

# Purton Magazine

May 2011



*Nevil Maskelyne, 5<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal  
Painting (oil on canvas) by John Downman (1779)  
in the collection of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich  
See page 19*

45p

## PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Tues &amp; Fri 2-5pm &amp; 6-8pm Weds 10am-1pm &amp; 2-5pm)</i>		
Police	Neighbourhood Policing	08454 087000
Post Office	Susan Budd	770346
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Richard Woodbridge	770862
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
<b>Schools and Play Groups:</b>		
Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141
		or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

## LOCAL CHURCHES

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

**Contact:** Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770210  
 Alan Woodward, tel 771572  
 Richard McCarthy, tel 770838  
[www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton](http://www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton)

**Services:** See Diary Page in this magazine

### METHODIST CHURCHES

**Minister** Rev Stephen Cullis, tel 853197  
 1, Garraways, Woodshaw, Wootton Bassett, SN4 8LT

**Services:** PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine  
 BRAYDON Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, WOOTTON BASSETT

**Parish Priest** Father J Reville tel 852366  
 Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Wootton Bassett

**Services:** Holy Days Vigil 7.00pm Holy day 9.30am  
 Sundays 10.30am Mass  
 For times of weekday services please see Church notice board

#### ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

**Priest** Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586  
 St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade

Holy Days 7.00pm Mass  
 Sundays 9.30am Mass

## From The Editors

Several articles in this month's magazine seem to point towards a Big Society that is Purton.

The Coalition Government is promoting the big society and the Ps and Qs piece on page 23 provides some answers to many of the usually asked questions. Readers will probably know that the idea is to make society stronger by encouraging even more people to work together and run their own affairs locally.

There are so many activities going on in our community that we must be well on our way to achieving our very own Big Society. One event that will not be celebrated every year is the bicentenary of the death of Nevil Maskelyne – the 5<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal – who is buried in St. Mary's churchyard and whose portrait appears on the front cover.

The Maskelyne Commemoration Project is being organised by the Purton Historical Society (which is celebrating its own half centenary this year) and includes a special exhibition, a flower festival, a portable Planetarium in the village hall, a presentation by Education Officers from two different museums and an Activity Day for Families in August – further details are on pages 20 and 35.

Christian Aid week also happens in May and, on page 37, you will see details of the events that make up the "big noisy splash" that Purton always makes about this particular week. Yet again, the Christian Aid quiz is already testing and teasing many in our community and beyond.

Also in this issue there are details of many concerts, coach trips, church services, coffee mornings, car boot and jumble sales plus collectors, antiques and other markets – all of which rely on many different people actually doing something for the benefit of others. The combination of all these events and activities makes Purton such a "lovely village" again confirmed by another letter to our postbag on page 31.

However the big idea behind the Big Society is for more and more people to make their own contributions. Just contact any of the organisations to help to make things in Purton even bigger and better – all offers of help will be gratefully received.

**£575**

raised in support of the Japanese Tsunami  
disaster appeal ...

by St Mary's Primary  
school  
– see page 49

**£800+**

by Bradon Forest  
school  
– see page 44

**100 years**

Glyn Lloyd celebrated  
his centenary  
on 25 April  
– see pages 7 & 12

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

Magazine Committee

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

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*by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, please*

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### **Distribution enquiries only:**

[John Creasey](#)

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

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

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## Parish Council News



**Wiltshire's Core Strategy** – Wiltshire Council is in the process of developing a Core Strategy which will determine the basis for planning decisions across the County for the next few years. This is a very important document which the Parish Council is proposing to comment on during the consultation process. The public engagement on the draft Core Strategy is scheduled to take place during June/July 2011 with the formal consultation being carried out at the end of 2011. An Examination of the Core Strategy will then be carried out by the Planning Inspectorate which is expected to happen early 2012. The adoption of the Core Strategy will follow but the date this will happen will depend on the outcome of the Planning Inspectors report.

The new Neighbourhood plans which the government is talking about in the Localism Bill is said to be a means for local people to have a say about how their communities should develop. If a Neighbourhood plan is developed it is suggested that it will have a bearing on planning determinations within the area the plan has been developed for. The Neighbourhood plan will however have to fit comfortably with Wiltshire's Core Strategy so arguably there will be little room to manoeuvre. The Government has made a clear statement that Planning Authorities should seek to approve planning applications. They expect development for industry and housing to continue, a not-in-my-back-yard attitude will not be acceptable. We therefore need to be realistic and understand that if we undertake a Neighbourhood plan for Purton Parish it will not mean that we will be able to stop all development in our boundary should we wish to. It will however give parishioners the opportunity to talk about possible growth and how we feel this should happen and possibly where, and what other facilities and infrastructure we will need.

At the moment the Parish Council has embarked on a Community/Parish Plan and will need as much involvement from the public as it can get to help develop this plan which will have a bearing on all parishioners. The plan will help the Parish Council to develop its plan of action for the coming years and will help with the development of a Neighbourhood plan so please get involved. If you have any particular areas of interest or skills that you would like to offer then please contact the Parish Council Office.

**Annual Parish Council Report** – The Parish Council's annual report was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 March, the report details the work of the parish council and its plans for this financial year. If you would like a copy then please contact the Parish Council office.

**Dog Warden** – Please remember that the Dog Warden will be holding his next session in Purton's meeting room, which is adjacent to the Public Toilets in the Village Hall Car Park, on Wednesday 4 May from 9 -11am. If you have any issues regarding dogs then please go and talk to Sebastian on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping that Sebastian's monthly visits to the village will improve the dog fouling problems however having just walked to the Post Office from the Council Office it is clear some dog owners are not getting the message. Not only has the owner let the dog foul in the middle of the pavement in more than one place but has not even had the

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decency to move it onto the side of the pavement or onto the road let alone pick it up. Some unsuspecting person, probably a child has already walked in some of the mess. If anybody knows who the culprit is then please pass the details to the Dog Warden or to the Council Office.

**Purton Library** – so far there has been a good response to the request for volunteers to come forward to keep Purton Library open which is very good news but there are never too many as a good pool of volunteers will be needed to keep the Library open long term and will allow for flexibility. Therefore if you were thinking of volunteering then please do so. It is not too late. Application forms are available from the Parish Council Office and the Library.

**Litter Pick** – If you have considered tidying up the village by doing a litter pick, however big or small an area, then please contact the Parish Council Office as we have some litter pickers, black bags, fluorescent tabards and gloves available for people to borrow.

**Proposed Changes to the Bus Service** – In order to cut costs Wiltshire Council is proposing to change the bus services, probably from September 2011, in this area as follows:

- **51A** - Cirencester - Ashton Keynes - Cricklade - Swindon: The Sunday service will be withdrawn.
- **55A** Chippenham - Calne - Lyneham - Wootton Bassett – Swindon: Reducing the frequency of Sunday evening service (after 7pm) from Lyneham and Wootton Bassett to Swindon from hourly to 2 hourly.
- **C2W** - Connect 2 Wiltshire shared taxi service in the Wootton Bassett/Purton area, Reduction in frequency of Connect 2 Wiltshire shared taxi service.

If you have any comments to make about these changes then please contact Ian White (Head of Service Passenger Transport) Direct Line 01225 713322 or email [ian.white@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.white@wiltshire.gov.uk) by 1 May or soon after.

**The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| N10/01258/FUL | <i>Battle Lake Farm, Braydon</i> , part conversion, extension and alteration to provide respite care facility   |
| N11/00969/SCR | <i>The Old Farmhouse, Bagbury Lane</i> , request for Screening Option as to whether EIA is required for a wind turbine  |
| N11/00196/FUL | <i>The Bell Inn, Purton Stoke</i> , single storey side extension  |
| N11/00315/ADV | <i>7 The Parade (Lloyds Chemist)</i> , 1 illuminated fascia sign & 1 internally illuminated projecting sign   |
| N10/00454/FUL | <i>Land Adjacent to Hyde View House, Plot 2 The Hyde</i> , proposed detached house & garage for plot 2 (revised design of house & garage approved under 06/02432/FUL) |
| N11/00025/FUL | <i>4 New Road</i> , garage conversion   |
| N10/03149/REM | <i>Land Adjacent Moredon Bridge, Purton Road</i> , Reserved Matters of 08/00403/OUT, details of landscaping   |

N10/04584/FUL 26 Restrop View, replacement of existing flat roofs with pitched  
N10/03064/FUL Forest View (Plot 1), Land to the rear of 21 Upper Pavenhill,  
extension to conservatory & new rooflight

### How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

**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.

## News from The Trustees

### The Village Hall

We are all set to refurbish the kitchen – we had our final application for a grant approved by the Area 2 board, so our thanks go to them for granting this, the final piece of the jigsaw as they say. We are now looking at the estimates we have had in to find out the best one, not necessarily the cheapest, as we have been down that road before. What I think is that the work will be done during the summer holidays to coincide with the time when the Hall is not used a lot – more details later.


### The Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

The football season is nearly over and the bowlers are just starting theirs while the tennis club keeps going all the year. We had a very useful meeting with the users of the Centre – we are intending having these every six months – and it was nice to have the Red House Club with us. We feel sure these meetings will be helpful to all concerned to make the Centre a better place – mind it's not bad at the moment is it.

*Cllr TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees*

## Church Floodlighting

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

- |          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| 30 April | Ruby Wedding: <b>Marie and Paul Dempsey</b><br>St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate<br><b>Marie and Paul's 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.</b><br>Congratulations to them both!    |  |
| 25 April | St. Mary's church was floodlit to celebrate <b>Mr Glyn Lloyd's</b><br>100 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Best wishes to Mr Lloyd, Head teacher of<br>Purton Primary school from 1963 to 1976. |   |
| 18 May   | The Church will be floodlit in memory of <b>Dave Binstead,</b><br>on his birthday.<br>Always in our thoughts<br>Forever in our hearts<br>Greatly missed by Dorn and family             |   |

*Floodlighting contact: Libbie, tel 771018*

## From Cricklade Fire Station

During February and March, crews from Cricklade attended 32 emergency calls as follows:-

05/2/11 at 20:01 road traffic collision A419 Castle Eaton junction  
12/2/11 at 19:55 automatic fire alarm, Cricklade  
16/2/11 at 07:35 automatic fire alarm, Cricklade  
20/2/11 at 20:03 fatal road traffic collision A419 Castle Eaton junction  
25/2/11 at 08:09 car fire, A419 Blunsdon Hill  
01/3/11 at 14:07 chimney fire, Down Ampney  
03/3/11 at 18:21 false alarm good intent, bonfire, Ashton Keynes  
03/3/11 at 22:19 chimney fire, Cricklade  
07/3/11 at 15:24 chimney fire, Cricklade  
10/3/11 at 12:38 kitchen fire, Purton  
11/3/11 at 08:42 automatic fire alarm, Somerford Keynes  
16/3/11 at 10:51 road traffic collision, A419 Preston Toll Bar Cirencester  
20/3/11 at 13:20 automatic fire alarm, Cricklade  
21/3/11 at 03:03 thatched bus shelter fire, Ashton Keynes  
29/3/11 at 16:26 fatal road traffic collision, Purton Stoke  
29/3/13 at 21:14 road traffic collision, Leigh  
30/3/11 at 08:05 animal rescue, Cricklade  
31/3/11 at 01:56 car fire, Spine Road, Ashton Keynes  
31/3/11 at 13:42 road traffic collision, B3102 Wootton Bassett  
31/3/11 at 14:03 chimney fire, Wootton Bassett

*plus 3 co-responder calls in February and 7 in March*

We would like to thank all the businesses in Cricklade for their help with our recruitment campaign by finding spaces for our posters. We have had a really great response with 10 people stepping forward for the roles available as Retained Fire Fighters and they will be now starting the application process. Without that help future crewing of our/your fire appliance may have been difficult.

If you would like any further fire safety advice or are interested in becoming a retained fire-fighter then please call **01380 731144**



### Fire Safety Advice – BBQs & the Outdoors

- Use firelighters or BBQ fuel to light – NEVER use petrol, paraffin etc.
- Never leave the BBQ unattended and keep children well away.
- Position on a level site away from dry grass, fencing, sheds, hedges etc.
- Keep water handy to deal with unexpected spread of fire.
- Never move a BBQ until it is cool. Make sure any remaining charcoal is cold before disposing of it thoughtfully.
- Fatty foods can cause the coals to flare up.
- Refill garden machinery in open air.
- Take care when lighting garden heaters and never move once alight.
- As for BBQs site bonfires well away from flammable structures etc.
- Don't light a bonfire on windy day and be considerate to neighbours.



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## Purton & District Age Concern



How does one begin this month with all the sadness of people losing loved ones, none more so than the tragic accident that happened at Purton Stoke when Dominic Tovey was killed? How do family and friends begin to cope with something like that. No words of comfort are enough to give support to all who knew him. I say 'who knew him' but even if you didn't, in a community like ours, everyone is thinking of all Dominic's family and friends and praying for them, so let's hope that they can gain a little comfort from knowing that. The people I usually mention are in the elderly group, i.e. Age Concern, and are at the end of their lives. Although this is still sad, for someone to die as young as Dominic is tragic and terrible for loved ones to come to terms with. I was going to write my usual piece about three elderly people that have died but, out of respect for Dominic, I am only going to mention them briefly. I am sure the families will understand.

Mrs Mary Telling of Reid's Piece was born at the Pry at the farm called Pry Holdings. Her parents did not farm the land but rented the house for ten shillings a week (50p today!). Mary had two brothers and two sisters and they went to Purton School. On their way to school, they would pass the Italian prisoner of war camp and one of the prisoners asked her name – from then on they all called her Maria. One prisoner made her a wicker basket which is still being used today with fruit in it. Mary had several jobs, most of them involving cooking, even in the Army when she was called up and was a cook in London working next to the Albert Hall.

She was singing in the Greyhound pub one night – Carmen Miranda songs and dancing on the tables. Jack, her future husband, was in there and he got a bit fresh so she poured a pint of beer over him. I don't know whether Jack liked the beer or Mary liked the freshness but it stood them in good stead as they were married for many years and had four children – Danny, David, Rosemary and Derrick. One of Mary's jobs was as a post lady around Lydiard and one parcel she had to deliver every Tuesday was to the Post Office there with money to pay out the pensions – £5,000! What a responsibility. She was a very hard-working lady all her life and we offer the family our deepest sympathy.

Myrtle Gardiner's life story has already been in the magazine, but how lovingly she was cared for at the bungalow. This was no more than she deserved with the hard life she had. I suppose the right word would be that she was really spoilt during her last years – they were certainly one big happy family at the bungalow and Myrtle was able to experience real family life. I was unable to go to Myrtle's funeral as I was on holiday but from the reports I have heard she was given a marvellous send off, with her carers carrying her coffin in to Church. I was speaking to Judith Wells who, with Revd Canon Michael Johnson, did the service. My word Judith, you said you were even going to better the service you gave Myrtle's friend Annabel, which I didn't think was possible, but you did. You made it a really special service which, of course it was, celebrating Myrtle's life. We really appreciate donations in lieu of flowers coming to us. Wouldn't it be lovely if and when we get a new vicar, it is someone like Judith, who is part of the community and would get to know people. I don't know what the diocese is thinking of, leaving us without a

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vicar for nearly eighteen months now.

Dick Spencer, as we all knew him, lived in Red Gables Close after moving there when his brother Eric retired from Restrop Farm. Dick had many jobs, mainly farming, at Green Farm, Braydon and Restrop Farm, Purton. Both of these farms were owned by the Paginton family. Then Dick went to White Lodge Farm before giving up here and moving to the United Dairies at Wootton Bassett. You could often see Dick, along with his brother Eric, going down the High Street, Dick in his buggy and Eric on his bicycle. Dick enjoyed our mystery tours, outings and Christmas parties. They were very supportive of our organisation and he was so appreciative of what was done for him and nobody could have done more for him than his brother Eric – not only a brother but his best friend as well. We were so pleased to see Eric on our last mystery tour and what a lovely gesture – a lady sat with him so he wouldn't be on his own. We thank Eric for donations in lieu of flowers that we are sharing with the British Heart Foundation.

As you know, Aron MacDonald, our street warden in Glevum Close, sadly died and we thought now was the time try and find a replacement. I went and saw John, Aron's husband, and he kindly said he would take the job on. I know John helped her a lot especially in the latter stages. Very many thanks, John, I am sure she would be proud of you – we certainly are. So, in future, if you live in Glevum Close, John will be your street warden and will keep you in touch with what is going on.

Let's offer our congratulations to Mr Lloyd, who will be 100 on 25 April, perhaps belated because I doubt if the magazine will be out that early. Mr Lloyd was first a teacher at St Mary's School before the 1939-45 war when there was discipline and respect, with teachers like Decker Thomas, Sammy Freegard and Billy Osborne to name just a few with, of course, Pa Greenhill the head master. Then, after the war, Mr Lloyd came back, as a Captain I might add. Mr Greenhill retired and, after a little delay, Mr Lloyd was appointed head master and remained so until he retired. What I like about Mr Lloyd is that he has always shown a great interest in village life. I would assume that one of his favourite interests is the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion, of which he is President, but in saying that, he has always been interested in what we are doing in Age Concern and very supportive of us – he also gives me a friendly reminder that he was taller than me once. It is so lovely when someone has worked in the village, lived here and retired here and been part of it all. Congratulations Mr Lloyd. I know you are not a true Purtonian but with what you have contributed over the years, I reckon we can bestow that honour on you. Best wishes from all of us in Age Concern.

Another belated congratulations to Mary and Norman Mills of Highridge Close, who have celebrated their diamond wedding. Although not enjoying the best of health, they get on with it and always remain cheerful. It was nice to see them both at the Lent Lunches. I had the pleasure of sitting with them once but, after that, their table was always full when I came in. I don't know whether they were trying to tell me something but I'm hoping it was their popularity, which I am sure it was. Norman and Mary are true Purtonians and have been active in the village. Norman was one of those people who was good at all sports and played in village teams at football, cricket and tennis – in fact, he went on to better things or should

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I say a higher standard. Mary was our street warden for many years in Highridge Close and very efficient she was too – as I often say, the street wardens are the backbone of Age Concern in Purton. So we thank you Mary for all your dedication because in those days we went through some difficult times. Our best wishes go to you both for the future.

We had another very good auction, thanks here to Roderick Wightman who was our auctioneer. It was very hard work this year but, as usual, he came through it all smiling. It is amazing that the auction is still very popular after about thirty years. Thanks to all the kind people who gave us things to sell. Vic Cook was always a great supporter of ours, especially at this event, so it was nice having his grandson Jack helping us. I think he could be a chip off the old block.

Our 3 Bs evening was very enjoyable according to reports from people leaving the hall. The 3 Bs stand for 'Beans, Bangers and Bingo' but you get a bit more than that – jacket potatoes, a fine selection of sweets kindly supplied by our committee the icing on the cake – or pudding – so as to speak) and there were seconds if you wanted them in all departments. John Lilley, our resident caller, ably assisted by his wife Brenda, were in their usual sparkling form which all added up to a very nice evening. People are so kind – when our head chef Richard Parks was in Andrew's shop getting the sausages, a very kind lady gave him a very generous donation towards them and wanted to remain anonymous – even I don't know who she is – but very many thanks, it was a very kind thing to do.

People have been kind to us with money in lieu of flowers and also by anonymous donations, like the one at the auction. We had a very generous cheque given to us there and then there was the gentleman who very kindly gave us a donation with his mystery tour money and the couple who had lost a relative – it was the family's wish that, instead of flowers, donations should be given to favourite charities. This couple chose us because of what we all do. All these kind donations are greatly appreciated, especially in these hard times as are the prizes for the various raffles we run – THANK YOU.

Our last mystery tour was perhaps, to say the least chaotic and I apologise to all those that went. I try and avoid rush hour traffic when doing the route and booking up at where to stop for a meal. To start with the ladies I contacted about the meal had each thought the other had booked the hall and neither had so, when they did try and make a booking, they couldn't get in the hall until 1 pm. All I could do was to start the tour an hour later and everything was going quite well until we were about fifteen miles from our destination, which was Shipham via the Cheddar Gorge. There was a road closure and the diversion took about three quarters of an hour so we were quite late but the good thing was it was a very enjoyable lunch with shepherds' pie with vegetables, followed by apple crumble and tea or coffee. We came home via Chew Valley, Bath and Chippenham, so we hit the rush hour traffic. Everyone was very patient, the weather was good and we saw some lovely country side so I hope you all enjoyed the best bits.

The next mystery tour is on Wednesday 4 May, with a 2 pm start, cost £10 for villagers and £12.50 for outsiders, with tea provided. If you haven't tried one of these trips, why not give it a go. I am sure everyone would agree that it is good

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value for money. Numbers for this trip should be in by 25 April but give me a ring on 770696 if you are reading this after that date and think you might like to come. Following on from this we have a half day trip to Evesham, leaving at 1 pm, cost £7. Next we have a day trip to Windsor – the cost here is £9 and the date is 6 July. Then on 3 August we have our annual trip to Weston with its new pier and the cost for this is a bit different as it is a village outing – details next month.

We in Age Concern are not very happy that Wiltshire Council are planning to close the Cedars in 2015 and possibly Hooks Hill as well. The reason is that they are planning to build an extension at Heberden House in Cricklade and transfer the people from the Cedars to there. The plan is for Heberden House to take 40 people. How 50 people from the Cedars can get into a forty-bed accommodation building I don't know. The underlying factor behind this is that there is no covenant on the Cedars so it can be sold for any purpose the Council sees fit. We certainly will not let this happen without a fight. Who remembers what happened the last time when they pulled the old Cedars down?

I will close with an appeal from our minibus service – we could do with a couple more 'shotguns' and if you don't know what that word means, it is what we call our driver's escort, who helps with the loading and unloading of our passengers. If you think you might be interested, give Richard Woodbridge a ring on 770862, or me on 770696, to learn more about the job.

TONY PRICE

## Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund present - new for 2011

**Summer Shopping Fair: Saturday 2 July 2011, 11am-4pm**

**Village Hall, Station Road, Purton**

Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund (Reg. Charity No. 1116986) has been set up to support local organisations and other causes through

donations and human resources. In order to raise funds, we will be holding a Summer Shopping Fair on Saturday 2 July 2011, 11.00am-4.00pm in Purton Village Hall. If you are interested in booking a table to sell NEW crafts/products we would like to invite you to take a table at the Fair. **A 6 foot exhibition or sales area costs £10 which must be booked and paid for in advance.**

**If you would like to know more please contact Lynda Warren, tel 01793 771453 [lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk) for an application form.**

If you would like to attend, please write this date in your diary now. Light lunches and cream teas will be available.

## Progress towards a new Vicar

St Mary's PCC are delighted to let you know that the advertisement for the half-time post of Priest in Charge of St Mary's Church, Purton was placed in the Church Times on Friday 8 April.

The process of selecting and short listing applicants will take place after Easter, culminating in interviews towards the end of May.

We ask you to pray for everyone involved in the whole interview process and that the right person for our church and village will eventually be appointed.

CHRISTINE GILL



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## Purton Historical Society

After our Annual General Meeting we are pleased to welcome Jan Walker on to the Committee. Our thanks must go to David Herbert for all his help the last few years.



Jean has all the Maskelyne news in the article below, but for the very latest visit our special website [www.maskelynebicentenary.org.uk](http://www.maskelynebicentenary.org.uk). Pass this detail on to all your friends as we want as many people to know about our celebration as possible and perhaps join in. The web is such a wonderful means of communication.

I have received a list of afternoon lectures at the Chippenham History Centre. They begin at 2.15pm and cost £3.50 or OAPs £2.50. On Thursday 26 May there is a talk on Wiltshire Soldiers in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Places are limited so you need to phone 01249 705500.

As well as the Maskelyne Memorial Events this month, our meeting will be on Thursday 26 May at 7.30pm in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. Our own David Sweet will be telling us about *The 1930's American Dust Bowl*.

Wootton Bassett Historical Society will be meeting on Thursday 12 May at 7.30pm in the Civic Centre. Bob Clarke will be presenting how churches reveal history. This a taster for the June meeting when they will explore a local church on 9 June.

Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 18 May at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Bill King will be talking on *Defending the Upper Thames in World War Two*.

The Swindon Society will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 11 May at 7.30pm in the Broadgreen Centre. This will be followed by a slide show.

*EVE BOOY, Secretary (770755)*

## Maskelyne Commemoration Project

These are exciting times for the PHS! Preparations have reached a critical stage. They involve a large number of people, some of them professionals, though not all the plans are proceeding as we anticipated. At the present time it is certain that the opening of the special exhibition in the museum will be delayed due to the many rules and conditions demanded of us in order to conform to Health & Safety regulations and ensure the essential security of the items on loan from Oxford. However we hope a grand opening will take place to coincide with our astronomy weekend.

A very welcome addition to the programme is a flower festival in St Mary's Church. The team of arrangers will be led by Anne Bartlett, well known locally as a skilled demonstrator. She intends to work with some of the children from St Mary's School so that their art and craft designs will be on display to complement the flowers arrangements. If anyone feels able to make a contribution towards the cost of this venture we should be delighted to hear from you.

Two Education Officers are involved with the project. One from Devizes Museum is compiling the resource pack for schools and youth groups while the

other, from the Herschel Museum, is assisting with the task and also giving a presentation on “Astronomers William and Caroline Herschel, contemporaries of Maskelyne, and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy in Bath”, at Bradon Forest School on 21 May at 2.30pm. Together they are planning the Activity Day for Families on 20 August in the Village Hall so please make a note of that date when all ages will be welcome to attend one of the sessions.

Otherwise the arrangements are as stated previously – see Purton Placard, page 35. Details of all the events can be obtained from Brian Freegard, the project leader (tel 770178) or from myself (tel 770331).

*JEAN BELT*

## Purton Historical Society Outing

Our summer outing this year takes place on Saturday 18 June. We shall be visiting the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas and then on to the City of Lichfield the home of Samuel Johnson, David Garrick, Erasmus Darwin and Anna Seward. This city has a quiet and unspoilt charm and the cathedral has a splendid setting and a fascinating history going back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Its three spires are unique amongst medieval cathedrals and are often referred to as ‘the Ladies of the Vale’.

You will have time to eat in the elegant 17<sup>th</sup> century surroundings of Chapters, the Cathedral Restaurant and Coffee Shop or you can explore the many hosteleries and cafes on offer. There may even be time for a spot of retail therapy!

We shall leave Purton by coach at 8.30am and return to Purton at about 7pm. The cost will be £20 which includes travel on the land train at the Arboretum and a guided tour of the Cathedral. Booking forms will be available at Society meetings, In Touch Services (115 Pavenhill) or they can be downloaded from [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://www.purtonmuseum.com). For further information ring Helen Dixon on 01793 770648.



*St Michael' s, Highworth*

## Tour of a Local Village

This year we will be visiting Highworth and its environs on Saturday 23 July. We will see the 13<sup>th</sup> century Parish Church of St Michael and many other points of historical interest in this market town. The visit is made by car, but if you need transport or can offer a lift, please let me know. For more information contact me on 01793 770648. There will be more details in next month's Magazine.

*HELEN DIXON*

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

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## Green Tips - Communities, Localism and Transform Purton Parish

The Coalition Government wants to build a 'Big Society'.

### **What's the 'Big' idea?**

The Government says it wants to make society stronger by getting more people working together to run their own affairs locally. It aims to put more power and responsibility into the hands of families, groups, networks, neighbourhoods and communities, and to generate more community organisers, neighbourhood groups, and volunteers. Well, in Purton we are known for that already – we already do that in spades.



### **What are the problems it is supposed to fix?**

The Government hopes the 'Big Society' will help to replace '*big government*' to mend '*our broken society*' and help to cut the size of the public deficit. Getting people at local level to take more responsibility and do more to help themselves and their neighbours is seen as an alternative to action taken by state institutions and public services. Increasing the volume of voluntary action is seen as a way to cut public spending. But that's as far as the 'Big Society' vision goes. It seems to pay no attention to forces within modern society that lead to accumulations of wealth and power in the hands of a few at the expense of others. Nor does it recognise that the current structure of the UK economy selectively restricts the ability of citizens to participate. Anyone who was at last month's Localism meeting run by the Area Board of Wiltshire Council could not have failed to realise the resistance of Wiltshire Council planners to appreciate the significance and impact of the proposed Ridgeway Farm development on Purton. They just do not seem to get it.

### **Are we all up to the challenge?**

Not everyone has the same capacity to help themselves and others. How much capacity we have depends on a range of factors: education and income, family circumstances and environment, knowledge, confidence and a sense of self, available time and energy, and access to the places where decisions are taken and things get done. All are distributed unequally among individuals, groups and localities. A combination of social and economic forces, working across and between generations, result in some having much more and others much less. While these inequalities persist, people who have least will benefit least from the transfer of power and responsibility, while those with higher stocks of social and economic resources will be better placed to seize the new opportunities.

### **Can everyone participate?**

Families, networks, groups, neighbourhoods and communities all have boundaries. These are determined, variously, by blood, law, friendship, duty, obligation, tradition, geography, politics, wealth, status and class. Inevitably, they include some and exclude others; indeed some build their strength on exclusivity. Resources are already shared unequally.

### **Do people have enough time?**

Building this 'Big Society' depends crucially on people having enough time to engage in local action. Everyone has the same amount of time, of course, but

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some have a lot more control over their time than others. People with low-paid jobs and big family responsibilities – especially lone parents – tend to be poor in discretionary time as well as in money. Unemployed people who are not caring for children or elderly relatives may have plenty of free time, but of course unemployment traps people in poverty, and one of the Government's main aims is to get them into paid work. Committing time to unpaid local activity would put many at risk of losing benefits that depend on actively seeking full-time employment. Part-time workers may have more time for civic engagement, but seldom earn enough to feed a family. Some people have to work all hours to make ends meet, or have no choice about when they start and finish each day. Basically, long hours and low wages undermine a key premise of the 'Big Society', which is that social and financial gains will come from replacing paid with unpaid labour.

### ***Will a smaller state make society bigger?***

That depends how small the state becomes and what it does. On the one hand, we do not want an overbearing state that depletes our capacity to help ourselves. But on the other, we do need a strategic state that is democratically controlled, and that becomes an effective facilitator, broker, enabler, mediator and protector of our shared interests. Without a properly functioning state, society collapses. Of course that was not always the case, but now we have such a huge population the state is necessary to prevent anarchy.

### ***What's the biggest problem?***

The Big Society idea is strong on empowerment but weak on equality. By equality, we mean everyone having an equal chance in life so that, regardless of background or circumstance, they can contribute to society, fulfil their potential and live a satisfying life. This matters for ethical and practical reasons. On ethical grounds, which are hardly controversial, no-one should be held back by circumstances beyond their control, or suffer unfair discrimination. On practical grounds, there is a growing body of evidence that more equal societies are better for everyone, not just the poor, with lower levels of crime and disorder, and better health and well-being. Societies with strong traditions of social solidarity and low levels of inequality are better able to cope with shared risks such as climate change.

### ***What could make it work?***

This is THE question! There are no simple answers. Below we set out briefly some proposals for filling in the gaps and making the best of the idea.

- *Make social justice the main goal – where what we say and think does get taken into consideration*
- *Build a broader economy – based on local strengths and resources*
- *Build a bigger democracy – based on better connection with all citizens*
- *Make sure everyone is able to participate – local, active groups need more genuine, sustained support*
- *Make cooperation THE way of getting things done – value local networks and strengths of local groups*
- *Value unpaid time – recognise the value of unpaid time in tax returns*



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- Make it sustainable – *funding to support local action must be adequate and long-term*
  - Measure what matters – *what should count are not just short-term financial effects, but the wider and longer-term impacts on individuals and groups, on the quality of their relationships and material circumstances, on the environment and on prospects for future generations*
  - Make it part of a Great Transformation – a bigger society, a broader economy and a bigger democracy

Join **Transform Purton Parish** and make it happen

Compiled by Richard Pagett for Ps & Qs

*Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities*

*Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities*

*New members are always welcome*

*Contact: Jane Smith or Jacqui Lay*

*or via our web site: [www.purtoninfo.org.uk](http://www.purtoninfo.org.uk)*

## Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 27 May 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).

## Swindon Dial A Ride & Community Transport

### **A Lifeline Service!**

Swindon Dial A Ride provides door to door transport for people of any age who are unable to use existing public transport due to a temporary or permanent impairment or disability. Community Transport provides a vehicle hire service for local community groups.

Our fleet of fully accessible minibuses travel throughout the Swindon Borough including Purton and the Lydiards. The Dial A Ride Bus service can be used for a variety of purposes, such as traveling to work or training, going shopping or social activities like the cinema or bingo. The service runs Monday to Saturday 0900 to 1700; to book a journey simply call at 10.00am the day before you would like to travel.

**To use Dial A Ride you will need to register with us.** For a FREE registration pack or further information please telephone 01793 616050 after 12 noon.

**Community Transport** has a range of wheelchair accessible minibuses that any voluntary or community group in the local area can hire. Perhaps you run a scout group or a senior citizens club? The minibus would allow you to take your group on a day trip or longer, maybe to the seaside or for a cream tea at the local garden centre.

Additionally, we have an Access Car available for hire to individuals, small groups or families. The hired vehicles can be used to travel anywhere in mainland Britain and could mean that a family member or friend can join you on a weekend break or summer holiday.

For further information about Community Transport vehicle hire please call 01793 617828.

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# WHAT'S ON?

## Wessex Male Choir Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary

- \* Anniversary concert at STEAM
- \* Saturday 25 June, 7.30pm
- \* Tickets on sale now



To celebrate its ten year anniversary Wessex Male Choir is hosting a Gala concert at STEAM in Swindon.

The choir was formed in 2001 by its musical director, Robert Elliott, and started with just 25 choristers. It now boasts over 60 members, 4 of whom are from Purton, and performs throughout the year all over the UK.

Over the past decade this popular choir has charmed audiences with its entertaining repertoire which ranges from Sinatra to Lloyd-Webber, Opera to Baroque, and Billy Joel to McFly!

The anniversary concert will take place in the magnificent new Event Hall at Swindon's STEAM Heritage Centre.

Robert Elliott said, 'We are extremely proud of what the choir has achieved in the past ten years and look forward to marking the occasion with the concert at STEAM, which is the pinnacle of our anniversary celebrations. The evening promises to be a terrific night with the choir singing some new pieces, as well as a selection of audience favourites from the past decade.'

Tickets costing £10 for adults and £5 for Under 16s are now on sale from the Choir on Tel 01793 812636, by email at [tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk) or through the website at [www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk](http://www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk). Tickets can also be bought at STEAM and are also available from In Touch Services in Purton.

Wessex Male Choir will be joined by a fabulous barbershop ensemble, *The White Rosettes*, who were finalists in the 'Choir of the World' competition at Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and are the current European Barbershop Champions.

Warneford School Big Band from Highworth will also perform during the concert.

## Artistic Divas

### Exhibition at The Brewery Arts Centre, Cirencester: 2 May - 14 May 2011

The Artistic Divas are Marietta Crockford, Lynne Young and Lis Mcdermott – local artists from Latton, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett respectively – and only 'divas' in the sense that they are passionate about art.

Marietta works in both ceramics and mixed media whilst Lynne works in ceramics, pastels, watercolour and gouache and Lis is a photographer.

Make a date in your diary and come along to the exhibition and meet the artists.

If you need more information please telephone: Lynne Young on 01793 750-822 or 07876 506174

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## Dodecantus Spring Concerts

Regional choral group Dodecantus will be performing their spring concerts in St Mary's church, Kempsford on Friday 13 May at 7.30 and in St Martin's church, Cardiff on Saturday 14 May also at 7.30.

The theme for these concerts is "operatic works by non-operatic composers – and vice versa". The main work is Puccini's very operatic *Messa di Gloria* which, although written at the age of 21 before any of his operas, nevertheless showcases the composer's genius for writing great tunes that make the most of the human voice. Although members of Dodecantus like to think they are equal to most musical challenges, we had to admit defeat when it came to the tenor and baritone solos in this work. Securing the services of William Helliwell – a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Christopher Adams – a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and a member of Trinity Baroque has been a significant achievement and will do much to enhance the quality of the concert.

The two other works to be performed in keeping with the concert's theme are Vaughan Williams' *In Windsor Forest* – which is adapted from his opera *Sir John in Love* – and a medley of well-known songs from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

As is now traditional for Dodecantus concerts, entry is free but there will be a retiring collection by which time they hope to have earned the audience's generosity – a sort of payment on results! Also as usual, wine will be served during the interval and the choir hope that regular followers of Dodecantus in Purton will be able to support these, their latest concerts, in a new venue at Kempsford or at a previous venue in Cardiff to enjoy what promises to be evenings of good quality choral fun. Further details are available from Francis Sheppard (01793 771018) or on-line at [www.dodecantus.org.uk](http://www.dodecantus.org.uk)

## Community Choir - There's a Place for You!

Sing4/4 Community Choir have enjoyed a successful year of music-making which was celebrated in February with a Cheese and Wine AGM, and suggestions for 'The Way Ahead' from members. The occasion was a great success, and Mary New would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, and especially Pete and Margaret Rickards who assisted substantially with funding and practical help on the day.

As we commence our 2<sup>nd</sup> year, I would like to welcome any interested new members from our surrounding villages. Purton is already well represented, so how about wishful singers from Latton, Leigh and Ashton Keynes?

There is no audition to join and we have a lot of fun through making music.

Our next phase of rehearsals is as follows:- 5, 12, 19, 26 May at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade from 8.00pm to 9.45pm.

We shall present our own concert at 7.30pm on 10 June in the United Church Hall in aid of the Japanese Earthquake/Tsunami Appeal. Please come and support us.

Enquiries for our availability to Mary New. 01793 770630 or [mary.new@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.new@btinternet.com)

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# 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.



## ■ BEST ONE - FAREWELL & WELCOME

We would like to welcome Siva and Chan to *Best One* and to the village.

Best wishes,

*Jean, Linda, Lisa and staff  
at One Stop*

On behalf of the Helping Hand, I would like to second the remarks made by Tony Price in last month's Magazine. Terry and Jenny at "The Spar" have been part of the Lower Square for many years and they will be missed, but thankfully they will still be around in person. They have always been part of the community ... caring, kind, interested in everything going on ... and they have always been so very supportive to us at Helping Hand. May we say, sorry you are going, lots of happiness and good luck.

At the same time we would also like to say, Welcome to Purton to the new owners of Best One, and wish them good luck.

*Pauline Ward, Chairman*

*Ed.* We would like to add our own welcome and best wishes. Jenny and Terry sold copies of the Magazine for us for many years, and Siva and Chan have kindly agreed to carry on this service for us.

## ■ TREASURE TROUBLE!

I would like to apologise if I messed up someone's treasure hunt this morning. I regularly walk along Church Path and always end up picking up litter on my way. Seeing envelopes dotted around I

realised that it was a treasure hunt, but assumed that it was scouts/cubs/brownies or similar the previous night. I picked up the envelopes on my way back and they led me to the treasure! So, I retraced my steps, and put them back as close to where I remembered I'd taken them from.

If you do a treasure hunt, could you put the date/time on the clues to avoid this happening again in the future?

Again, please accept my apologies for any problems caused!

*Mary Nettleton*

## ■ 10 HIGH STREET

We are looking into the history of No 10 High Street. If anyone has any information on No 10 i.e. photos or information on previous occupants, also anyone who can remember the inside in its original state, we would be most grateful for any information.

If you wish to contact us you can do so on 07873 120428 (mobile).

Many thanks.

*Stuart & Jeanette Reader*

## ■ PURTON CONNECTIONS

In the Magazine [*April 2011 issue*] when getting round to H is for History, I became very interested as I also have a copy of Ethel Richardson's book, *The Story of Purton*. My late husband, Harold Durnsford, gave it to me to read knowing I was interested in Purton history.

After reading a few pages, I was most surprised seeing the name "de Vesci". During the last war, when I

was in the ATS working in the Irish Guards Officers' Mess, I met John Vesey, a descendant of the family. In fact I wrote about John in my memoirs, *A Daughter of the Regiment*. I also knew his father, Colonel Vesey. John later became the 6<sup>th</sup> Viscount de Vesci. He married Susan Armstrong-Jones, sister of Lord Snowdon. John passed away some years back [*Ed. 1983*] so I am unable to share with him that I am living in Purton, the lovely village where his ancestors lived.

My grandfather, Charles Webber,

had a baker's shop at *The Maltsters*. His younger brother was Ernest Webber who lived at Harford House Shop.

My grandparents moved from Purton to Windsor in 1890, a few months before my mother was born. By the way, Windsor was also known for its lardy cakes. Grandad must have taken the recipe with him when he left Purton. He did work for Bradley's Bakers in Windsor after he gave his business up.

Norah Durnsford  
Norbury Court

## We Record ...

### Funerals

23 March	Mary Telling at <i>St Mary's Church</i>
24 March	Richard Spencer at <i>St Mary's Church</i>
1 April	Myrtle Ellen Gardiner at <i>St Mary's Church</i>

### Special Birthday

25 April	Glyn Lloyd – 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
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To add your family announcements to this section contact *Purton Magazine*.  
Addresses on page 4.



## Dancing on Air

Do your feet need a facelift? Are they holding you back from dancing all night, or simply holding you back from living everyday life to the full! If so Age UK Wiltshire has the answer.

In response to a need, expressed by older people's groups, a toenail-cutting service for the over 50s is now available in Purton and Cricklade. Anyone who does not need specialist podiatry services, but simply has difficulty reaching those out of the way places, can have their toenails trimmed on a regular basis. Working with the local NHS Podiatry service we are able to assess your needs and if necessary help you to access other services for more specialist care. At £10 per cut, this service should leave your feet feeling great and your bank balance fit for all those outings you have been putting off.

We have recently formed a partnership with the Royal British Legion and if you have had a service connection in the past we may well be able to provide funding to help with the costs of this service.

To register with the scheme telephone 01380 727767.

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## Purton Diary - May 2011

1	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
2	M		<b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>
3	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Talk by Lynda Warren
4	W	9.00am	<i>to 11.00am:</i> Dog Warden at Village Hall Meeting Room
		2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour, with tea provided
5	Th		<b>Alternative Vote Referendum Day</b>
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
7	Sa	10.30am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Collectors & Antiques Market at Village Hall
<hr/>			
8	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Rogation Service at The Pear Tree
9	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
11	W		Methodist Women's Fellowship Members' outing
13	F		Last day for Christina Aid Quiz entries
		9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
14	Sa	8.30am	Christian Aid Cakes & Plants stall at Top Shops
		2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (by Silver Threads)
<hr/>			
15	Su		<b>15 - 21 May: Christian Aid Week</b> – see page 37
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		9.00am	<i>to 10.00am:</i> Breakfast in Church at St Mary's
		10.30am	United Service for Christian Aid ( <i>no service at Methodist Church</i> )
		6.00pm	Sung Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	M	7.45pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Methodist Church: Social Evening
17	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Bingo with a difference
		6.30pm	Christian Aid Curry Night at the Maharajah ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> sitting: 8pm</i> )
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Hazel Gillingham - <i>Mary Seacole of the Crimea</i>
19	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars

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20	F		<i>to 22 May: Flower Festival in St Mary's Church</i> Maskelyne Bicentenary Events – details see page 35
		7.30pm	Christian Aid "Mama Mia' Film Night and Sing along!" at Silver Threads Hall
21	Sa		Maskelyne Bicentenary Events – details see page 35
22	Su		Maskelyne Bicentenary Events – details see page 35
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Christian Aid car wash in St Mary's Lower School playground
		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
24	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: David Taylor - <i>Pelargoniums: History and Cultivation</i>
25	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
26	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: David Sweet - <i>The 1930's American Dust Bowl</i>
28	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12.30pm: Coffee Morning / Plant Sale, Silver Threads Hall</i>
29	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
30	M		<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>
31	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>

### June

1	W	1.00pm	Age Concern half day outing to Evesham Garden Centre
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### Every week

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

### Moon Phases

● 3 May                      ◐ 10 May                      ○ 17 May                      ◑ 24 May

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill

or email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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

# PURTON PLACARD

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

## A 'Mama Mia' Singalongafilm night!

How do you fancy a slightly whacky and noisy night out in Purton? Why not come and watch the film 'Mama Mia', and join in all the singing at the same time.

Dress to suit the mood ... whatever takes your fancy

Silver Threads Hall  
Friday night 20 May 7.30pm

Bring all your friends ... make it a wow evening!  
£5 for the film ticket plus money for the bar!  
And all the profit will go to Christian Aid!

## Pram Service Purton Methodist Church, Play Close



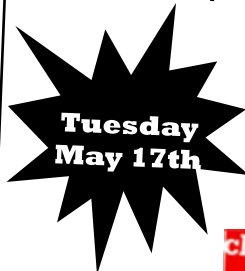
A short Service with songs, a story, friends and refreshments

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



Come and join us for good company and good food at the Maharajah's Curry night!

Tickets £15 per head, two sittings 6:30pm and 8:00pm



Book to avoid disappointment

With thanks to Khalique all Proceeds to ...



Contact Wendy 771749 or Kate 772930 for tickets

## Breakfast in Church!

Back by popular demand! Breakfast will be served, in St Mary's Church,

**on Sunday 15 May from 9-10am**  
Cost £5, if you can afford it, but all donations welcome.

Breakfast will include porridge, cereals, bacon butties and fresh coffee! This will be followed by the Village

Christian Aid Service at 10.30  
Do please come and join us.  
It is a great fun way to catch up with people and to start off Christian Aid Week



**Wyn's Coach Outings  
Trip to  
Weston-Super-Mare  
6 May**

Leaving Cricklade at 9.30am  
Pick up at Purton shortly after.

£12

Contact Wyn Peare  
759403

1 Heberden House, Cricklade  
Any Profits to Air Ambulance

**Silver Threads  
Coffee Morning  
& Plant Sale**

28 May  
10.00am – 12.30pm  
Raffle

**Silver Threads  
Jumble Sale**

14 May 2.00pm  
Silver Threads Hall  
Bargains Raffle

**PURTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Commemorating the bicentenary  
of the death of Nevil Maskelyne

5<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal



May - September	Exhibition at Purton Museum
20 - 22 May	Flower Festival incorporating children's art work at St Mary's Church
20 May	9am - 6pm Explorer Dome Planetarium at Village Hall. School visits only until 3pm
21 May	Astronomy Day at Bradon Forest School: 2.00pm Display of space artefacts ( <i>continues during afternoon</i> ) 2.30pm Presentation by Susan Dann on "Astronomers William and Caroline Herschel" 3.30pm Teas by Purton Evening WI 6.45pm Lecture by Dr Richard Dunn "High Astronomer of the Kingdom: Nevil Maskelyne and the pursuit of science in the age of reason" Tickets £4 from 770491, 770331 or In Touch Services
20 August	Family Activities Day at the Village Hall 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm

# PURTON PLACARD

- plus -

## **Cricklade Cricket Club**

Relax, unwind

and start your summer with an

### **AFTERNOON OF LIVE JAZZ & BLUES**

by "The Mighty Jukes"

complimented by a delicious

### **CREAM TEA**

on Sunday 17 July from 3pm to 5pm

at Cricklade Cricket Ground

(Abingdon Court Lane)

TICKETS £5.00 with Under 5's Free

ON SALE IN ADVANCE ONLY

from 1 May from: Brenda Lilley (Purton) on  
771455

C&R Grocers, De ja vu, Baileys News and  
Amanda Hazell on 07742 209506

**BUY EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**



Bradon Forest PTA & World  
Challenge Team

A Date For Your Diaries

### **Car Boot Sale**

At Bradon Forest School  
On Sunday 26 June 2011

More details to follow in the next  
issue

## **THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE**

132 High Street, Marlborough

Friday 20 May 6.30pm

**An exclusive evening with Reema Pachachi.**

The celebrated designer of 'The Millennium Star' pendant will be speaking about her life as a jewellery designer and design educator.

Tickets £16 from The Merchant's House  
In aid of the Merchant's House Appeal.

**FREE OPEN DAY on Saturday 21 May.**

An opportunity to visit the historic old house and garden, and find out about the history from our informed friendly guides.

The House will be opened 11am and will be open until 4pm.

## **Open Garden & Plant Fair**

Bushton Manor, Bushton  
(off Wootton Bassett to  
Broad Town road)

Bank Holiday Monday  
2 May 11am - 4pm

Plants Stalls Games for Children  
Ploughman's and Teas

Entrance £1

in aid of St Peter's Church

**Cricklade Coffee Club  
for the visually impaired  
Dates for your diary**

17 May 21 June 19 July

All are from 10.30 to about 12.00 at the United Church Hall, Calcut Street, Cricklade. For further details please contact Jess at the Wiltshire Blind Association on 01380 723682.

**Christian Aid Quiz!**

Copies of the Quiz  
are on sale  
in the usual shops for £1.  
Last day for entries  
13 May

**Collectors Market  
& Antiques**

Saturday 7 May  
10.30am - 4.00pm  
Village Hall  
Tables: £10  
To book, tel 770251

## Christian Aid Week Activities

Here is a list of Christian Aid activities in May so far! Please come along to as many as you can. Volunteer helpers and supporters warmly welcomed!

Purton always makes a big noisy splash about Christian Aid Week and the activities usually include having a lot of fun as well!

- Sat 14 Cakes and Plants stall at Top Shops. From 8.30am.  
All donations of cakes, buns, cookies welcome.  
Come and put in orders for plants at the same time.
- Sun 15 Breakfast in St Mary's Church between 9am and 10am! £5  
Please let Libbie know if you want porridge and/or bacon butties!!
- Sun 15 Christian Aid United Service. 10.30 at St Mary's with a speaker from Christian Aid
- Tue 17 Curry Night at the Maharajah: £15  
Two sittings: 6.30pm and 8pm  
Tickets: Wendy Johnson (771749) and Kate Robinson (772930)
- Fri 20 'Mama Mia' Film Night and Sing along!  
7.30pm: Silver Threads Hall. £5  
Bar! Tickets: Mary Hodges (770505)
- Sun 22 'Wash for Dosh' car wash. 10.30am  
UJC in Lower School playground.  
Pay as much as you can!

There are also over 1000 envelopes to deliver around the village ... and collect up again!

Also there's the Quiz ... ask Libbie for copies. Please take them to sell to your family, friends and work colleagues.

All offers of help gratefully received during the week.

LIBBIE



### **Bradon Forest Fund Raising for the Japanese Disaster Appeal**

Since the terrible earthquake and tsunami that affected northern Japan, Simon Taylor (our Japanese support teacher) and Mr Winward (Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral) have worked with pastoral staff to keep in close contact with our Japanese families and Honda to ensure that we offered any support we could. Bradon Forest has had a long association with numerous Japanese families working for Honda who have sent their children here. In response to the appeal, a group of mothers worked with Simon and our Japanese



students to organise a lunchtime sale on 1 April to raise money for the Japanese Tsunami Appeal. Students helped man the stalls during the lunchtimes, selling individual pieces of sushi, Japanese sweets and small gifts. In addition to the students' fantastic response to the sale, Tutor Group 8Z ran a cake stall; the Art Department ran a lunchtime 'Origami workshop' which made items for sale, Year 10 organised a sponsored bike ride and there was a collection box for donations, beautifully made by the Taniguchi family. A pre-ordered Sushi lunchbox service was also run. The lunchboxes contained six different types of sushi, including, salad and egg, tuna and sausage and a piece of *karaage* (Japanese fried chicken) for staff lunches. On the opening day for pre-orders, the phenomenal response from staff meant that the order book was closed in a matter of a few hours! Student and staff support was fantastic!! The mothers were very complimentary about the manners and kindness of our students and they were absolutely amazed by how much they raised. By the end of Friday over £750 had been banked with the final total expected to top £800 which is a fantastic response to a lunchtime charity event. In addition to the money raised and as the media move on to new stories, this event further highlighted for our community the continuing effects of the terrible situation in Japan.

### **Modern Foreign Language News**

The following link is to the Swindon Town FC website for news and photographs of the visit by Leccinel Jean-Francois to Bradon Forest School. Leccinel's visit was hosted by Mrs Onslow who had arranged for him to help students with their language skills in a French lesson.

[www.swindontownfc.co.uk/page/NewsDetail/0,,10341~2288259,00.html](http://www.swindontownfc.co.uk/page/NewsDetail/0,,10341~2288259,00.html)



### **Primary Liaison News Issue 10**

The tenth issue of our Primary Liaison News is currently being distributed via our Partner Primary Schools. These will be available via the 'Welcome to Bradon Forest' button on our website: This edition highlights a range of projects and support for our Primary Partner Schools including the following terrific article on a project with Peatmoor School ...

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*Is it a bird, is it Superman? No, it's a Spitfire! Members of our Technology team have been helping Peatmoor Primary School with a large scale project. Mr Parkinson, our Technology technician, together with teacher Mrs Carson, have built an amazing skeleton of a Spitfire plane (pictured right). Mrs Carson will be working with the Year 6 pupils every other Friday afternoon to bring the plane to life. Using the theme of recycling, they will first cover it in chicken wire, then papier mache and various recycled decorative materials to display in their main hall. The ambitious project links in with the pupils' current work on World War II. We are very much looking forward to seeing the finished project.*



### **New York Trip**

Miss Cole reports: Forty students in Years 10 and 11 took part in a visit to New York during the recent break between Terms 3 and 4. They visited the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, The Rockefeller Centre, Central Park, Wall Street, South Street Seaport and Ground Zero. They also saw a Broadway show, Spiderman, and visited Times

Square. The group had a superb time. They 'experienced' using the subway system and also had time for some shopping on Fifth Avenue and at Bloomingdales. "It is always a real pleasure to take Bradon Forest students abroad and it was a privilege to see the students experiencing and enjoying the 'Big Apple'. A stand out moment for me was when the group spontaneously broke into song in the middle of Times Square! The group also showed compassion at the 9/11 exhibition at Ground Zero; we all had a few tears hearing about individual stories of courage and bravery.

*L SPIERS, Headteacher*



## **Carnival Week: 3 - 11 June**

### **Theme: Musicals**

Yes! It is only a month and it is all go! go! go! Are you ready? Have you filled in your entry forms and decided on your float? If not, don't delay ... it is later than you think.

There are loads of events for everyone and I have a feeling in my "old bones" it is going to be a bumper summer. For information ring me on 770251.

See you around!



### **I is for ... Institute**

The Workingmen's Institute, a Grade II listed building, with a large reading room (now the library) and a public room to seat 300 people (the museum), was given to Purton by Mr James Henry Sadler of Lydiard Millicent. It was built on the site of the old Charity School which closed in 1840 and was opened by the Earl of Shaftesbury. It was not a great success. Its membership subscription was one shilling and three pence quarterly – quite high for working people of the 1880s. Despite this, the Institute was always in debt. Apart from the library and museum the building now houses the Parish Council Chamber and office in what used to be the Caretaker's house.

The room that is now the museum was used for concerts and has a stepped upper gallery which provided additional seating. A door at the top of the stairs reveals the old box-office where tickets for the main hall or gallery would have been sold from different hatches.

The Institute clock has a fine mechanism made by Benson's of Ludgate Hill, but was in disrepair when Brian Broad first removed and overhauled the mechanism in 1956. Brian still maintains the clock and winds it every week and only last month removed the clock again for the second overhaul.

### **I is for ... Internet**

Each issue of Purton Magazine is posted on the internet (at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)) halfway through the month of issue – so that readers of the printed copies get the news first – but without the advertisements to avoid any international confusions. We know that some local readers access the magazine on-line while travelling abroad – often for work. We also understand that we have a few regular readers spread around the world including in Japan and Australasia and would really like to keep some sort of record of other places where it is regularly accessed on-line. Do, please, let us know if you read the magazine while overseas with an e-mail to [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk) so we can put another pin in the world map!

### **I is for ... Ideas.**

The current committee has been looking after your magazine for well over 7 years now and it is gratifying still to hear comments about how well people think that this magazine compares with other community magazines elsewhere. However, resting on any laurels is not our style and we would like to receive any ideas about how the magazine could be improved. Specifically, we feel that there is a need to try and engage with younger people in the village and to encourage more contributions that would be of interest – without alienating our many regular (and

**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. We're coming up to some letters that might not be too common, so please send your contributions "L is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 June, via the addresses shown on page 4.*

perhaps slightly older) readers. All ideas would be very gratefully received and the initial contact details are on page 4.

### **I is for ... Insects**

Have you noticed the huge number of ladybirds that have invaded Purton recently? They seem to be a variety of colours and sizes, with different numbers of spots. Some are Harlequin Ladybirds. Beware! They can stain clothing and household furnishings ...

Yes! they are even invading our houses now!

### **I is for ... Illustrative front covers.**

We are delighted to report that, later this year, Purton Artists' will again be providing illustrations for a year's worth of front covers for Purton Magazine. Many readers will remember that throughout 2004, our front covers featured monochrome reproductions of 12 original water colours specifically painted for the magazine by Andy Le Poidevin – after which he very successfully auctioned the originals with the proceeds going to support St Mary's church. The same happened in 2005, when several of Purton Artists produced watercolours, photographs and line drawings for the covers. Now that we have progressed to colour covers, we are looking forward to bringing you some locally produced front cover illustrations to brighten your doormats!

### **J is for ... Jubilee Gardens Project**

The Jubilee Gardens Project is a registered charity which provides education and training for adults who, because of varying mental or physical impairments, experience learning disabilities. Horticultural training is central to what we do, helping students build everyday knowledge and skills in areas such as literacy, numeracy, colour recognition and the concept of time. This training is supplemented with classroom based work to practice these and other skills.

Although funded primarily from various local authorities, we are increasingly reliant upon the sales of our plants and vegetables and other donations to enable us to continue this invaluable work. Operating as a combination of plant nursery and market garden gives the students a real sense of achievement and personal worth.

We offer for sale a range of organically grown vegetables as well as flowers and plants from our premises at Church Bush Hall (on the road to Cricklade). Why not pay us a visit?

### **K is for ... Kibblewhite**

In the nineteenth century Purton had a track and cross-country athlete famous throughout the country and internationally. His name was James Kibblewhite who



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is remembered in the name of Kibblewhite Close just off Reids Piece. Born on 6 February 1866 he started his athletic career in 1884, running with great success for ten seasons. In 1890 he was selected to run in London before the Prince and Princess of Wales who became King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

Purton Museum holds Kibblewhite memorabilia including the Colmore Challenge Cup which he won in 1887. Kibblewhite reached the peak of his career too early as the Olympic Games were only started in 1896 some years after he retired!

## Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The two Brownie units and the Rainbows celebrated St Patrick's Day – all in different ways. The Rainbows made a snake mobile in honour of the legend that St Patrick banished snakes from Ireland. 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies made Irish Leprechaun door hangers and 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies were taught some Irish dancing by Hope and Amelia which they followed by tasting potato cakes and soda bread.

The Rainbow unit has made good use of parent skills this month: on Rhea's birthday her Mum supplied fairy cakes and Kelly's Mum helped the girls to decorate them using piping bags. At another meeting Yenuri's Mum showed the Rainbows how to do some Bollywood dancing and they joined in wearing bangles and shiny scarves, whilst Jay, one of the leaders, dressed in a very pretty sari provided by Yenuri's Mum.

Gifts were made for others: the Rainbows made heart-shaped baskets containing sweets as Mothering Sunday gifts whilst 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies made teapot cards and chocolates for their mums. 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies made Easter cards and gifts (rabbit pots containing chocolate eggs) for the residents of Hooks Hill. This craft was followed up by an evening spent with the residents celebrating St George's Day (early) with a quiz about England, traditional English songs and cream teas.

2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies took Easter as the theme for their recent promise celebration. This was organised by the eldest girls: pin the tail on the bunny, Easter baskets and of course an egg hunt. The eldest Brownies in 1<sup>st</sup> Purton also organised a meeting – Alice, Finty and Rosie staged *Guiding's Got Talent* with varied performances from unit members.

The Guides' celebration this term was their Christmas party – somewhat later than originally planned due to the snow before Christmas.

A party of Brownies and Guides went to watch the Swindon Gang Show and much of the performance was spent trying to spot Brydee and Erin, two Purton Guides taking part. We were all impressed by how much work had gone into it and the enthusiasm shown by those participating.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome two new leaders – both in 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies. Becky Jones will be undertaking her Adult Leadership Qualification and Jo Cook has joined the unit as a Young Leader.

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

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## After 8



On Tuesday 14 March our meeting was held at Sandra's home. We had to take along to the meeting any object that was either, sentimental, memorable or that we were just pleased to own. Then each of us was asked to explain what the object meant to us.

The evening took us down Memory Lane, a wonderful teddy bear, a great companion since childhood, an Art Nouveau trinket box coveted since childhood having stood on Granny's table. A beautifully illustrated book of a year in the garden of a favourite uncle, a pale green glass dish (sadly not Lalique) with an Egyptian-style lid. A framed, pressed orchid taken from an original wedding bouquet and given back as a 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary gift. A fruit bowl that had always stood on the hall table in the family home. Coming up to date we had a dandelion head set in a glass paperweight it was a marvel to us all as to how such a perfect head could have been set in glass. Last but not least an all-singing-and-dancing mobile phone, a pleasure to own. It turned out to be a fun evening.

*EILEEN COE*

Poetry was the topic of our evening in early April. Mary hosted, and started the evening by giving examples of different types of poetry – from Haikus and Tankas (both Japanese) to Kennings, Limericks, Riddles, Raps, Narratives and more. The list went on ...

We heard a poem about 'The Loss of the Royal George' by William Cowper, this was about a ship which capsized and sank in 1782. We listened to a recording of 'High Flight' by Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee who was killed during the war on 11 December 1941 – this has, over the years, become a mantra to pilots. There were poems by Walter de la Mare, Shelley, Roger McGough and many more.

We discussed how poetry can be a pleasure to pupils in schools, can evoke emotion, sound, imagery and rhythm. How it can express things in fewer words than prose. Jacqui wrote her own poems when her children were small and read some to us.

We ended the evening laughing – firstly by listening to 'At Lunchtime' by Roger McGough, then finally Avril gave an excellent rendition, complete with accent, of 'The Lion and Albert' by Marriott Edgar ... anyone want the CD?

*SHEILA FOWLER*

### Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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

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

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

As the Newsletter from Yorkshire Tea says, “All good things must come to an end ...” and it seems that after 20 years of providing free tea to Institutes across the country and jointly supporting environmental endeavours, sadly 2011 will be the last year of the privilege. This has to do with commercial contractual agreements. We were all saddened to hear this news and swore undying loyalty etc. We shall probably get the full story in the next issue of our national magazine.

The AGM on 16 March happened just after we went to press with the April magazine entry. All went well and we have a new President and Committee – but not before heartiest thanks were given to Barbara Compton at the close of her 3-year stint as President, greatly applauded. And your latest lady to take on this responsible task? Mrs Tricia Baker, always popular and full of bright ideas – Congratulations, Trish, and good luck!

One of the proposed National Resolutions this year said, “This meeting abhors the practice of factory farming, particularly large animals such as pigs and cows, and urges HM Government to ensure that planning permission is not guaranteed for such projects”. The discussion at the AGM was led by a member much experienced in the ways of farming (Lynne Young), and she lucidly presented the case for and against. The NFU believes the proposition that big farms will drive smaller farmers out of business is a myth, and suggests that large-scale units will need to exist alongside more traditional units, for the dairy industry to be more competitive and productive. Members appeared to be in agreement. Do look at page 16 of the April issue of WI Life if, like me, you are not really familiar with the various arguments.

The second proposed Resolution, which is also detailed in WI Life, concerns Local Library Closures and I doubt that we need much discussion on that question! But, of course, I could be wrong, not for the first time.

Members will be eager to know the result of the WI Cakes and Preserves Stall at the Top Shops area on Saturday 2 April. All those who saw it, and especially those who contributed to the amazing show of homemade cakes and biscuits, will be keen to know the results: £89 was raised and a grand thank-you is due to all who contributed.

At our April meeting we shall be finding out who forms our new Committee, and what the programme for the year will be. The speaker for the 18 May meeting will be Hazel Gillingham, on “Mary Seacole, the Other Nurse of the Crimea”. I look forward to seeing you all there, ready for an active WI summer.

CONSTANCE REED (771 571)

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Kibblewhite Close, Proud Close, Reids Piece, The Peak, Willis Way, Long Acre, High Street, College Road, & Hooks Hill*. People in these streets will receive cards through their doors which will invite them to contact us if there is anything they would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

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## Gardeners' Guild



A full meeting listened with great interest to Carl Gill, of Lackham College, as he spoke of how to grow a wide variety of vegetables on a small plot measuring about 3 x 6 metres. He uses a plot of this size for the Lackham College display at the Royal Bath & West Show, where the college has won several gold medals for its exhibits.

Even with one half of the plot devoted to bedding plants, the number and range of vegetables grown on the other half was amazing. They include garden pea (Early Onward), Swiss chard, kohlrabi (to be harvested when the size of a golf ball), beetroot, carrots, onions, lettuce, and celery, intercropping with spring onions and cut-&-come-again lettuce. Carl emphasised the importance of planting closely for higher crop rates and to reduce weeds. He has been overseeing his students sowing all the seeds in the last 3 - 4 weeks, so that plants will look their best during the show in the first week of June.

The general tips he gave on vegetable growing were invaluable. Vermiculite was excellent for sowing seeds as it lightened the seed compost and facilitated root penetration. Seeds that need little or no covering can be protected by a fine layer of vermiculite, which allows the necessary light to reach the seed while protecting it. The necessary fineness is achieved by putting 2 small plastic pots together, with drainage holes not quite matching, and a small amount of vermiculite inside, which is then gently sifted over the seeds. Perlite is best used to open up compost and aid drainage as it doesn't absorb water but adsorbs it. Thus perlite is the best choice for pots needing good drainage. Hygiene is important, with clean, disinfected equipment and new seed sowing compost each spring. Damping off can be caused by sowing too many seeds too close together and by top watering.

The importance of keeping temperatures down to avoid disease in tomatoes grown under glass was underlined and he recommended biological controls for greenhouse pests like aphids and red spider mites. He suggested a fearsome-sounding spray to control damage by cabbage white caterpillars, but as it works by killing all butterflies and their caterpillars several of us felt we would prefer covering crops or picking off caterpillars. But we grow for food, not for display. He suggested sowing carrots diagonally across a square 2 inch pot to facilitate planting out without root damage, as well as the now popular method of sowing in a length of guttering. Parsley germinates best if boiling water has just been poured into the seed drill. Conversely, parsnips refuse to germinate in warm weather. Potatoes are the best crop for suppressing weed growth and should be chitted for 4 - 6 weeks until the shoots are 1½ inches high before planting. If larger tubers are desired, he suggested that removal of the potato flowers will promote this.

Seasoned and new vegetable growers learnt much from this instructive talk, as the variety of questions and comments afterwards showed.

Next meeting to be held as usual at the Silver Threads Hall on 24 May at 7.30pm. Peter Biggs will be talking about the 'Care and cultivation of dianthus, pinks and carnations.' Competition: A vase of mixed flowers.

*MOIRA WHITE (Secretary), DIANA THOMBS (Chair)*

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## St Mary's CE Primary School

This has been a busy term for the children of St Mary's CE Primary School. We prepare to break up on a high because we have such good weather and it is only to be hoped that this good spell can be enjoyed by all in the Easter Break.

A key point to share this term has to be the amount of generosity that the community has provided in terms of fundraising. We have been involved in several events all of which have been well supported. It is hoped that the impact of the money raised will be felt by our School community and also by communities further afield.

**A Sponsored Spell** – This event was organised by the Parent and Teacher Association. Children worked hard to learn their spellings and were sponsored for taking part in the event. A total of £860 was raised which will fund staging and lighting for our new school. We want to thank all of the children who took part and on their behalf we thank all the community who helped to sponsor the event. The PTA has pledged to raise £10,000 to enable the school to put a bespoke stage in its new hall and to provide stage lighting so that we can enhance our productions and performances. This contribution will certainly help!

**Comic Relief** – Our Year 5 children organised a super cake sale as part of their Religious Education Studies. They advertised and promoted the cake sale very well and a huge number of families donated a lovely selection of cakes for sale. In total the school raised £281, which will go towards helping people suffering poverty and neglect both internationally and at home.



**Japanese Tsunami Relief** – Many of you associated with the school will know that we have a wonderful community of Japanese families that we share our school with. Following the devastating events that Japan has recently suffered, we were overwhelmed by the generosity and support from everyone. A fantastic cake sale was held with a lovely selection of cakes and Japanese treats and delicacies available to purchase. Children could also dress in authentic Japanese Kimonos and have their pictures taken – you may have seen some of them in the *Swindon Advertiser*. In total this worthwhile event raised £575 with all proceeds going to support the work of the International Red Cross.



As a school we are all delighted to be a part of the support that the local community of Purton provides to these worthwhile causes.

The new school build continues to progress well and the fine weather recently has certainly helped Cowlin's to keep to schedule. Those of you that have walked past recently will be able to clearly see the progress made and it is particularly exciting to see the range of different materials that are going in to build our school. As well as the concrete frame there are a whole range of different timbers being used in construction – most of the upstairs classrooms are going to have a timber ceiling which will both be effective aesthetically as well as give the school enhanced



environmental credentials. It is hard to believe that we have been in the temporary set up now for 8 months – this should mark the half-way point before we receive the new school!

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

*IAN TUCKER, Headteacher*

## Purton Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club was founded over 30 years ago and has been thriving ever since. Now, for the first time, we find ourselves in straightened circumstances. You all know that prices of food and all basic commodities are rising all the time and we have to meet those additional costs. We have been well supported over the years by the WRVS and more recently by Wiltshire Council. We have been told that the grant we receive this year will be the last.



To help with the shortfall we are holding a Garden Party on Sunday 10 July at College Farm House from 2 to 5pm. We hope this will not only raise money, but will encourage people in the village to donate for the future running of the Lunch Club. About 60 meals a week are provided at £4.00 a head on Tuesdays and Thursdays to those Old Age Pensioners who are happy to join with others at the Silver Threads Hall.

For further details of the event in July keep reading future editions of the Magazine!

*ELIZABETH WARD, President*

## On The Lighter Side

### Revelatory

There was once a Rector who was walking around the village visiting his parishioners. At the house of a newly-arrived attractive young lady it seemed obvious that she was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door and his cries of 'Anybody at home?' He therefore took out his calling card and wrote 'Revelations 3:20' on the back of it and shoved it through the letter box.

Next Sunday at Church, while counting the collection, he found that his card had been returned. Written on it below his quote was 'Genesis 3:10'. He got out his Bible to check out the citation and discovered that while, as he knew, *Revelations 3:20* begins '*Behold, I stand at the door and knock*' he found that *Genesis 3:10* contains: '*I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked; and I hid myself.*'

## Exhibit of the Month: The Braydon Show 1911

This month's exhibit is the programme for the 2 August 1911 Braydon Show (incorporating the Purton Horticulture Show). Although Braydon is much smaller than Purton, its President, the Earl of Bathurst, far surpassed in privilege Purton's president, our own eminent benefactor JH Sadler Esq., hence the order of precedence of the Shows. This represents the world of the end of Edwardian Imperial England, three years before the First World War (6 August 1914). The Show was held in "a field close to Purton Church" which has to be the one opposite Purton House and currently occupied by chickens and alpacas. The Regimental Band of the Royal Wilts Yeomanry (Prince of Wales Own) performed by kind permission of Col. the Most Noble, the Marquis of Bath.

Purton at this time was a very agricultural area and the entered competition classes reflect this: Agricultural Horses (6 classes), half-bred horses and turn-outs (including milk-cart horses), jumping (mares), cattle, poultry, dead poultry and eggs, honey and bread. Butter and cheese were also high on the agenda with Class 40 being for 1 cwt of Cheddar Cheese (50kg) with a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £1. There was also a butter making competition in a working dairy installed on the site – no pressure then!

This was a world about to change as it went to war. I have a copy of the 1922 Show catalogue to compare with it next month.

Visit us on our web site at [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://www.purtonmuseum.com).



RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

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

WANTED: a partner in GRIME ... I am a right handed person and so only use the right hand of my rubber gloves which I then throw away. So I have lots of left handed rubber gloves NEEDED a left handed person who does the same. Failing that does anybody have a use for left handed rubber gloves (size M). Call 770977.

*To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine address on page 4). Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.*

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## Purton Cricket Club



As a result of member Phil Duffell's 'Club Talk' on BBC Wiltshire Sound in which he gave a summary of the club's history and its current playing and coaching arrangements, several new members have joined the club. They are most welcome.

With a great deal of winter work completed on hedges, the ditch, fencing and the area of the new nets the ground will be in good condition for the start of the season especially as both nitrogen and weed killer have recently been applied.

Life member, Francis Sheppard, has recently produced a 16-page booklet to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Sadler's gift of the ground for the use of the cricket club. Copies of 'A Gift For All Time' will be issued free to Cricket Club members and further copies are available, price £1.00, from Francis (771018) or me (770681). The cricket club thanks him for this time, effort and for sponsoring the costs of publications.

### Fixtures for May at Purton:

- 1 U11 v Wootton Bassett
- 7 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Bradford Town
- 14 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Warminster 4
- 21 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Wroughton
- 22 U13 v Wootton Bassett
- 28 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Wootton Bassett 3
- 29 U11 v Shrivenham

### From the Archives

#### THE GODDARD FAMILY

Francis Goddard was baptised on 21 January 1814. He started his education at the Edward VI Marlborough Grammar School and completed it at Winchester College and Brasenose College, Oxford. He became a BA in 1836 and an MA in 1839. After holding several curacies he became vicar of Alderton near Badminton until he moved to Hilmartin, near Calne, in 1858.

He first played for Purton in 1836 aged 22. He was an accomplished wood carver as the font in Clyffe Pypard church illustrates.

*JOE GARDNER*

## Purton Bowls Club



The pre season meeting of Purton Bowls Club was held in the club house on 25 March with an excellent attendance. Members paid their annual subscriptions and discussed the coming season.

The Green will open on 16 April (weather permitting).

The first friendly match is on Sunday 17 April at home starting at 2.30pm. The men's first game is against Westlecot on 26 April with the ladies away to West End. New members are always welcome and should contact 01793 770015 for details. To find out more why not come and watch; you will be sure to find a friendly atmosphere and good company.

*BARBARA WOOLFORD*



## Purton F. C.



With the season coming to its conclusion the Hellenic side after being in a good position to finish in the top three currently lie 6<sup>th</sup> with just five games remaining. A disappointing run of results saw a mini recovery in results. Lack of players at times in important games, mainly the away night games have cost the club dearly but the team are capable of picking up again in the games remaining and have reached the quarter finals of the Supplementary cup when they will play the winners of Woodley Town or Kidlington.

The Purton Redhouse Reserve side currently lie 10<sup>th</sup> in their league. They to have suffered with injuries and suspensions and have 7 of their last 8 games to play away from home in a tough conclusion to their fixtures. At Youth levels the Under 16s are sadly currently second from bottom but the Under 15s are in the chase to win their league, currently 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Under 14s have had a tough season but are battling on while the Under 13s are doing well and well up their league table.

The Under 11s "A" have yet to lose a league game and look certain winners of their league and have also reached the Final of the Wiltshire Under 11s cup in what has been an excellent season for them. The Other Under 11s the "B" team are also in the top half of their table. Current leading scorer for the Hellenic side is Ashley Gooch while Craig Hogg leads the scoring stakes for the Purton Redhouse side.

*ALAN EASTWOOD, President*

## Swindon & Cricklade Railway

### SHUNTERS AND WHELTAPPERS

SAT/SUN/MON 30 April to 2 May. 11 am to 4 pm.

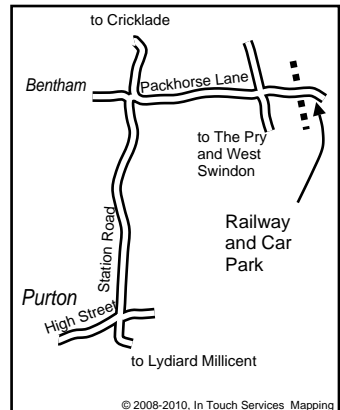
This is a demonstration of how goods trains got all their wagons in the right order in former times. Not many railways do this. Tickets for this fascinating experience are Adults £8, Children £6, Seniors £7, Family £26 (2 adults + 2 children). There is a cafeteria, museum, shop and pondside picnic area with ample free parking. All areas are accessible for non-electric wheelchairs. Well-behaved dogs under control are welcome.

### REAL ALE, CIDER AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

SAT/SUN/Mon 28 to 30 May. 11 am to 4 pm.

Run in cooperation with CAMRA. Our marquee on the picnic area offers the best of beers and ciders, often from the area's smaller specialist breweries. There is also a jazz band to add authentic atmosphere. Tickets, to include unlimited train rides, cost £8. Entrance includes your first pint. Facilities as above.

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](http://www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org).



The summer Swindon and District League season is now under way and each of the 14 teams will be striving for success in their respective divisions.

Several youngsters are again representing the Purton Men's, Ladies' and Mixed teams, a testament to the volunteers who over the years have given up their time to help the children develop their tennis. The club now has an experienced coach leading a structured programme and this can only develop more keen youngsters who will be eyeing up a place in the senior teams.

Several Mini Tennis 'Pay as you Play sessions' are scheduled throughout May. Just bring along £2.50 if you are a tennis club member or £4.00 for non members and turn up on Saturday 7, 14, 21 and 28. Sessions are split into the following age groups:

3 and 4 Year Olds	2.00 - 2.30pm
5 and 6 Year Olds	2.30pm - 3.15pm
7 and 8 Year Olds	3.15pm - 4.00pm
9 and 10 Year Olds	4.00 - 4.45pm

For further information call Rob Negus on 07545 760512.

The U16 boys team has had its first match, against Highworth, and although the result was unfavourable all the team performed well. When we have had more practice over the coming weeks I am sure the score lines will improve.

The Race Night held at the Red House was a roaring success and the club would like to thank Bob Pimble and Sammi Francis for their hard work resulted in a very well attended and enjoyable evening. The tennis club would also like to thank the Red House's Tina and Phil and the football club's Wendy and Steve for their invaluable help on the night.

We have a busy season ahead with matches and coaching so let's hope the weather is kind.

NICOLA GARDNER

Purton  
Magazine