fun Activity Day

Easter crafts, dance/drama, science activities, cooking, Easter hats plus lots more! Bring a packed lunch & wear old clothes.

All children from the village welcome. The registration forms will be handed out by St Mary's School or some will be available on the day. Please bring the filled in Registration form with you.

A minimum donation of £2.50 per child would be welcomed to cover our costs. We need lots of adult help, so if you can help on the day or for more information contact Kathryn Bartlett

St Mary's PTA Easter
 Bingo
 Friday 11 March
 In the Lower School Hall
 7.00pm (doors open
 6.30pm)
 Everybody welcome

Pram Service
Purton Methodist Church,
Play Close



A short Service with songs,
 a story, friends and
 refreshments

Thursdays at 2.30pm,
 finishing in time for school.
 For all pre-school children and
 Mums and carers.

£5
Over 18's

**80's
Disco**

Saturday 2nd April

*50p Track
Request!*

7.30pm to
11.30pm
(midnight finish)
Purton Village Hall

*Call 772150
or 772436
for tickets!*

Fancy Dress Optional

RAFFLE

Raising money for Rebecca Stevens for the
World Challenge Trip to Morocco. Raffle and licensed bar.

Lent – A Time to Reflect – A Time to Take Something Up?

Giving it up for Lent is something that has been promised by people stretching from The Early Church Fathers to the leading characters in most present day Soaps. 'Taking it up for Lent' is a phrase less ingrained in our language – but equally well rooted in practice.

Picking up that part of the heritage – over recent years members of various churches, and none, have met in homes around Purton to reflect together on the themes this season has regularly sought to bring to the front of the mind – and to consider what this has to say to daily life here today.

A couple of times a feature film has been used as a way in to focussing on a contemporary issue. Last year with the repatriation planes starting to fly increasingly regularly over the village we looked at a number of recently made films exploring how the themes of service, sacrifice and loss impacted on our military families.

Over recent months the theme of fairness seems to have widened and continued to colour the public agenda – whether to do with methods of taxation, reducing services, job cuts, bonuses or world cup venue allocation processes. All these issues along with those of the family, the domestic and the communal will doubtless raise themselves as we seek to explore how the principles inherent in scriptural text and a range of commendable human practice might apply to the present day world and the lives we live within it.

Members of last year's group have requested that again we use a feature film as a way in to things. *Invictus* is a film released in 2010 showing how Nelson Mandela took some extraordinary steps upon taking up the Premiership of South Africa when it came to making a response to some of the glaring unfairness's that had infested his country for at least two generations. Appreciating the significance of those actions can probably only be sensed adequately when putting them in the context of what had gone before and we will look at *Invictus* alongside one of the Apartheid era classics like *Cry Freedom* or *Cry, the Beloved Country*.

One of the common characteristics of these groups is that people have said they discovered far more in the film than they would have noticed if watching it on their own. Commonly sections of film are viewed, observations shared, significance discussed and links made – both backwards to the foundation events of the Lent season and forward to what difference that might make to us, in the place we are today.

Groups are held in homes. They are open to all. They run from 7.45pm to 9.15pm followed by tea, coffee and biscuits and this year will again take place on Tuesday Evenings – running from 15 March to 12 April. The first will be at 6 Waitemeads Close. Others will be at a variety of homes in the village – a take away programme showing where is available at St Mary's Church, Playclose Methodist Church and Harford House Stores. For any further details please call 770171. Perhaps pencil into the diary 15, 22, 29 March & 5 and 12 April and be assured of a welcome if this year this is something you feel you could usefully take up.

DAVID MARTIN, Purton Churches Lent Group Co-ordinator

Church Floodlighting

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



- 7 February The Church was floodlit in memory of my husband,
Dennis Grimwood,
who left us four years ago today.
Loved and missed very much by all his family.
My love always: Kate
- 22 February St Mary's Church was floodlit in memory of **Ray Suddaby**
on the 15th anniversary of his death.
Loved always by his wife Pat
- 7 March St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Ray Herbert**.
Dear Husband and Dad.
Loved and missed more than words can say.
Jane and family

Floodlighting contact: Libbie

Church Schools

200 yrs Serving the Nation - 150 Serving the Village

"Before the State had even considered offering free schooling, the Church had the wisdom and the determination to make education for all a reality in this country",
John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

This year the nation celebrates 200 years of Church of England Schools. It is officially estimated there are 15 million people alive today who have benefitted. For 150 of those years education has been provided by a church school in Purton and there are many here who might want to say, "Well Done".

National Education Sunday falls at the end of February. At our St Mary's Family Service on 6 March we will focus on this provision – national and local. What are our collective memories of St Mary's School? What was it like when it started? How has it helped our village over one and a half centuries?

If you have attended St Mary's School, had children who have attended, worked there or taught there perhaps you would like to attend this All Age Service – to reflect, give thanks, and echo prayers for its future.

ST MARY'S FAMILY SERVICE TEAM

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Restrop, Restrop Road, Battlwell, and Bagbury*. 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.

Pew Removal at St Mary's Church

The removal of a couple of pews at the front of the nave at St Mary's, initially on a trial basis, has generated some lively debate in the village. Some have expressed concerns about the removal and were particularly upset by the untidiness left at the front of the nave. Others have seen the benefits for worship, particularly at the services that attract a younger congregation.

The PCC reviewed the trial in January. After considering all the views expressed by the congregation, and those from the wider village, they agreed that on balance the trial was a success and have, therefore, decided not to replace the pews. They will now apply for a faculty to complete the re-ordering of the front of the nave without replacing the pews.

One aspect of the trial was not considered satisfactory however, that is where a front pew was cut to make room for a heater. A couple of options for a better position for the heater have now been proposed. These will be discussed at an open meeting after the Sunday service on Sunday 6 March. All are welcome to the Sunday service that starts at 10.30am and/or the open meeting, which is expected to start at about 11.30am.

DAVID NETTLETON, Purton PCC Treasurer

Willows Counselling Service: Introduction to Pastoral Counselling: Level 2

Each Spring and Autumn, at The Willows Centre, 11 Prospect Place, Old Town, Swindon, we run an Introductory Course, which is highly suitable for anyone who spends time listening to or working with other people - yes that covers most of us! Nicola Stevenette was on our Autumn 2010 course; listen to her views and consider joining us next time round, beginning **Tuesday 26 April**. You'll be most welcome:

"I have always thought I was a pretty good listener. If a friend had a problem we would share a cup of coffee and I would try to be a sympathetic ear. However raising 5 sons and living in a Vicarage I decided that there was probably room for some listening skills training and so I signed up for the Introduction to Pastoral Counselling course at Willows. I did not regret it.

"The 10 week course met one evening a week, plus 2 full Saturdays. There were 6 of us on the course I took and we got to know and trust each other quickly. Each week there were different activities and teaching styles, which were all hugely stimulating and inspiring. We began by learning Active Listening skills, the different types of Counselling practices and the history of counselling. We experimented with being creative and we learnt about the cycles of grief and loss. All of this and more was interspersed with hands on listening to each other so we could practise our new found skills in a confidential and caring environment.

"I have made some cherished new friends and have learnt to be a more effective and empathetic listener. I could see that this course would be helpful to just about everyone who has a heart to listen better, but equally beneficial for those who work in the education sector, the health service or is a member of a faith community. I cannot recommend it too highly."
Nicola Stevenette, 27 January 2011

For further information contact: Avril Fray, Willows Counselling Service

Tel: 01793 426650 - email: training@willowscounselling.org.uk



2010 GCSE ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTAINMENT TABLES

We were pleased to see that Bradon Forest was a top school in the Swindon area for the new English Baccalaureate with 24% of our students attaining it in 2010. This new league table measure is based on 5 higher grade (A*-C) passes in full GCSEs in English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Language and History/Geography. (The 2010 averages: National 15%, Wiltshire 19% and Swindon 10%.)

Our expectation is that the vast majority of our students take 10/11 GCSEs in real subjects. We believe in a broad, balanced and demanding curriculum that opens as many doors as possible whilst challenging all students, irrespective of ability. We have resisted the temptation to inflate our league table performance by manipulating our curriculum offer or by running courses that attract league table points but are of little value in terms of student progression. Although an 11-16 school, we believe that it is important that our students have access to the widest range of A Levels, particularly for those that go on to Universities including Oxbridge. Our overall 5+ higher grade (A*-C) GCSE pass rate was 68% with the average number of real GCSEs taken by each student being 10.7. Over half, 54% of our students gained 8 or more higher grade (A*-C) GCSEs whilst 32% obtained 10 or more.

TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Mrs Harper reports: To complete our CoPE module on Citizenship and Community a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students were invited to visit the Houses of Parliament.

Parking the school minibus at Kew, students had to purchase their own tube ticket for the return journey to Westminster. Walking from the tube station to the visitors' entrance was quite eventful as we saw students demonstrating against the proposed increases to university tuition fees. Once through security, we met our guide, Laurie, who took us on a tour of both the Houses of Lords and Commons. We were able to stand at the dispatch boxes in the House of Commons where the Prime Minister or his representative and the leader of the opposition deliver their speeches. We could also admire the elaborate decorations and ornate designs in each chamber.

Throughout the day, students were impeccably behaved and asked plenty of interesting questions. Our sponsor, Robert Buckland MP, has arranged a return visit to Bradon Forest School in May.

ICT NEWS: The British Educational Training and Technology (BETT) Conference and the BETT Awards 2011 (www.bettawards.com) were held in January at the Olympia Exhibition Centre, London.

a. ICT Mark: In June 2010, Bradon Forest successfully re-applied for the



prestigious national ICT Mark. This is the third time we have been successful – only about 60 other schools nationally have been successful in gaining the ICT Mark three times. The award recognises Bradon Forest’s commitment to ICT across the school as it is used in teaching, progression, administration and communication. Mr Wright attended the BETT Exhibition and was presented with our new certificate by Simon Shaw of NAACE at their awards ceremony for successful schools.



b. Promethean Interactive White Board (IWB): We have been using Promethean Interactive White Boards (IWBs) for twelve years and all our teaching rooms have versions of their boards. In December, we were invited to trial a new product that incorporates multi-touch technology. In January, Promethean was the winner of the BETT ICT Company of the Year Award. The Guardian ran an article on Promethean’s success and interviewed Mr Wright at BETT using his quote about the new version of the Promethean IWB ... ‘a real leap forward and it brings iPad technology into the classroom’. The new IWB was installed in Mr Thomas’s Mathematics classroom where he has been amazing the students. We are delighted that Promethean has asked if we would develop our partnership further – more news in future issues.

c E-safety: Mr Spiers was invited to BETT to share Bradon Forest’s experiences of the range of e-safety initiatives across the school with the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) 360 degree safe team.



In 2009, in light of our ICT developments we were invited to pilot a new web-based assessment tool being developed by SWGfL called ‘360 degree safe’. As a result we were awarded the first ever “360 degree safe’ e-safety mark and have helped and advised other schools in the area as well as nationally at events like BETT and the South West E-safety Conference.

The 360 degree internet safety tool won the BETT Leadership and Management Solutions Award which recognises exemplary software, hardware, content and tools for institutional leaders and managers working in the early years, primary, secondary or further education and skills sectors.

The Bradon Forest Cybermentor students are at the forefront of our education and training and have worked with many partner primary schools. They are planning a series of assemblies for Safer Internet Day in February so if your younger son/daughter’s school wishes to receive a visit please contact Mr Wright or Miss Colbert.

Mr Wright will be running e-safety mini talks during the parents' evenings this term. We hope that you will find time to visit him and the Cybermentors between 6 and 7 pm each evening and discover what we mean by 'Digital Parenting'.

You might like to look at a really useful publication from Vodaphone to help you be a 'digital parent':

<http://asp-gb.secure-zone.net/v2/index.jsp?id=727/899/1737&Ing=en>

L SPIERS, Headteacher

Purton Historical Society



A friend has passed to me some copies of the Society's Bulletins from the early 70s. It seems that in those days we enjoyed good weather on our outings just as today. Outings were arranged to Bath, Sudeley Castle and again to Bath for the American Museum. I've just found a description of the finding of Roman pottery on the new Dogridge site in 1972. This is fascinating to me as some were found just by our front door. These were dated to the 4th century AD just the period we will be studying in the spring course, which starts on Wednesday 2 March at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. If you haven't had details of the course, which lasts for six weeks contact Inez on 770138 or Paul on 770755.



Some members of the Committee preparing to address the Bromham Day School

Our meeting this month is on Thursday 24 March at 7.30pm in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. This is our Annual General Meeting, which will be followed with a presentation by members of the Committee on *Our First 50 years, and the Maskelyne Bi-Centenary*. I saw the presentation about the Society's first 50 years at the Day School at Bromham and was interested in how the Society and later the museum came into being. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings for a small charge of £2.50.

Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 10 March in the Civic Centre at 7.30pm when Neil Lover will talk on *Swindon to Didcot – a Different Perspective*. The distance will be covered by travels on foot, train, balloon, car and light aircraft.

Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 16 March in the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Mike Boyes will be speaking on *A Victorian Rector & Nine Old Maids*. I should only be recommending this meeting if you are unable to attend in October when Mike will be addressing us on the same subject.

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 9 March in the Broadgreen Centre. Perry Barrett will be talking on *Swindon Steam Archive – Still Waters*.

EVE BOOY, Secretary (770755)

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.



■ WHAT A TREAT!

Having just returned from the Saturday night performance of the PADS' Panto I had to write and congratulate the whole cast and crew for another fantastic evening of fun and entertainment. What talent we have in Purton – both youngsters and the slightly more mature! What a treat – Brian and I thoroughly enjoyed our night out. THANK YOU PADS!

Emma Hayden

■ THANKS FOR KINDNESS

I would like to thank Lee Manning for her kindness and attention when I took a tumble in the village whilst walking our two dogs, also the two Bradon Forest School boys who walked the dogs back home for me. Well done lads, your help was much appreciated.

Maureen Quincey

■ PETE SIMPKINS

Barbara, Audrey, Dave and family would like to thank everyone for the kindness and support received during their recent bereavement. Thank you also for the donations given in Pete's memory to Age Concern.

■ ON THE MEND

I would like to use the facility of your magazine to thank my family and friends for the wonderful support they have given me during my recent spell in hospital, and since my discharge. Thank you also for the many cards and presents I have received.

I am making a good recovery and hope to be out and about again soon.

With sincere regards

Pat Stephenson

Family Names

As part of the A to Z of Purton series last month, the "F is for Families" entry wondered which family has been living in Purton the longest. Well, we were very pleased to receive a lengthy and impressive family tree from Graham Price. It details 10 generations of the Bunce family on his mother's side stretching right back very close to 1600. The earliest record shown is that William Bunce was married on 19th January 1627, although it is not known at what age he married. His son, also William Bunce, was baptised in Purton three years later and from that point, a succession of the Bunce family were born, baptised, married and died in Purton.

The only departure appears to be with Graham's great, great grandfather. Although he was both born and died here, he did marry in Ireland in 1826 while serving with the army and his son, another John Bunce was born in Ireland. However, it is clear that the younger John Bunce returned to base by getting married here in Purton in 1852. There was one other departure when his son, Sidney Bunce (Graham's grandfather) did travel all the way to Cricklade to get married in 1908!

Are there any Purton families that can trace their ancestors even further back?

Burns Night 2011

Robert B. Burns 25 January 1759 – 252nd Anniversary

I share Rabbe Burns' birthday so I thought this year it would be fun to celebrate it at an organised event, especially as I have Scottish roots. From the beginning I was impressed. I phoned the ticket master Ron Harris and the next thing I knew he was at our front door with our tickets. That's what I call service. We were lucky since all 100 tickets were sold before the event.

When we arrived at the Village Hall it looked like party time. I counted over 100 Scottish flags, small ones on the tables and larger ones all around the Hall. We were made very welcome and found our way to our Purton Stoke table.

The evening began in a well-managed and pleasant manner. The bagpipes started and the haggis was carried to the top table accompanied by the piper, Mike Kissane, MBE in full Scottish costume. Josie Williams gave the Selkirk Grace and then performed the traditional passionate address to the haggis, "Fair fa' your honest sonsie face, Great Chieften o' the Puddin' race ... etc." This was followed by plunging a dagger into the "beast" – I read recently that 40% of American tourists believe that the haggis is a wild animal in Scotland – and then the "Toast", with the help of a dram of whisky.

The very efficient waiters and waitresses, the latter wearing tartan sashes, delivered our first course. Again it was traditional – a pullet with prunes in the broth – usually called "cock-a-leekie". This was followed by the star of the evening, the haggis, from Edinburgh no less, via Hart's in Cricklade. I'm not sure if it ever wise to enquire about the ingredients, so I didn't. As it happened I had the vegetarian option which I could see included a combination of lentils and barley, and was very tasty indeed. "Wi' Bashit neeps and champit tatties" needs translation. Neeps is Scottish for turnips, or Swedish turnips, which are called Swedes down south. Is that clear? It's always been a problem in our house. I call the orange veg. turnip, and her indoors calls them Swedes. "Champit tatties" is obvious when you see what they are – mashed potatoes – and I think champ is an Irish dish with potato mash! When I spoke to Sheila in the kitchen she told me that about twenty helpers had been busy all day and surprisingly (?) the men had peeled all the potatoes. That brought back memories of my evenings doing my National Service basic training many years ago, after falling foul of the drill corporal. The meal was completed with a serving of "Topsy laird" (otherwise known as sherry trifle.)

After clearing the tables the dancing began. Our caller for the evening was the very smart Torquil McInnis, resplendent in his clan tartan, complete with sporran. The band "Also known as..." included an electric violin, drums (with the plea – Hug a musician, they never get to dance), a melodeon, a five-string bass guitar and Torquil on the tin whistle when he wasn't calling.

Sometimes it's difficult to judge the mood for dancing but on that night, before Torquil had finished his introduction with a plea for people to form a circle, it was swarming with dancers eager to begin. With his patient instructions he led each group through the dances before striking up for real. Everyone joined in, with many displays of free expression, intentional or otherwise – no head-banging but plenty

of feet stamping. Soon we were immersed in circles, squares, rows, clockwise stars, arches, and cries of “new top lady round the outside”, “do si do”, “move on to your next partner”, with familiar dances such as “Farmers’ Jig”, “Flying Scotsman”, “Gay Gordons” and the “St Bernard’s Waltz”,

Of course no evening is complete without the raffle and this was no exception, with lots of prizes, drawn during the interval, with Tony Price announcing all the winning numbers. It was quickly dealt with and we were back to the dance floor, and after another hour of entertaining exercise, it was time to call it a day.

The weary (?) dancers broke up into small groups, chatting away, reluctant to leave such a pleasant gathering. But leave we had to, except for the happy band of helpers, who stayed on, washing, clearing and tidying up.

I left feeling that that was a good way to celebrate a birthday, both Rabbies’ and mine.

Many thanks to Purton Age Concern. It was another triumph for them.

JIM CASLAW

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

Due to track maintenance diesel trains only will run on Saturdays and Sundays in March and on Wednesdays during the Easter holiday. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £3.50 for children and £4 for seniors on Saturdays and £6 for adults and £4 for children on Sundays. On **Saturday and Sunday 19 and 20 March** kids go free. Trains will run from 11.00am to 4.00pm.



Pre-booking is required for the **Mothers’ Day Wine and Dine** in the loco-hauled luxurious Moonraker coach on **Sunday 3 April**. Telephone Margaret Fay on 01793 704064.

Blunsdon Station is two miles from Purton village on Tadpole Lane. From Packhorse Lane carry straight on over the railway bridge. The car park entrance is then immediately on the right.

Enquiries on 01793 750335 or 771615 or www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org.

Maskelyne Bicentenary

On 11 February, a beautiful, sunny winter’s afternoon, almost one hundred people gathered in St Mary’s churchyard to honour the memory of Rev Dr Nevil Maskelyne DD FRS on the bicentenary of his burial. Dr John Belt laid a wreath by the family tomb on behalf of Purton Historical Society and all parishioners. Inside the church specially invited guests were welcomed and the year’s plans explained before David Sweet gave a short presentation on the remarkable life and work of the fifth Astronomer Royal. The project leader and our own Maskelyne expert, Brian Freegard, was available to answer questions and the memorials and displays were studied with interest. The Maskelyne commemoration has been launched successfully! Keep 20 and 21 May free for the main events at Bradon Forest School.



On The Lighter Side

Hotel Bill Tale

A lady decided to give herself a big 70th birthday treat by staying overnight in one of London's most expensive hotels. When she checked out next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for £250.00. She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. "It's a nice hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth £250 for just an overnight stop without even breakfast." The clerk told her that £250.00 is the 'standard rate' so she insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager duly appeared. "Madam," he said haughtily, "this hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use."

"But I didn't use them," she said.

"Well, they are here, and you could have done," he replied. He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the renowned in-hotel shows. "We have the best entertainers from all over Europe," he said proudly.

"But I didn't go to any of those shows," she said.

"Well, we have them, and you could have," the Manager replied. No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!"

The Manager was unmoved, so she decided to pay, wrote a cheque and handed it over. The Manager was surprised when he examined the cheque. "But madam, this is only made out for £50."

"That's correct. I charged you £200 for sleeping with me," she replied.

"But I didn't!" exclaimed the startled Manager.

"Well, too bad. I was here, and you could have."

Moral: Don't mess with Senior Citizens.

Zen Teachings

- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
- If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
- War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left.
- There are two excellent theories for arguing with women. Neither one works.
- A closed mouth gathers no foot.



The most important event for this month – apart from the continuing matches that are being played in the Swindon & District Winter League – is the Race Night at the Red House Club which we are hosting on Saturday 12 March. As usual there will be an opportunity to bet on horses – so sharpen your betting skills ready for the Cheltenham Festival – win some of our raffle prizes and enjoy supper and good company with us and our friends. Do join us from 8.00pm onwards.

We continue to look ahead and are very conscious that next year will be the Centenary of the founding of the club. We shall shortly be drawing up a programme to celebrate such an important part of the village history and we hope to be able to welcome back former players as well as encouraging newer and younger members. Nicola is already on the case and we hope you can help.

2012 will be the tennis club's centenary year. We are aiming to put on several celebratory events and would like to put on a display showing the tennis club over the last 100 years. If you have any photographs, newspaper cuttings, fixture cards, etc I would like to borrow them to make copies. Please contact me if you have anything of interest.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton F.C.

The terrible weather conditions have meant that many games have had to be called off at Senior and Youth levels and, because of this, the Hellenic side currently lie 6th in the table but have three and as many as four games in hand against those above them. Currently the team are unbeaten in five league games winning four and drawing the other with Ashley Gooch the team's leading goal-getter with 11 goals.

The Redhouse side (the Reserves) have slipped down the Wilts league somewhat but after a run of several defeats have got back to winning ways with a 3-0 win over Devizes Town Reserves. Craig Hogg leads the scoring stakes for them having netted 15 times.

At Youth levels our under-16s have found their league a tough one but our under-15s are at the top end of their league and if they maintain current form could well go on and win the league.

The under-14s have also struggled but after 8 losses in a row have got back to winning ways beating Fairford Youth but the under-13s are doing really well and recently put 12 goals past Highworth Juniors "J".

At under-11s the "A" team top their league and like the under-15s have every chance of winning their league while the "B" team with only three league losses are also handily placed in theirs.

We have an Easter raffle coming up on Easter Saturday. Tickets will soon be available for this so please support our Club by purchasing some, available from all Club Officers, Management team and players.

Special thanks to all those who support the sides. There are still a lot of games to be played at all levels, please continue with your support as it's really appreciated.

ALAN EASTWOOD, *President/Chairman*

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



Practice for senior players will take place at Prior Park School, Cricklade, from 5.00 – 7.00pm on Sundays 13, 20 and 27 March. Current members and potential new members are most welcome to attend.

The club signing-on night will be on Friday 1 April at the Red House from 7.00pm when it is hoped to have details of the new club shirts.

Although we have experienced problems with the company which supplies kaloam for the square we are hopeful that the square will be in good condition for the first practice match on 16 April.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In the 1950s the club's vice presidents included 2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 colonels, a commander, a captain, a doctor, a Canon, Sir D Eccles and Lady Young. It was in 1953 that Sunday fixtures were first played at Purton when the subscriptions were as follows:- 21 and over £1 or 10/- plus 6d per match, 18-21 15/- or 7/6 plus 6d per match, Under 18 2/6.

JOE GARDNER

Travel Notes - Names & Places

I was recently in Beirut sharing a meal with a diverse group of nationalities who however, on the whole, were all Arabs. There was a lot of talk about the history of our own individual countries and how language and place names had evolved. I chipped in with my usual limited contributions – England coming from a tribe referred to as having the faces of 'Angels' by an old Pope and Britain coming from 'Pretan' – originally meaning painted faces. Afterwards I sat back smugly not realizing that opening the subject of England would cause an animated and unusual debate. One colleague, a Saudi national, solemnly informed us of one of the great injustices of history; namely the lack of recognition of William Shakespeare as a true Arab. His genuinely serious contention was that the famous bard really was 'Sheik Speare' – clearly a son of the desert. Despite the entreaties of all about his firmly established birth in Stratford-upon-Avon, our friend retained a knowing 'well if that's what you want to believe, it's not my fault that you're deluded' smile. On reflection though his proposition is ridiculous, for if Shakespeare had been of Arab descent surely the lines 'to be or not to be' would be followed with 'ok, last price – one 'be' for you my friend!'

I do like to know the origin of words. It's strange how often something can be said frequently without thinking about where it came from then suddenly you can make a connection and it's blindingly obvious. I lived in Jeddah for a while and took immense delight in pointing out where the name came from to longer-term residents who hadn't a clue. Jeddah is believed to be the burial place of Eve, who is seen as the Grandmother of the human race and Grandmother in Arabic is Jidda. I'm writing this in Bahrain which in Arabic means two seas – one for the sea that surrounds the islands, the other the source of natural water that can be found under its ground. The capital of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, actually means garden, which for a sprawling city of concrete and glass in the middle of an arid desert surely has to be highly questionable under the Trade Descriptions Act.

I first moved to Saudi in 1996. As part of my induction to the company I joined I was sent a booklet explaining the cultural complexities of living in Saudi Arabia. The detailed document ended with the traditional Arabic greeting of 'Ahlan Wasalan' meaning that you are most welcome. I remember a friend of mine quickly reading it and asking if Alan Washland was my new boss's name. And fifteen years later I still find this amusing enough to prefer to say 'Alan Washland' when the opportunity to welcome someone in Arabic arises. Generally you find that Arabic greetings contrast very differently and favourably with our own. 'Salaam Alykoun – Peace be upon you' ... Sabah al-Khair – Welcome the morning ... Sabah al-Noor – the morning of light.' These sociable phrases seem a lot warmer than our own 'Alright? ... Aye, not too bad.'

I discovered one reliable rule when I was vainly trying to learn Arabic, which like all good rules of language, has exceptions but generally guides the way. I particularly like this, because I've repeated it to many Arabs who upon hearing have suddenly looked at me as if in a moment of awakening. They know their language implicitly but hadn't thought about how this applied. The rule is 'Mo' makes the person and 'Ma' makes the place. So a 'Moslem' is the person who follows Islam. Ta'am in Arabic is the verb to eat so Mata'am is a restaurant – the place where you eat. This applies to a multitude of verbs. If you are planning a holiday in Egypt, I suggest you throw this in to your tour guide and say you studied the basics of language whilst at Oxford University – it worked for me. (I have actually been to Oxford University but sadly only to deliver Cornish pasties.)

The Arabic language has given us plenty of words; the only article in Arabic is 'Al' so this has to do all the work for 'a', 'an', and 'the'. Consequently, we use a number of words beginning with Al which have clear Arabic roots. The Persian mathematician Muhammad Ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi gave us Al-Jabr or Algebra as we better know it (maths must actually have seemed pretty easy after learning to spell a name like that). The Greeks may have developed the practice of Khemia but it took the Arabs and their 'Al' to give us Alchemy. However, surely the most enjoyable irony of all is that the word Alcohol is most probably derived from the Arabic language – cheers for that.

JOHN STEPHENSON

John Stephenson grew up in Purton and lived here from 1969 until the 1990s. He still has family here and remains a frequent visitor here every 4 months or so and is still quite well-known within the community. In 1996, he moved to Saudi Arabia and since then has lived and worked across much of the Middle East and Africa. Always keen on travelling, he has tended to keep notes and has recently started collecting his notes up together and now has a collection of incidents and observations.

Purton Silver Threads - Over-60s

We are almost into spring and we would welcome new members. We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon, 2-4 pm. The mini-bus is available if required.

There is plenty going on throughout the year.

For more information, telephone 770251.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

A to Z OF PURTON

G is for ... Gardeners' Guild

If you are a beginner or a gardener with many successful seasons of enjoyment behind you then Gardeners' Guild is the club for you. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. We have a visiting speaker, a competition and a raffle. Over a few years speakers have covered the A to Z of gardening: flowers and shrubs from abelia to zinnia, vegetable growing from asparagus to zucchini and gardening techniques from air layering to zinc deficiency supplements.

We have about 80 members, with a regular attendance of from 40 to 60. If members don't wish to drive in the evenings the Purton Minibus will collect them within the village for 50p. Our membership fee is £8 a year.

Our September meeting takes the form of a mini-show and every year we organise outings to well-known gardens, nurseries or RHS sites such as Wisley. The emphasis is on enjoying ourselves while improving our knowledge and our gardening skills.

G is for ... Galanthophile

I met a Purton galanthophile last week ... but it was not a fearful experience!

Do you know what a galanthophile is? It is an enthusiastic collector of snowdrop species!

This particular lady had over 40 different species in her garden.

Apparently one of the pioneers of hybridising snowdrops was James Allen from Shepton Mallet back in the 1890s. He cultivated over 100 different and distinct snowdrop varieties!



*For those galanthophiles
out there ...*

G is for ... Guides

Guides – formerly known as Girl Guides – are aged between 10 and 14. They take part in a wide range of activities at their regular meetings, and at special events, holidays or camps. Girls do everything from adventure sports to playing games, and from taking part in community action projects to the performing arts. Guides work together in small groups or 'Patrols' and, with the support of an adult Leader, choose and run some of the activities themselves using *Go for It!* resource packs. Whilst many Guides have previously been Brownies, it's not essential. It is testament to the enduring appeal of Guides that the Purton unit celebrates its 60th birthday this year. For more information on joining as a Guide or volunteering as an adult with the Guide unit, please contact Gill Woodward on 771572.

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

G is for ... Greening

Spring must surely be in the air before too long and one of the definite signs is the 'greening' of the environment, with trees beginning to show their green leaves, lawns start to regain their summer colour and bulbs push up their green leaves before the colourful crocus and daffodil flowers burst into life for our delight.

G is for ... Guide Dogs

This is the thirtieth year for the Purton Guide Dogs Support Group, and the current committee are all members of the Inaugural group of 1981.

We have raised funds in many different ways, Sponsored Swim, Walks, Cycling, Fashion Show, Charity Draws, Concerts: Choral, Ballad, and of course Bands by the likes of Cricklade, Chedworth, Swindon Big Band, Swindon Brass and Quaduro Saxi Plus One. Stalls at Village Fetes and Country Shows, Table Tops. And of course our good old Jumble Sales, Slide shows etc. So sponsoring some twenty-odd guide dogs, plus we are now on our second Sponsor a Puppy at £5000 a time. The list goes on. Thanks to the hard-working committee, along with the many stalwart helpers. None of this of course could have been successful, without the support of you the people of Purton and the surrounding areas.

G is for ... Greenhill

On the night of 17 August 1940 bombs fell on Greenhill. In Alec Robbins' *Records and Recollections of Purton and District* we learn that 'Grampy' Saunders was a very lucky survivor as his house suffered a direct hit and part of the house was demolished. The local Special Constable rang the Police Headquarters and was told that the fire brigade would be sent. About 20 minutes later, Jack Dodson's coal lorry arrived from Purton with a stirrup pump on board!

G is for ... Generosity

Purton is becoming well known for the generosity of many in the community. For example, this and other recent issues of Purton Magazine are only possible because of the voluntary contributions of at least 60 villagers every month. We regularly receive pieces for inclusion from around 30 (although lots more are always welcome!) and we have our terrific team of some 28 distributors who deliver over 950 copies around the community and by post each month.

Also we are fortunate enough to enjoy the generosity of the owners and staff at Best One who sell nearly 100 copies and especially at In Touch Services. They not only sell copies for us but are also most generous in their contributions of time and skill to make sure that every issue looks very neat and tidy as well as printing everything that is needed.

G is for ... Grace

In 1861 Edward Mills, the older brother of W.G.Grace, played at Purton for South Wales scoring 13 and 4 and finishing up on the losing side.

G is for ... Gosling

On 6 July 1906 the Evening Advertiser reported that on Hursted Farm of Mr J Limerick Wells a gosling with four legs had hatched.

G is for ... Gallon

For readers who can still remember buying motor fuel in gallons, when the cost of a litre reaches £1.32, then that will be the equivalent of £6.00 per gallon ... but perhaps you didn't want to know that!

Purton Guide Dogs

Thankfully we didn't have the snow and ice to contend with in January this year, and our Jumble was able to go ahead as planned on the 8th in the Village Hall. My thanks to all who came along to help – we made £86.98. I am planning to have a Table at the Purton Helping Hand Table Top Sale, so I may see you there.



Thank you all for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



Carnival: 3 - 11 June Theme: Musicals

All entry forms are now available, so ring 01793 770251 for the ones you want: Talent, Pride of Purton, Round-the-Houses Race, Cycle Race, Darts, Pool, Skittles, Golf, Under-5's Picnic, Quiz, Floats, On Field (Car Boot, Charity, Trade).

What a selection – there must be something for you there! Also there are lots of other events going on during the week which will give fun for everyone and create a wonderful community spirit.

This plea is from me personally: **please** can we have an evening of **Purton Talent**. There is plenty in the village and it would be a wonderful start for the Carnival to show what Purton can do ... not rely on talent coming in from Swindon. This is Carnival Week ... not the X-Factor.

We still need helpers. If anyone has a few spare hours during the week, please ring and let me know.

PAULINE WARD, Carnival Secretary (770251)

For Your Diary

Saturday 2 April at 1.30pm

Table Top Sale at Village Hall

Wednesday 6 April at 10am

Age Concern Mystery Tour with lunch included

Saturday 7 May at 10.30am

Collectors Market at Village Hall