

Purton Magazine



Mile of Coins Artistry by Robin White

Purton Carnival Week 4 June 2011

photo: Karen Wright

See [page 6](#)

July 2011

45p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Library (Tues & Fri 2-5pm & 6-8pm Weds 10am-1pm & 2-5pm)	Librarians	770870
Police	Neighbourhood Policing	08454 087000
Post Office	Susan Budd	770346
Purton Age Concern Minibus	Tony Price	770696
Purton Helping Hand	Richard Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Pauline Ward	770251
Veterinary Surgery	Shirley Bevington	771066
	Purton Veterinary Group	771869

Schools and Play Groups:

Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141
		or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

LOCAL CHURCHES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Contact: Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770210
Alan Woodward, tel 771572
Richard McCarthy, tel 770838
www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton

Services: See Diary Page in this magazine

METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister Rev David Perkins (from 1 September)
Contact: Bob Tinson 01793 771282
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
Services: Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Wootton Bassett
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
Services: St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade
Holy Days 7.00pm Mass
Sundays 9.30am Mass

From The Editors

This month your magazine reports on the Carnival on [page 6](#) complementing the photograph on the front cover and provides lots of details about the many activities connected with the Maskelyne Memorial weekend.

Initiated by the Purton Historical Society to mark their 50th anniversary, the Maskelyne project managed to include a variety of activities and involved several different groups within our community. It also included a short-term loan of some priceless moon rocks and meteorites as well as two speakers from the National Maritime Museum and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy in Bath.

As we go to press, researchers at the Society for the Psychology of Women have concluded that men who open doors for women, or carry their heavy bags or who give up their seats on a train are guilty of 'benevolent sexism'.

The findings came from a study conducted among workers of both genders in America and Germany. A group of volunteers kept diaries for a week in which they were asked to note examples from a long list of sexist and non-sexist behaviour – without being told about the purpose of the study. The list included blatant acts of sexism or other unwanted attention from men as well as acts of what has now become known as 'benevolent sexism'.

The researchers concluded that 'benevolent sexism' is usually thoroughly well intentioned and affectionate. However it is also seen subjectively as a positive expression of male dominance and possible paternalism that comes in two parts. From the feminine perspective, the positive aspect is that men view women as wonderful and the better sex whereas the negative aspect is rather condescending in that men view women as weak, demeaning, incompetent and even as being unsuitable for powerful positions.

It seems that 'benevolent' sexists mean well but it seems that they are in danger of creating a culture of women being seen as the vulnerable sex. However, many men could see such 'benevolent' actions perhaps as reasonably expected etiquette or as just a simple common courtesy. Indeed, a commentator highlighted one of the difficulties facing men – that of whether or not to give up their seat on a train to a pregnant woman, only to find that the action became an inadvertent insult to an overweight woman.

We look forward to a lively exchange of views in future editions of your magazine.

≈70

scarecrows
likely at the Purton Stoke
Festival
– see [pages 6 and 25](#)

>£400

raised from raffling a
Purton Patchworkers'
quilt
– see [page 10](#)

1740

was the year when John
Wesley first 'ate and
conversed' in Purton
– see [page 38](#)

CONTENTS

After 8	Just a Thought
Age Concern	Libbie at the Palace
A-Z of Purton	Maskelyne Weekend
Barbecue Summer	P&L Charity Fund
Bowls Club	Parish Council News
Bradon Forest School News	Prayer for Purton
British Legion Horticultural Show	Ps & Qs: Green Tips
Carnival News	Purton FC
Cricket Club	Purton Patchworkers
Cricklade Country Market	Purton Placard
Cricklade Fire Station	Purton Postbag - letters
Diary Pages	Purton Profferings
Evening W.I.	Purton Stoke Open Gardens
Exhibit of the Month	Purton Surgery
Fire Safety Advice	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Gardeners' Guild	Science Week at St Mary's
Guide Dogs	Swindon & Cricklade Railway
Historical Soc Tour of Highworth	Tennis Club
Historical Society	WB Orchestra
Jim Verity	We Record ...

Purton
Magazine
Magazine Committee

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[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News

Traffic/Highways – The Parish Council has decided to set up a working group to look at Traffic and Highway issues in the Parish and would like to hear from anybody who would be interested in taking part. It will involve attending some meetings to talk about issues, identify areas of concern and to look at possible solutions with a view to working with Wiltshire Council to try to implement some beneficial changes.

This work will be one of the foundation blocks for our Parish Plan which we hope will generate a lot of interest as it will look at what we want for our Parish and will help the Parish Council to progress its work in the knowledge that it has up to date information and views from local residents. It is intended that this work will also help with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan which will impact on planning decisions. So please get involved – we want to hear your views.

Councillor's email addresses:

In last month's magazine we listed the contact details for the Councillors a further update is the email addresses for Cllrs Vicky McKerrow vicky@wintz.plus.com and Elizabeth Wilson elizabeth.wilson74@gmail.com and an amended address for John Crawford john.crawfor@btopenworld.com

Dog Warden – the dog warden will be in Purton again on Wednesday 6 July from 9 to 11am in the small meeting room adjacent the Public Toilets in the Village Hall car park. Please come and talk to him if you have issues regarding dogs. One thing we are noticing more and more is that people are picking up their dog's mess but leaving the bags with the mess in on the ground or throwing it in hedges. Please take it home with you or put it in a litter bin or dog poop bin.

The small meeting room mentioned above is for hire. If anybody is interested in using the room then please contact the Parish Council office for more details and to make a booking.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Application:

N11/01183/FUL Amberley, Manor Farm Court, Purton Stoke, conservatory

Wiltshire Council has refused the following Planning Application:

N11/01265/FUL 7 Locks Lane, erection of detached garage and annexe

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 / Fax 772646

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

Website www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil

Parish Council's letter box is on the wall adjacent to the side door (entrance door to the Parish Council offices) to the rear of the Library/Institute

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

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





Carnival 2011

The Carnival is over! What a week – many ups and downs but they got smoothed over and ended happily. What a wonderful start to the week with the Coffee Morning organised by St Mary's Fellowship ladies – the result gets better every year. Another event was the Teddy Bears' Picnic, a crowded Club of happy, screaming toddlers despite the pouring rain outside.

The whole week went well, culminating in a fantastic sunny day, a small Procession, but very high quality entries, and on to a Fete Field full of people relaxing and enjoying the summer atmosphere.

Thank you, thank you, to all the volunteer helpers who came out of the blue, the local traders for their continued support and my fellow Committee Members who worked their socks off.

To hear the result, come along to the Open Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 July at the Silver Threads Hall. Again thank you all. Here's to 2012 and a very special year.

PAULINE WARD, Carnival Secretary

5th Purton Stoke Open Gardens and Scarecrow Festival 2011

Make sure you have a Passport to Purton Stoke for Saturday 16 July (10am - 5pm) and Sunday 17 July (10am - 4pm).

14 gardens will be open. There will be teas, ploughman's lunches, burgers and of course plants to buy. Get some ideas for your own garden or just enjoy seeing how other people tackle theirs. At previous Festivals we have had between 40 to 70 scarecrows dotted around the village including a Nevil Maskelyne, a fortune teller, Elvis, and a gangster and his moll.

Passports, costing £3 per person, children free, will be available from *The Bell Inn* after 1 July and during the Open Gardens Weekend in the village.



Purton Surgery

Important Notice

We are trying to improve our appointment system at both Purton and Green Gable branch surgery.

As from 13 June, 2011, if a same-day appointment is requested, you may be telephoned by a doctor for assessment before an appointment is offered.

We have increased the number of appointments available for booking in advance in order that patients no longer have to phone in at 8.30am for an on-day appointment as *these have been discontinued*.

Purton & District Age Concern



We continue to lose people who have been part of our community in several different ways. I spoke briefly last month about Pauline Staley. My word, the Church was full at her funeral – what a fitting tribute to such a caring person. Knowing Pauline, she would not have believed that so many people had such respect for her. A good example was when I spoke to Alan Holder and his wife at the funeral and Alan's wife said she was there because Pauline had been so kind to her mother when she was in the Cedars and treated her with such tender loving care. I felt that a lot of people were there for the same reason, for the way she put others before herself.

Mrs Rene Jay passed away just after her 100th birthday – it makes you wonder whether she had felt she achieved her goal then let go, although her mother lived to 104. Mrs Jay was nearly local, living at Shaw which, in those days, was a community on its own. Later I would imagine she moved to London as she married her late husband in 1935 at St John's Wood. She moved to Purton in 1965 and lived at Restrop View, later moving to White Lodge some five years ago where she was lovingly cared for. As I have said, Mrs Jay celebrated her 100th birthday and one of her treasured possessions was a telegram from the Queen. She had a party on the day with family and friends – I did have an invite but was unable to go unfortunately – and a good time was had by all. Mrs Jay would have quietly enjoyed it although she was not in tip top condition. As I have said, I could not go to the party but had the honour and pleasure of going to see her a fortnight after along with Dorothy Foreman and Sylvia Pratt. When other ladies have got to 100 we like to give them some flowers from Purton Age Concern but usually leave it until after the day as we feel they would already have quite a lot of flowers. Could I say how kind Dorothy has been to Mrs Jay, visiting most weeks and I know Mrs Jay appreciated her kindness. When she lived in Purton, Mrs Jay was a great supporter of Age Concern, whether we were fund raising or with any of our trips etc. I have a lovely everlasting memory of Mrs Jay – when I left her, I gave her a kiss and held her hand and she said 'Aren't your hands warm' and I said 'Cold hands, warm heart but I am the opposite – warm hands, cold heart' which brought a smile to her face. Thank you Mrs Jay for being you.

Dick Grimes is another person who has sadly left us. Dick was born along Cricklade Road at Park House Farm. Dick was a very shy, reserved person but, in saying that, he was a perfect gentleman. One of the things that stands out for me is how he always used to touch his cap to the ladies. Whilst he was a big man he was very gentle – I suppose the correct term would be 'gentle giant'. I know when Dick was about sixteen he was in the ATC – 1244 squadron – along with a lot of other people and they would ride their bicycles to Ferndale Road school in Swindon for practice but I am not sure whether Dick joined the services. I expect he was exempt, working on the farm. He used to have a milk round at Purton Stoke and he would ride his bicycle with two big milk pails, one on each handle bar. There were no bottles in those days and he would measure a pint out with his ladle and a little drop to make sure you had a full pint. I wonder if Dick was like his Dad – if the

cat's saucer was outside he would put a little drop for the cat – his dad had a round in Purton for which he used his car and trailer. I wonder if they sent any of their milk to the old milk factory where the Dental Factory is now. In fact, the Grimes family were a great help to Mr Osbourne when he bought the factory after being bombed out in London, telling him where to go for his needs. When the Dental Factory was up and running, the GWR would pick up the things to go by rail (was that Reg Theobald?) and if anything had to go by post, Mr Grimes would take it to the Post Office – to Molly Bennett I presume. Dick also used to do a bit of bookmaking on his way round, collecting one day and paying out the next if you had anything to come. When the milk round finished, Dick was one of those friendly operators at the Post Office telephone exchange. When you rang, he would say 'Hello, can I help you?' One of Dick's greatest loves was dancing. I could imagine him going to the Old Time dances they had at *The Angel*, then there was the Reading Room at Purton Stoke and, of course, later in life he went to tea dances where he met his wife Stella. Here again, they enjoyed our outings and parties. In later years Dick was lovingly cared for in the Cedars and I know how he used to enjoy our tea parties at Battlelake Farm.

Sadly the bad news continues as another gentleman has left us – Jim Verity. A couple of Jim's friends who are much more qualified than I am are going to write about him, but I would like to say what a great supporter he has been to the village along with his wife Frances. I know that in Age Concern we have benefited from this support and, of course, Frances was our street warden for a long time, covering the bottom of Witts Lane, Witfield Close and the Common.

To all the family and friends of these people we offer our sympathy and prayers and sincerely hope you will find some comfort in your memories.

We had a lovely day with the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion celebrating ninety years of the Legion. First, we attended the Church service. It was also an honour to be there remembering Alex Meers who died five years ago. Alex's wife Rowie, Alex's dad and all their family and friends were at the service. Alex and Rowie were such a help to us when they allowed us to have our Royal Horse Show at Purton House – I say 'Royal' because Princes William and Harry were competitors one year when they were little boys. It was a nice service with many taking part and what was so lovely was that people like Alex's dad did one of the readings and Richard McCarthy did the prayers. It was so good that all the speakers and readers could be heard so plainly. Usually I go to the simple 8 am. service and you tend to take it all for granted but I can see there has got to be a lot of work going on arranging things when there is no Vicar, so congratulations to you all. I have to say that it doesn't alter my opinion that the pews should not have been taken out and the one thing I cannot understand is why the powers that be change the Church Service from time to time. I cannot believe it is helpful – it seems to me that it is confusing. Some of the words they used are changed not for the better, like for example this sentence in a prayer 'Whose property is always to have mercy' whereas before it was 'whose *nature* is always to have mercy'. I think '*nature*' is a more understanding and meaningful.

Congratulations and best wishes to Judith Wells for her forthcoming ordination.

Sheila and I would have liked to go to the service but we will be otherwise engaged with our coffee morning at Bentham. Judith has worked so hard – she has been part of the team that has kept St Mary's on the straight and narrow while they are without a vicar and she has had to do all the studying as well. Well done Judith – what a blueprint for a new vicar when we get one.

What an excellent choice for the Pride of Purton in conjunction with the Carnival – Mrs Lesley Wall. Lesley has been involved with Age Concern for a long time, although she has had to take a back seat for the last couple of years and we all know of her kindness and the love she shows to others. Well done, Lesley – very well deserved.

We have sent letters of complaint about people parking on pavements and over dropped curbs which means that people in wheel chairs, motorised buggies and also young mums with pushchairs have to go into the road to get by. This letter went to the Chief Constable of Wiltshire. The other letter has gone to Wiltshire Council with reference to the closure of The Cedars and the possible closure of Hooks Hill, so watch this space.

Our last outing to Evesham Country Park and Garden Centre proved very popular and enjoyable. The next trip is an all-day one to Windsor on Wednesday 6 July, starting at 9.30am and returning from there at 4pm, cost £9. There might still be room by the time you are reading the magazine so give me a ring on 770696, although we had to turn people away who rang up late for the last trip. Then after that we have our annual trip to Weston on Wednesday 3 August – 9.30am start returning from Weston at 6.30pm, cost to the Purton elderly and children £12, others £14. This is open to anyone. For the Purton elderly – names to your street wardens – anyone else can contact the street warden in your area or ring me on 770696. All money paid when you book.

Last year we organised the big knit but we in Purton are giving it a miss this year. If anyone is interested in doing it for Age UK Wiltshire, I have the details so give me a ring.

Our next fund raising event is a coffee morning at Bentham. We have been invited by Phil and Joyce Bryant along with their niece Ann to hold this event at Greystones, Bentham Lane, Purton Stoke. This is always a nice morning but sadly it will not be quite the same without John, but I feel sure he would want us to carry on, so all we can do is try and make it the best in his memory. The family insisted that we do this coffee morning for Age Concern funds, as we suggested that we did it for one of the families favourite charities in John's memory, but they would not hear of it. The date for this is Saturday 2 July, 10am to 12 noon, and we hope to see you there. The minibus will be running – contact Richard on 770862 if you want a lift.

TONY PRICE

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 29 July from 9.00am to 11.00am. We shall be at The Cricklade Town Festival on 19 June, so look out for us!

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).

Purton Patchworkers

We are a group of seven friends who have been making patchwork quilts together for the last sixteen years and we have given these quilts to various charities such as Prospect, the Girl Guide Association and the Osteoporosis Society to raffle. We meet every two or three weeks in each other's homes to do our sewing, with a lot of chat and cups of tea. We like to feel we are carrying on a tradition – this is something that

women have done together since this craft was invented. We share life's ups and down and a lot of laughs as well!

We have just finished our last quilt and decided to give it to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. We were



invited to take it to their headquarters in Devizes where they made us very welcome. We were shown the helicopter and the paramedic showed us the equipment and told us about their work. They rely on fundraising and donations totally to keep the service going. Claire Kelly, who is in charge of fundraising, does this job on her own, with the help of a volunteer for a couple of hours a week and Claire and the crew give up precious free time to help raise money. It was very inspiring to meet them and hear about the work they do. If anyone reading this feels they could help in any way with fund raising or just wants to make a donation or join their lottery scheme, you could ring Claire on 01249 858900, mobile no. 07500 816429, or email her on claire.kelly@gwas.nhs.uk. She would be so pleased to hear from you.

We all came away from Devizes feeling quite humble about our small contribution but very glad we had been able to do something to help a service that literally means life or death to so many people.

BRENDA HANKS, PAULINE HALL, SHEILA KIRK, IRIS PARSONS, SHEILA PRICE, MARJORIE SHAILES & PAM STEVENS – the Purton Patchworkers

(Since we prepared this piece we have heard from Claire that the raffle for our quilt raised over £400 and it was won by a nurse from Bath who, in Claire's words was 'thrilled with it'.)

Above: the Quilters with Paramedic Richard Miller

Right: What it's all about - a stretcher in the helicopter

[Editor's note: we were emailed a picture that only contained the top half of the quilt. We have struggled to find anyone who has a good copy of the picture showing the entire quilt. If we get one, we will publish it in a future issue of the Magazine.]



From Cricklade Fire Station

During May, crews from Cricklade attended 22 emergency calls as follows:

- 1/5/11 at 1059 animal rescue, Ashton Keynes
 - 2/5/11 at 2237 shed fire
 - 4/5/11 at 1142 relief crew duties, Berkshire forest fire
 - 6/5/11 at 1406 standby duties at Swindon Fire Station
 - 6/5/11 at 1510 relief crew duties, Berkshire forest fire
 - 7/5/11 at 1729 false alarm with good intent, Down Ampney
 - 10/5/11 at 1603 standby duties at Swindon Fire Station
 - 13/5/11 at 0546 false alarm with good intent, Purton
 - 13/5/11 at 1824 standby duties at Swindon Fire Station
 - 18/5/11 at 1552 hedge fire, Cricklade
 - 19/5/11 at 1708 domestic smoke alarm, Ashton Keynes
 - 21/5/11 at 2136 large fire involving waste tyres, Braydon
 - 23/5/11 at 1347 road traffic collision, person trapped, A419 Cricklade
 - 26/5/11 at 1430 large refuse fire, Blunsdon
 - 26/5/11 at 1827 special appliance request for lighting, Blundson
 - 27/5/11 at 1637 automatic fire alarm, Cricklade
 - 31/5/11 at 2125 fence fire, Purton
- plus 5 co-responder calls, Cricklade*

We are always looking for new recruits for the retained fire service in Cricklade. It's a part-time job, doing a worth while service for your community and you get paid for it. If you are over 18, fit, well and live and/or work in Cricklade then you may be eligible to join. No prior experience is necessary as all training is provided. If you interested then please ring **01380 731144**.

Fire Safety Advice - Electrical Safety

- Learn the wiring colours and make sure you follow them when fitting a plug.
- Always use the correct fuse for the equipment you are using and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Flexes from equipment such as kettles and toasters should be kept well away from the cooker and tea towels should never be dried over the cooker.
- Never leave a saucepan unattended with the heat turned on and be especially careful when using chip pans with oil or fat.
- Make sure that ovens are not left on after use.
- Use a 3-pin plug which conforms to the British Standard and carries the Kite Mark.
- Overloading the socket using several adaptors into the one socket can cause it to overheat and catch fire. Use a good quality adaptor and ensure it has the correct fuse.
- When buying new equipment look out for the BEAB Mark of safety. This means that it has been tested and approved by the British Electromechanical Approvals Board.

Libbie's Trip to the Palace!

Many people in Purton may know that Libbie Sheppard has spent a lifetime working with deaf and hard of hearing people. She first came to this part of the country in the mid-1970s to set up a Family Centre for Deaf people at Roughmoor Farm: and then worked as a Teacher for the Deaf in Swindon for well over 20 years. For the last 10 years and more she has been working with deaf and hard of hearing people for the charity RNID, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

On 9 June, the charity was 100 years old: and, to celebrate, it changed its name to Action on Hearing Loss.

The Patron of the charity is the Duke of Edinburgh. As a huge honour and treat, the Duke decided not to relax on his 90th birthday, but to invite a few people from the new Action on Hearing Loss ... award winners, volunteers and sponsors ... to attend a reception inside Buckingham Palace.

The whole day was absolutely fantastic ... a huge honour and a delight. It was an overwhelming experience to be there in such magnificent surroundings. The Reception was in the Picture Gallery with walls covered in famous works of art by the likes of Goya and Rembrandt. The Duke welcomed the party and was the best of company. He chatted to everyone and made a speech suggesting that we were all 'feeling frightfully smug!' ... which we probably were!

He graciously accepted a huge card made for him by deaf people with learning difficulties at one of the charity's Workshops, in Bath, and he was delighted to be given a pair of ear defenders for when he goes shooting. 'Do they pick up Radio 3?' was his quip! It was a wonderful day and an amazing experience.

If any organisations would like to know more about the work of Action on

Hearing Loss please do contact Libbie. She is Information Officer for the South West and part of her role is to discuss ways of improving communication when people are losing their hearing as they get older. The organisation also wants to encourage everyone ... yes EVERYONE ... to check their hearing. Research shows that there are as many as 4 million people who have a hearing loss but have not yet got round to doing anything about it. You can do a test by phone.

Please do make contact if you would like any more information.

libbie.sheppard@hearingloss.org.uk

www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

hearing check by phone: 0844 800 3838



Libbie outside the Palace

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Peter Biggs, of the Wanborough Nursery, addressed a packed meeting on the care and cultivation of dianthus and related species. Throughout the talk his father handed round potted-up specimens of the plants referred to, which members found most helpful in retaining information relating to foliage and flower colour, habit of growth and appropriate methods of care. The whole genus needs a hot, dry situation in quick-draining lime or chalk soil. Grit can be added to the planting hole to ensure the right conditions. They also benefit from low nitrogen feed, such as tomato fertiliser, in the growing season.

Dianthus arianus, the stone or sand pink, was one of the earliest in cultivation, known as many of the earlier species are, for its strong, sweet perfume. In favourable conditions, it forms a pleasing carpet and can take some shade. *D deltoides*, also well-perfumed, performs similarly with small, single white flowers. Both plants are very attractive to the bees and insects so vital to good garden health. *D barbatus*, better known as Sweet William, is mostly treated as a biennial, though Peter said that if carefully deadheaded it would go on for several seasons.

Recommended intermediate or border varieties were the older Gran's Favourite and Mrs Simpkins as well as the fairly new introductions, Laced Monarch and Devon General. Mother of Pearl, a modern variety, has been especially bred for its fragrance and long flowering period. He suggested growing these types with *gypsophila* or *helianthemum* (rockrose) as they revelled in the same conditions as dianthus.

The very showy, more demanding carnations need greenhouse protection to give of their best. Many of the modern cultivars have been bred for size and colour of bloom at the expense of that wonderful clove scent but the Malmaison variety, first seen in the 1850s, continues to delight our sense of smell.

Alpine varieties all need full sun and very sharp drainage. Starry Eyes, Neon Star and Pixie Star have vibrant colours and long flowering period.

All dianthus need rigorous deadheading to extend the flowering period. Peter showed us how to nip off just the one exhausted bloom between finger and thumb so that the adjacent buds are not lost. We should take care to go gently down each stem progressively as the season continues, if we wish to be rewarded by a succession of blooms from April to the first frosts.

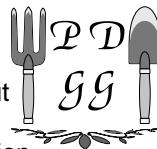
He also showed us how to take dianthus cuttings – immediately after the first blooms are over, but taking care to select a strong young shoot that had not bloomed – but warned us to prepare cuttings for sale only from those older varieties that were not safeguarded by plantbreeders' rights.

We all felt we had learned a lot and that handling the actual plants had promoted our understanding and confidence. Peter has a regular stand at the Wednesday market in the Corn Hall in Cirencester as well as a stall his father and mother run in the Cirencester Charter Market every Monday.

Tony Price proposed a vote of thanks.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 26 July, to be held as usual in the Silver Threads Hall, we welcome back Sue Smith and Sue Todd. Their subject this time is 'Wild flowers of the Cotswolds – remedies, myths and legends'.

MOIRA WHITE (Secretary), DIANA THOMBS (Chair)



Purton Historical Society



Our Maskelyne celebrations were certainly a time to remember. We must all thank the Committee and all the helpers who made it such a success. Especially thanks to the core of the organisation Brian Freegard, Jean Belt and David Sweet. My own special thanks to David Herbert for knowing how to switch on the main lights at Bradon Forest School which certainly saved my bacon.

The saga of Mud Lane is continuing so, at the request of our members and others that have contacted us, I will be writing to Wiltshire Council to state the case that as one of the village's oldest historical artefacts it should not be changed. What is our lifetime compared to the 2,000-plus years it has been in existence?

As readers will see as well as Jean's overview of the Maskelyne weekend, Helen is giving us the details for the guided walk around Highworth. This is not just for members but for friends or anyone interested in this area, everyone is welcome to come along.

None of the other Historical Societies have any talks this month.

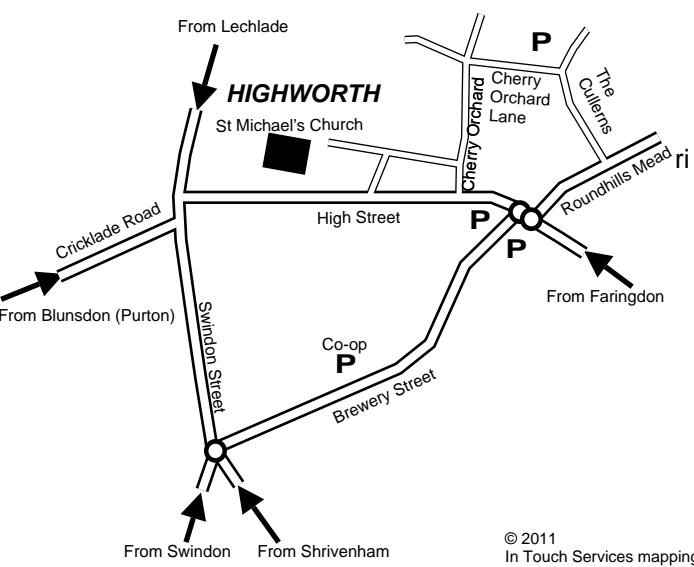
I hope that the weather is fine for everyone to visit places of interest over the summer but my runner beans need a bit of rain, (now I'm sounding like the Gardeners Guild). Have a great summer and see you all in September, after we've been to see Highworth.

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Historical Society Tour of Highworth: 23 July

We shall be discovering some of Highworth's fascinating past with the help of Jo from Highworth Historical Society. We shall meet her by the porch (inside if wet) of St Michael's Church at 10am. The church is right in the centre of this lovely market town just off the High Street and Market Square.

Saturday is market day but there is plenty of free parking at the Co-op in Brewery Street and a smaller car park further down at the mini-roundabout and another a minute or so away in The



Cullens at the junction with Cherry Orchard Lane. If you need or can offer a lift or need more information contact me at mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk.

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In Touch Services mapping

Maskelyne Weekend: 20 - 22 May 2011

Purton Historical Society would like to thank everyone who was involved in the Maskelyne Memorial Weekend from 20 to 22 May, those members and friends who acted as stewards at the various locations in particular and all the people who supported the events. We are grateful to Brian and Eileen Coe who recorded the weekend visually with their cameras. The comments and reactions have been very positive and encouraging, indicating that many Purtonians and other visitors, some from as far away as Suffolk and London, enjoyed themselves.



The flower arrangers began arriving in St Mary's at 8am on Thursday, 19 May. The team was led by Anne Bartlett and consisted of three of her friends from Wroughton aided by some of the ladies on the church flower rota. Libbie Sheppard co-ordinated the groups. Thanks to many kind and generous donors who wanted St Mary's to look and smell beautiful, the most attractive, ingenious and unusual arrangements were created in appropriate colours of yellow, orange, blue and white representing astronomy and navigation. No lottery money was available (the festival had been added to the plans long after the grant application was submitted) but because the experts gave their services, stands were borrowed and the oasis supplied the total cost was reduced to £444. This was covered by the donations and included the stunning arrangement at Bradon Forest School that found its way to the church from Sunday onwards. The flowers remained in place for a fortnight and brightened the building for the funeral of a former arranger which seemed a fitting tribute to her skill. Art and craft work by children from St Mary's School which adorned the south porch complementing the floral displays perfectly, will remain there until the end of June.

Just after 8am the following morning the Explorer Dome arrived at the Village Hall in a van from Bristol. Two enthusiastic young scientists inflated it in preparation for the first school group due at 9.15am. The children and their teachers crawled through a tunnel then sat on the floor inside – cushions were available – to be enlightened and enthralled for three quarters of an hour by pictures of the planets, the night sky appearing above and around them and finally an explanation of how the Greeks interpreted the constellations. It was riveting! Four more classes from St Mary's followed, then at 4pm it was the turn of the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and lastly the Scouts but members of the public were able to join these groups so that each session was full to capacity. One leader told me she hadn't enjoyed anything so much for a long time while the excitement of the children was a joy to watch. We have received delightful cards and letters from the school. Some of those will be forwarded to the Heritage Lottery Fund as proof of the pleasure their award has given to the village.

Events on Saturday 21 May began at a more civilized time when the committee gathered in Bradon Forest School hall at 10am. An hour later there was an

important delivery from the Science and Technology Facilities Council. Priceless moon rocks and meteorites formed a special display of great interest that had to be guarded at all times. A sense of relief was felt when these items were collected intact six hours later!

In the afternoon Susan Dann, Educational Officer at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy in Bath, gave an entertaining presentation on "William and Caroline Herschel, Astronomers and contemporaries of Nevil Maskelyne". Her anecdotes about the family were both amusing and revealing.

Teas and delicious homemade cakes were served by members of Purton Evening WI, one of several adult groups who have supported the project.

At 6.45 pm Dr Richard Dunn, Curator of the History of Navigation at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, was introduced by David Sweet to an audience of over two hundred people. He had arrived in Purton the previous afternoon, seen the planetarium and been taken on a village tour by David to be shown all the Maskelyne family sites and the great man's tomb. Francis and Anne Young accommodated him in the Maskelyne suite at The Pear Tree Hotel as their contribution to the project and we are enormously grateful to them. Dr Dunn was such an approachable man; he was an ideal guest and a pleasure to entertain. His lecture was entitled "High Astronomer of the Kingdom: Nevil Maskelyne and the pursuit of science in the age of reason". It lasted an hour and a quarter and was illustrated by splendid paintings, diagrams and maps shown to great advantage on the huge, new screen at Bradon Forest School. Recently there has been a reassessment of the gifted fifth Astronomer Royal and his significant achievements. He is considered to be a leading figure of the eighteenth century, "a major man of science" according to our speaker. The audience was enthralled and a number of apposite questions were asked after Dr Dunn had finished.

A reception followed with wine and a light buffet when the audience had a chance to meet both our speakers and chat with friends. With some reluctance the last ones departed as the school premises had to be vacated by 10pm. It had been a memorable day.

The Resource Packs have been printed and will be distributed to the two Purton schools, Lydiard Millicent school and local youth organisations. They are lavishly illustrated and very informative. One of our PHS committee members, Jan Walker, has compiled a leaflet showing "A Trail around Purton and Purton Stoke Villages in 1760" which describes the area familiar to Maskelyne and is proving to be so popular that a reprint has been ordered. The cost is 50p.

Our project is on course except for the exhibition which has been beset with difficulties from early in the year. Unexpected delays due to lost specifications and new regulations have meant the secure case demanded by the Oxford Museum of Science, to house their eighteenth century instruments, will not be delivered to us until late June. However the exhibition is scheduled to open from the beginning of July until the end of September.

Plans are well under way for the Family Activities Day on 20 August. The theme will be astronomy and science linked with history, outlining the exciting developments in these areas during Maskelyne's lifetime. Family groups are

invited to attend one of the sessions, either from 10am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm until 4pm, although older children can join in by themselves.

Finally we should all like to congratulate Brian Freegard whose inspirational idea developed into this project. It has proved a fantastic way to mark the 50th anniversary of the Purton Historical Society.

JEAN BELT



Above and left: 2 letters received from appreciative visitors

Below: Science Week - Getting in and out of the Planetarium

Science Week at St Mary's CE Primary School

The children and teachers at St Mary's have had a marvellous time learning about many different areas of science. Many thanks to Mr Wintle for all his hard work in ensuring that this week was enjoyed by staff and children alike.

The Science Week followed the celebrations of Nevil Maskelyne in which the school thoroughly enjoyed taking part. A visitor from the Historical Society visited school and talked to the children about the celebrations and asked them to take part by producing



some art work to accompany the flower displays for the church. The children learned about the life of Nevil Maskelyne in class and created art work that was displayed in the Church during the week. Mr Tucker and a few children also attended the Church Service that was held to celebrate the life and work of the Astronomer Royal. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 were also lucky enough to be invited to visit the Planetarium at the Village Hall. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were captivated by the spectacle of the solar system inside the Planetarium. Thank you very much to the Purton Historical Society for inviting the children to take part.

The children were treated to a performance during science week by a travelling theatre company. 'Inspector Clueless and the Missing Materials' encouraged the children to use their skills of deduction and knowledge of materials to help unravel an intriguing scientific mystery. The children had an excellent time and learned a great deal from the experience of watching the performance. Watching a performance is always a great way to learn and this was no exception.

We welcomed a variety of visitors to school during the week to speak to the children about different areas relating to science. One of these visitors is a 'real life' scientist who was able to inspire many of the children to think about whether they too might like to be scientists when they grow up!

An assembly by a nurse from the GWH Fracture Clinic also enabled the children to gain an understanding of the human body and how we can intervene to help mend it when things go wrong. Again, hopefully this might have inspired some children to go into medicine when they are older.

The week culminated in a rocket launch on the playground. The children gathered together to witness the event and loud cheers of excitement must certainly have been heard for miles around! Who knows, perhaps there are some future rocket scientists in our midst too?

This term we have some exciting staff news to share with you too. Our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Clarke, will be leaving us in early June to have her baby and we are all looking forward to hearing her news when the little one is born. We will keep you posted!

Wootton Bassett Orchestra

Wootton Bassett Orchestra will be holding its Summer Concert on Saturday, 9 July, 2011 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton Bassett.

Tickets are available from Brian Taylor Music Shop, in Wootton Bassett, or on the door.

Prices of tickets are: Adults £6, and Under-16s £1.

The performance includes both classical and light popular works by composers such as Gershwin, Elgar, Saint-Saens, Liszt and Leroy Anderson. The audience will recognise music from *Fiddler on the Roof!* There are also solo performances for the clarinet, violin, viola and cello.

As always, it promises to be a most enjoyable evening!

HELEN WATTS, Publicity

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.



■ PAULINE STALEY

We were so saddened to hear about the death of Pauline Staley. Pauline was a wonderfully brave lady, who had a heart of gold. She cared for so many people, through her work at The Cedars; and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her skill, care and devotion to duty.

Thank you Pauline. You were so special to many people in Purton. We shall miss you.

St Mary's PPC

■ CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all involved in producing the June edition of the Purton Magazine. From the joyful photo on the front cover to the jokes in *On the Lighter Side* at the back, the magazine was stimulating, informative and fun. Especially valuable were the Ps & Qs' article on how to attract beneficial insects and the one by Claire Camm, our local Good Neighbour Coordinator on the devious ploys of thieves.

Having toiled over producing school magazines years ago, I very much appreciate the thought, hard work and

professional production values behind such a good read. Thank you all.

Diana Thombs

■ ACCIDENT ASSISTANCE

I would like to say thank-you to the wonderful girls at "Shear Success" hair salon at Witts Lane and my bowls friends and many other people who came to my assistance after an accident. It was very much appreciated.

JA Fish

■ RUBY WEDDING

We would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary on Saturday 21 May. We had a great time and hope that everyone else did. An especially big thanks to Margaret Cremin for helping to organise the food and decorations and Wendy Johnson for helping out in the kitchen.

Barbara and Len Page

Purton Guide Dogs

I did the Stall at Drove Vets Open Day on 5 June and took £49 on the Tombola and £30.90 on the Trading Goods. There were one or two heavy showers. As I write, I am getting ready for the stall at the Purton Carnival Fete on the 11th and Bowood Show on the Sunday ... and hoping for some better weather. Thanks for your continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



Just a Thought

- Man who drives like hell is bound to get there!

Purton Diary - July 2011

		<i>July</i>	
2	Sa	10.00am	<i>to Sept:</i> Maskelyne Exhibition at Museum - see posters for dates/times
		11.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Age Concern Coffee morning at Greystones, Bentham
			<i>to 4pm:</i> Shopping Fair at Village Hall (by P&L Charity Fund)
3	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service for LEP Anniversary at the Methodist Church
		12noon	<i>to 2pm:</i> Bring & Share Lunch at Silver Threads Hall to celebrate ordination of Judith Wells
		1.00pm	County Girls' Cricket match at Cricket Field: Wilts v Somerset - see p54 for full fixture list
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
6	W	9.30am	Age Concern day trip to Windsor
7	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
8	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
9	Sa	7.30pm	Wootton Bassett Orchestra concert, Memorial Hall, WB
10	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
		4.00pm	Songs of Praise United Service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
11	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
12	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
13	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship: Members' cream tea at Hooks Hill
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
16	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 5pm:</i> Purton Stoke Open Gardens and Scarecrows
		9.00pm	Cricket Club annual Raffle at Red House
17	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	<i>to 5pm:</i> Purton Stoke Open Gardens and Scarecrows
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		3.00pm	<i>to 5pm:</i> Live Jazz & Blues at Cricklade Cricket Ground
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	United Service at Wootton Bassett Methodist Church
119	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: Summer Get Together at Helen's
20	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House

		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI: Shirley Smith – <i>Nanny for 50 years</i>
21	Th	9.30am	Leavers Service at St Mary's Church
23	Sa	11.00am 10.00am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Kids Go Free at Swindon & Cricklade Railway Historical Society: Visit to Highworth - details on p14
24	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 11.00am 2.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Parish Communion at St Mary's Church <i>to 4pm:</i> Kids Go Free at Swindon & Cricklade Railway <i>to 5pm:</i> Cream Tea and Entertainment at College Farm House (by Luncheon Club) Evensong at St Mary's Church
26	Tu	2.00pm 7.30pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Dorcan Choir</i> Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Sue Smith & Sue Todd - <i>Wild Flowers of the Cotswolds</i>
27	W	6.30pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars Carnival Open Meeting at Silver Threads Hall
29	F	6.00pm	Books & Bangers at Red Lodge, Braydon
31	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 1.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church County Girls' Cricket match at Cricket Field: Wilts v Dorset Evensong at St Mary's Church

August

3	W	9.30am	Age Concern Village outing to Weston
6	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall

Every week

Tu	9.15am 7.30pm	<i>to 11.30am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am 6.30pm	<i>to 12noon:</i> Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
W	7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Red House
Th	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am:</i> Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	11.15am	<i>to 1pm:</i> New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
Th	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Moon Phases

● 1 July ● 8 July ○ 15 July ● 21 July ● 30 July

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

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill

or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

PURTON PLACARD

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

PURTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

50th Anniversary

Commemorating the bicentenary
of the death of Nevil Maskelyne
5th Astronomer Royal



July - September

Exhibition at Purton Museum

20 August

Family Activities Day at the
Village Hall

10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm

Cricklade Coffee Club for the visually impaired

Next Club Meeting 19 July

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.



Cricklade Cricket Club

Relax, unwind and
start your summer with an

AFTERNOON OF LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

by "The Mighty Jukes"
complemented 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!

5th Purton Stoke Open Gardens

July 16 (10-5) and 17 (10-4)

plus scarecrows by the score

passports £3 adults
children free

from The Bell Inn
after 1 July



or any open garden on the day
contact : Jim Caslaw on 770509

Come and join us at the **COFFEE MORNING**

at Greystones, Bentham Lane,
Purton Stoke

by kind invitation of the Bryants
on Saturday 2 July
10 am to 12 noon
to raise funds for Purton Age
Concern

Home made cakes, plants, books,
bric a brac, raffle and tombola

Celebration for Judith Wells

on her Ordination as a Deacon & Curate of St Mary's Church, Purton

You are invited to a Bring and Share Lunch on Sunday 3 July
from 12.00pm to 2.00pm
in The Silver Threads Hall, Purton

Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided

For further information please contact Sandra -Tel 01793 770157,
Gladys 01793 770375, Val 01793 771201

Look forward to seeing you there...

Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund

Summer Shopping Fair,

Saturday 2 July 2011 11am-4pm,
Purton Village Hall

Village Fair

Saturday 3 September 2011,
11am-4pm,
Sun Inn Lydiard Millicent

Details, table bookings etc - see page 42

To find out more please contact:

Lynda Warren, Tel 01793 771453,

lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk



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.

Purton Luncheon Club

Warmly invites you to

Cream Tea and Entertainment

on Sunday 24 July at
College Farm House, Purton
from 2 - 5pm

Tickets: £4 or £3 for senior citizens
from Elizabeth Ward 770238
or Caroline McLean 770525

Raffle Cakes

Plant & Produce Stall

* Please note new date *

The Merchant's House Summer Lunch

on Sunday 24 July at
at Marlborough College Court
from 12 noon - 3.30pm

Entertainment by Sarsen Songmen
Quirky Question Time'

quiz, raffle and museum display

Tickets: £17 (MH Friends £15)
from The Merchant's House,
132 High Street, Marlborough
include welcoming glass of fizz and
buffet lunch

More details from:

www.themerchantshouse.co.uk

James (Jim) Verity

Many of you will know by now that sadly Jim Verity died on Sunday 5 June after a short illness.

Jim was born in Wakefield in 1929 and after leaving grammar school joined the Royal Air force. At first he was in the Equipment and Stores section where he was posted to many stations all over the world. He later transferred to being a loadmaster finally ending up as a Master Air Load Master holding the rank of Warrant Officer. His postings included RAF Marham, Lyneham and finally Brize Norton. For his exemplary services in this profession in 1968 he was awarded an MBE. He was extremely proud of this honour, bestowed on him at Buckingham Palace. During this time he ferried many dignitaries around the world including The Queen, Prince Charles, Princess Alexander, Lord Mountbatten plus many high ranking VIPs.

On leaving the service he involved himself in village life joining The British Legion and Purton Probus Club plus spending time at his passion for Golf.

Jim and Frances made many friends and he will be sadly missed them all.

Frances would like to thank everybody who has helped her over the past months and for all the cards and condolences.

DAVID SWEET

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Hillside, Station Road, Willowbrook, Bamford Close, Shaftesbury Close, Widham, Clardon Lane and New Road*. 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.

We Record ...

Weddings

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 27 May | Paul James Woolford and Sally Louise Macey
<i>at St Mary's Church</i> |
| 4 June | William John Forty and Natalie Jay Barwell
<i>at St Mary's Church</i> |



Deaths

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| 5 June | Jim (James) Verity |
|--------|--------------------|

Funerals

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 19 May | Doreen Thompson <i>at Purton Methodist Church</i> |
| 23 May | Jean Mary Ella Gale <i>Funeral Service at the Crematorium followed by Memorial Service at St Mary's Church</i> |
| 24 May | Pauline Staley <i>at St Mary's Church</i> |

To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on [page 4](#). We are happy to include births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays and anniversaries, exam successes ...

President Trish Baker took the meeting of 18 May with slightly less support than customary from her Committee, as many members were supporting our skittle team elsewhere! (They won the close-fought final with member Sylvie Kimber getting the highest score – congratulations to all!). However, everything went along as well organised as ever and we enjoyed the extra company of two Hook WI members..

A scheme for assessing how much (or otherwise) we appreciate each meeting has been set up: at the back of the hall will be seen tokens - red for not happy, green for an enjoyable evening. If, as we leave, we each put one token in the box it will be seen, almost at a glance, how successful that meeting has been. (So far, only one red token has been given, a great start!)

Nationally, threat of the withdrawal of cheques is beginning to darken the horizon and the President would be happy to hear members' opinions, so please don't hesitate to tell her, or a Committee member, what you think on the subject.

How the year flies by! We now know that next year's calendars will cost £2.50 and diaries £3.50! It will soon be time to put in our orders.

We are delighted to report that as a result of catering for teas for the highly successful Maskelyne event, a welcome £48 was raised towards our funds. Thanks to all who helped and especially those who sacrificed a Saturday afternoon to serve tea.

The speaker for the meeting was Hazel Gillingham on "Mary Seacole". This lady was a mulatto (of mixed race) born in 1895 in Jamaica and lived an extremely full life, travelling in the Caribbean and back and forth to London. A believer in the need for good food, comfort and help, she was well involved with caring for wounded British soldiers (of whom there were plenty in the Caribbean in those days) but eventually she went to the Crimea, where the opposition of Florence Nightingale did her no good and even some harm. She was a hotel owner, an accomplished cook and an author, but it is only recently that her fine qualities have been recognised – she has been the subject of TV programmes, and honoured with blue plaques on the two houses in London where she had lived. She wrote a book on her travels, which must have been undertaken in quite different conditions from those we enjoy. Helen Dixon gave the vote of thanks and spoke for us all in saying that she had seen the name "Seacole" particularly on hospital wards, and had not until now recognised its significance.

Purton Stoke Open Gardens and Scarecrow Festival will be held on 16-17 July and there will be many amusing sights – normally there are about 80 scarecrows of different and novel design – and a score of gardens will be open. From 10.30am till 4.30pm on Saturday 16 July, there will be a WI stall at Plum Tree Cottage (home of our President) and we look forward to seeing as many members and their friends as possible, to bring and to buy!

Please treat this as urgent – if you haven't already done so, please give a member of the committee a photograph of yourself as a baby or up to 5 years old, and put your name on the back of the picture. These will all be mounted and used

for the July competition – guessing the identity of the child in the photograph – which should lead to a great deal of laughter and probably wrong answers!

The speaker for our meeting of 20 July will be Shirley Smith, who will give a talk entitled “Nanny for 50 years” (hence the relevance of the baby photograph competition!). A book or toy from your childhood would also be enjoyed.

CONSTANCE REED (771 571)

After 8

An evening entitled – My Life in books

A group of like-minded ladies gathered to discuss *My Life in Books*. What would the evening consist of? ... would we like the same books/authors? The discussion ranged from our early childhood, through school age, to late teens to a guilty read to one that has maybe influenced our career. We decided that a good starting point was whether you were read to by your parents/grandparents when you were a child (still very relevant today)? Memories of childhood books ranged from, Noddy, Fairy Stories, Thomas the Tank Engine, Beatrix Potter and many more.



We had a wide-ranging discussion on how books affected us during our school years and into our late teens, whether it was a ‘guilty read’ for holidays or a serious ‘good read’. What do you want to gain from a book – information, historical detail with a mystery, romance, escapism, relaxation; in essence we wish to be entertained. Whatever your need there is a book out there for you! What do you think your choice of books says about you?

Inevitably, we discussed the changes in publishing. As in all aspects of life this is moving very rapidly. We do not know what effect the e-book will have on reading habits, publishing and creative writing. For those who love books, the feel, smell, pleasure of taking one down from the shelf – it is depressing to hear people prophesying the death of the book. Friends who own a Kindle (e-book) are full of its praise. It's brilliant to take on holiday; you can download a book in 20 seconds; it weighs no more than a paperback, the list goes on.

In summary, we felt that the novel will endure and hopefully run in tandem with e-books. Happy reading to you all.

Many thanks, Avril, for initiating this discussion and for hosting the evening.

SANDRA HORSNALL

The After 8 version of the Moral Maze!

We all met at Sandra's house and it was good to welcome some potential new members. Our evening was based on Radio 4's programme *The Moral Maze* but unfortunately we couldn't arrange for Michael Buerk to chair the discussion! In Michael's absence, Sandra did an excellent job in guiding our discussions with help from members who had researched various topics.

Should a couple live together before marriage? State education v fee-paying schools? Should children be taken out of school in term time for holidays or should travel companies be encouraged to level out the prices throughout the year? Do footballers, popstars and Local Authority Chief Executives (amongst others) deserve the salaries that they receive?

We had a lively but friendly discussion about these and other subjects and it soon became apparent that we had varying views and in many cases there wasn't a clear-cut right or wrong ... although, I expect, some of us wouldn't mind having a share of Wayne Rooney's wages!

Our thanks to Sandra both for her hospitality and leading the meeting.

HELEN DIXON

New members are always welcome, please contact: Avril (01793 771542) or Janet (770838) July meeting: *Summer Get Together* -Tuesday 19 July at Helen's at 8pm.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Units have been working on challenge badges this month:

2nd Purton Brownies have completed the 'World Guiding goes Tartan' challenge, which commemorates the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Conference taking place in Edinburgh in July. They spent two weeks preparing for their International Market. At the World Conference the delegates spend an evening having such an event at which they sell items from their own country. The Brownies made spice plaits, bead bracelets and Vietnamese lady bookmarks. They also sold cakes and biscuits which they'd decorated, sold Fairtrade tea and coffee and had a Fairtrade raffle. Families and friends attended and £53.09 was raised for the Guide Friendship Fund. All the Brownies have now received a very smart tartan badge.

1st Purton Brownies have been continuing the 'Adventure Out' challenge: they have been out for a litter picking walk (look out for the Keep Purton Tidy posters they attached to bins); they've made constellation viewers and had an outdoor sports evening with putting, boules and an assault course. The constellation evening linked in with a visit some Brownies from both units made to the mobile planetarium which was in Purton as part of the Nevil Maskelyne celebrations; we must thank the Historical Society for thinking of those girls in the Brownie units who don't attend St Mary's School by inviting them along. The Brownies who went to the planetarium, either with St Mary's or on the Brownie visit, thoroughly enjoyed themselves (as did the leaders!).

The 'Royal Wedding Challenge Badge' is what the Guides have been focusing on. Their activities have ranged from a Kim's Game (memory game) and a game of Hunt the Ring, to designing their own cakes and stamps. They've also been creative in making dresses out of toilet roll, decorating gingerbread men and making up their own cocktails.

We also need to officially welcome two new Young Leaders to the Brownie units this month: Jo Cook (aka Dragonfly) has joined 1st Purton Brownies and Ellen Cleary has joined 2nd Purton Brownies. We are very pleased to have their help.

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



Bradon Forest School News - www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk

GREECE TRIP TO TOLON (Mainland Greece) Easter 2011

Mr Hutchings (Group Leader) reports: Sun, sand, sea and a host of ancient cultural sites steeped in a lush history of love, violence and revenge – what more could a Year 11 student wish for? This year, the students were very lucky with the weather with no rain and very few clouds. The cultural visits included a Fortress at Nauplion, the ancient site of Mycenae), the 14,000 seater amphitheatre at Epidaurus, as well as the Parthenon and the changing of the guard at the Parliament buildings in Athens. The students were a credit to Bradon Forest School. They consistently showed maturity by both their behaviour and unfailing punctuality. They took an active interest in the sites, the environment as well as cultural differences. I would like to sincerely thank the students for making the trip such a success.



GLOBAL SCHOOLS' PARTNERSHIP:

Tobago Visit (Carnival Arts for Global Tolerance 3 – 10 March 2011)

Mr Bray (Head of Key Stage 4) made an inaugural visit to our new partner school, Goodwood High School in Tobago. Several days were spent in the High School being introduced to dignitaries from Tobago and the school and looking at the educational system in Tobago. The main purpose of the visit was the Tobago Masquerade Carnival (*pictured right*) in which the school was involved in many different ways. The Carnival was over two very intensive days.



Mr Bray reports: It was a fantastic opportunity for me to experience a totally different way of life and the wonder of the masquerade in all its colour and musical splendour. I also witnessed a very different form of cricket at the school which was high paced and very bouncy. Luckily I was not on the receiving end and umpired the game in my suit in 32 degrees heat in the middle of the day. Hot, hot, hot! In the second part of the partnership a member of Goodwood High School will visit Bradon Forest School and give workshops on the Carnival Arts and experience some of our culture in Britain.

THE BRADON FOREST YEAR 9 INVASION OF NORMANDY! Easter 2011

During the Easter break, 37 Year 9 History students went on a trip to Normandy



to study the Norman invasion of Britain and the D-Day invasion of Normandy. First was a visit to the Pegasus Bridge and the museum where they learnt about the gliders and parachutists who played an important part in D-Day. The day ended with a visit to Ranville Cemetery where many of those who died at Pegasus Bridge are buried. The next day began with a trip to Omaha Beach to visit the American cemetery. Then it was off to

Arromanches for a look at the famous Mulberry harbours and a trip to the 360° cinema, which was a poignant look at the D-Day landings and their impact on Normandy today. Then it was time to travel back in time to 1066 and the Norman Invasion of Britain. A trip to the town of Bayeux and a visit to the famous tapestry provided a contrast to the two invasions and this was followed by a visit to Falaise Castle. The afternoon was spent in Bayeux where we paid our respects to the British soldiers who died during D-Day. Nathan Hiles was chosen as Bradon Forest's representative to lay a wreath followed by a minute's silence by the group. The last day included a trip to the Atlantic Wall Museum and a WWII bunker complete with observation equipment and guns.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund

Summer Shopping Fair, Saturday 2 July 2011

11am-4pm, Purton Village Hall, Station Road, Purton

Scarves, watches, jewellery, embroidered flannels and towels

Russian hand painted crafts, clothing, bags, wands, hair garlands

jewellery, produce, Jamie Oliver at Home,

Body Shop at Home, hand crafted cards.

Free entrance - Raffle - Tombola - Coffee and Cakes - Lunches - Afternoon Tea

Village Fair, Saturday 3 September 2011, 11am-4pm,

Sun Inn Lydiard Millicent

Charities are invited to have a stall to publicise or fund raise for just £5.

Free entrance - BBQ - Food and Drink from Bar - Raffle

Games - Face Painting - Tombola

Craft Show, Saturday 5 November 2011, 10am-4.30pm,

Village Hall, Station Road, Purton

Still a few tables left. All crafts must be hand made.

To find out more please contact:

Lynda Warren, Tel 01793 771453,

lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk



Green Tips – Nuclear versus Renewables: choices ...

So, as Japan's nuclear crisis continues to unfold, energy and environmental experts have noted that investor confidence in the technology is beginning to wane, with renewable energy and fossil fuels the likely beneficiaries. The Japanese tragedy comes on top of the oil price rise, the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the continued unrest in the Middle East, all of which has made renewables more attractive. Whilst some would expect investment in renewables, especially solar, to increase and that nuclear will become politically unacceptable, others argue that at the very least, we would expect significant investments in nuclear power to be delayed, or deferred, for one to two years.

In arguing the nuclear case some note that of the tens of thousands of people killed in Japan, "only" a few will be from nuclear power. It is pointed out that Chernobyl, for instance, could only have occurred in the former Soviet Union and couldn't occur in the UK. The mood in the Coalition Government seems to be that we are not susceptible to seismic shifts or tsunamis, on the scale of elsewhere in the world and, anyway, we will simply build ours better and safer. But, as MP Caroline Lucas said: "You will never be able to completely design out human error, design failure or natural disaster,"

In Japan, somebody is going to wind up paying the bill and it will be the Japanese public, one way or another, and that is undoubtedly going to filter back to the debate in Europe as a further factor in the very dubious economics of these facilities. Political confidence took at least three years to recover after the partial core meltdown in Unit 2 of the Three Mile Island accident in 1979. But any renewed confidence was shattered six years later in April 1986 after the Chernobyl accident – the most devastating in the history of nuclear power. World leaders categorically declared their continued intention to rely on the source of energy within weeks of the catastrophe, but funding for nuclear energy research dried up, the public became hostile, and financiers in the US and Europe shunned the industry. No new reactors were ordered in the US for 25 years while Germany, Italy and many other European countries banned the expansion of the energy source.

By 2020, the UK may be generating only about 80% of the electricity it needs. Although fossil fuels will remain the mainstay of supply, with renewables expanding, nuclear power will still be advocated, arguing that if the UK is to remain on the path of reducing atmospheric emissions of greenhouse gases, it will need to retain some nuclear capacity. Renewables could have been supplying 40% of generation by 2050 but a short-sighted lack of research and development between 1990 and 2010 ensured twenty years of delay.

The immediate issue is the impending closure of most British nuclear power stations and many coal-fired units. By 2015, all four Magnox nuclear stations, now operating, should have shut down, as will five of the seven stations running Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors. Under the European Large Combustion Plant Directive, many of our coal-fired plants will also close during the next decade.

In principle, the gap could be bridged by new power stations burning gas or coal;



but this would work against the UK's agreed short term targets and long term aspirations of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, demand will continue to rise; and managing that demand will be a key issue. Technologies exist to increase efficiencies, but they are not being used to anything like their full potential, largely because the public have not been properly engaged in the energy issue by the Government.

Investment in renewables has been long overdue and so the gap in electricity supplies, left by nuclear closures, will almost certainly have to be bridged by building new reactors, if the UK is to fulfil its long term ambitions on climate change. That is one view. Another is that more than 50% of Britain's greenhouse gas emissions come directly or indirectly from buildings; and the key to dealing with that source of emissions lies in renewables (mostly wind and solar) and energy efficiency. Choices ...

P.S. as we sent this article to the Magazine, Germany announced it was going to close all its nuclear power stations for good; let's hope the UK Government sees and does the obvious too.

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

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

Kids Go Free Weekend

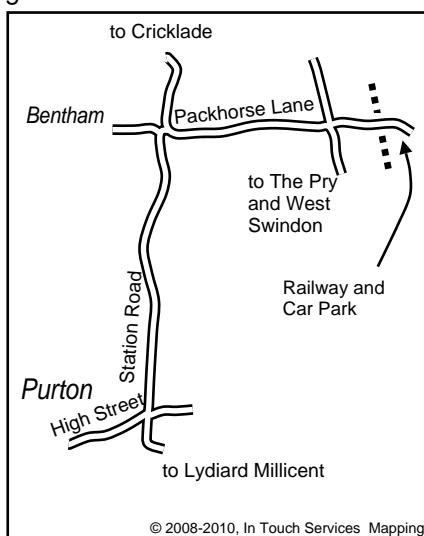
SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 JULY: These special weekends are great for parents – every adult buying a ticket can bring a child at no extra cost.

Tickets, to ride all day from 11.00am to 4.00pm on our two and a half miles of track, cost £7 for adults and £6 for seniors for steam rides on Sunday or £6 for adults and £5 for seniors for diesel train rides on Saturday. There is a cafeteria, shop, museum and picnic area, so come and spend the day with us.

To reserve places for the CREAM TEA on **3 July**, in the Moonraker Dining Car, phone 01367 820623 or email kajim@talktalk.net

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.



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Exhibit of the Month: The Building of Willowbrook

Since I only moved to Purton in 1997, I rely on old photos, old maps and clues in the landscape to work out how the village used to look. I have put together a group of exhibits this month to look at the building of the estate at Willowbrook in 1986 – 25 years ago.

The first picture (1985) shows the view over the field that was to become Willowbrook. It is taken from a point on Station Road and includes the Collins Lane Pikehouse far right. The houses behind the field are in Wits Lane and Waitemeads Close.



The second picture is taken from inside the field and shows the road being marked out. Running off on the left hand side of the picture is the old footpath that ran from Station Road to Waitemeads Close. This was reinstated as a tarmac footpath that runs between Nos 15 and 16 Willowbrook.



Picture No 3 (now into 1986) shows the start of construction with a digger in operation ... as well as the "Land Sold" board alongside the Station Road pavement. We are fortunate for comparison purposes that the photographer chose almost the same spot for the series of photos.

The sales brochure from Rendell Homes describes Willowbrook as "beautiful new homes in a country village close to Swindon". The 1:500 scale plot plan shows a total of 20 properties:

- 4 x 3-bed semis
- 4 x 3-bed detached
- 3 x 4-bed detached
- 9 x 3-bed bungalows



It wasn't long before the houses sprouted from the ground and the fourth picture (*next page*) shows the roof going on at one of the properties closest to the road entrance from Station Road. This in fact is now No 1 Willowbrook.



4

Of course we have to end with a picture from 1988 which shows the finished product. Houses are built and people have moved in.

Other may disagree, but to my mind, as a well-defined development, it is almost impossible to imagine Willowbrook not existing today and it seems to me to fit in with the character of the village. Footpaths come and go and sometimes get diverted, but you can still walk from Station Road to Waite Meads Close ... and without getting your feet muddy.

Visit us on our web site at www.purtonmuseum.com where there will be a construction plot plan and all these pictures in colour.

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer



5

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

Purton is a village and the Tennis Club is one of the many organisations that exist for the community hoping, in our case, to give opportunities for sport in particular and social activity in general. We are not a rich club but we work hard to balance the books because approximately every ten years we have to face a bill of about £13,000 to resurface two of the four courts. This is not an insubstantial sum and to date we have had no outside helping in meeting those bills.

So you can imagine how very frustrating it is that acts of minor vandalism which destroy our fencing or damage the clubhouse become a drain on our limited financial resources. This has been a problem recently and we would be most grateful if anyone who is in the area of the tennis courts notices any suspicious behaviour could report it to us. We hope that increased vigilance will help to deter vandals who seem to enjoy destroying property at random. We are not the only ones who suffer we know – but any help we can get will be appreciated!

On a more positive note we have good news of our junior members. Nicola Gardner reports:-

The boys have played 4 matches since the last bulletin. The U16 have recorded a fine win against Minety with Singles wins for Daniel Horsell, Jake Looker and Matty Hall and a Doubles win for Jake and Conor Webley. Although not recording a win, Jack Adams, playing at number 1, put up a good performance against a very strong opposition. This was followed by a humbling 6-0 defeat against a very strong Ramsbury side.

The U18 team have also won one and lost one. In a very closely fought match we lost out to local rivals Wootton Bassett by 4 matches to 2 with Stephen Fenn the only one to win his singles. In the doubles Jordan Richards and Jack Adams played extremely well to win on the match tie-break against a strong first pair. We defeated a young Wanborough side 5-1.

Once again all the matches have been played in very good spirit.

Although numbers are down on a Saturday morning those attending are enjoying their tennis and as a result are improving rapidly.

CAROLINE McLEAN

Purton Bowls Club

The men's Wilts, Swindon and District games continue with mixed results. On Monday afternoons the men have four teams playing in the retired triples (now known as the Tea and Biscuit League). The men won the first round of the Tourist Trophy against Supermarine. D. Hall , M. Holland and C. Baker lost by one shot against Westlecott in the last eight of the county triples. The ladies continue in the two-rink evening league and afternoon triples. Alison Fail and Christine Mitchell won the first round of the ladies pairs, both players have been picked to play for the County in the Johns Trophy against Somerset at Yeovil on 14 June.

Don't forget at 6.30pm on Friday evenings our coach, Victor Austin,(01793 721495) will be on hand for anyone interested.



BARBARA WOOLFORD

Purton Cricket Club

After a poor start to the season, the 1st XI followed two defeats by winning the next three matches. New captain, Elliot Hill, is in top form with the bat and has recorded his first century for Purton. The 2nd XI has defeated all its opponents in recording five victories with captain, Dave Allen, scoring heavily and scoring two centuries. Junior players have started well in club, district and county matches and their successes augur well for the future.

The club's annual raffle takes place at the Red House at 9.00pm on the much earlier date, 16 July, than in recent years. Tickets are available from all junior and senior members and from 'Best One' in the Lower Square.

On 3 and 31 July we host two girls' county matches when we are hoping that some Purton girls will be selected to play for Wiltshire. These will be the first occasions, to my knowledge, that girls' teams have played on the Purton ground. We did have a ladies' team from the mid 1990s to the early 2000s and we have hosted ladies county cricket.

Matches in July

2	1 st XI v Swindon NALGO	1.45pm
3	Wilts U13 Girls v Somerset	1.00pm
9	2 nd XI v Mildenhall	1.45pm
10	U15 v Calne	2.00pm
16	1 st XI v Box	1.45pm
17	U13 v Goatacre/Spye	2.00pm
23	2 nd XI v Biddestone	1.45pm
24	U11 v Cannings	10.30am
30	1 st XI v Hinton Charterhouse	1.45pm
31	Wilts U15 Girls v Dorset	1.00pm

From the Archives

From the Rules on the 1899 Fixture Card 'The Annual Subscription for playing and running Members shall be 3/6d payable on or before the first day of May.'

JOE GARDNER

Royal British Legion Horticultural Show 27 August

The schedule for The Royal British Legion Horticultural Show will be available the second week of July from Best One (Lower Square), John Toomers (Lydiard Millicent) and all committee members. Do have a look and come and join in! There is classes for all, including the children. Any queries Contact David Herbert (Chairman) 770002 or Heather Harris (Sec.)770850.



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Purton F. C.

With another season completed, the Club is now looking forward to season 2011/2012 that re-commences for Purton's Hellenic and Wilts league sides on Saturday 13 August with pre-season games in July and in early August. Chris Pethick assisted by Steve Hall will again be at the helm for the Hellenic side and the club welcomes Paul Donnelly as the new manager of the Reserve side along with Albert Dearing who replace Stef Kuczynski and Jim Bennett who both resigned at the end of the season. The Club have also lost Janice Kuczynski who held the Hon Sec's post for the previous three seasons.



At the end of last season at the Annual Presentation Night awards went to:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Reserve Players Player | Rob Harris |
| • Reserve Player of the season | James Turpie |
| • Most Improved Player | Ryan Child |
| • Training Award | Tom Cadden |
| • Sporting & Conduct Award | Jamie Richards |
| • Clubman Award | Steve Hall |
| • Supporters player | Justin Miller |
| • 1 st Team Players Player | Marcus Hall |
| • 1 st Team player of season | Marcus Hall |

Last season saw the Hellenic side finish 6th in their League while the Reserve side finished just below halfway up in theirs with Ashley Gooch leading scorer for Hellenic side and Craig Hogg for the Reserves. At Youth levels the Under 11s "A" fared the best in winning their league and also winning the Wiltshire Under 11s cup. The Under 13s also did well and were runners up in their league and the Under 15s also who looked certain to win their league but dropped off right at the death. They restart their season in September.

The club are still looking for sponsors for the 2011/2012 Season – anyone who is interested should contact Alan Eastwood on 729844 or email alan.eastwood83@ntlworld.com.

ALAN EASTWOOD, President

A Barbecue Summer

Here is an extract from the North Wilts Herald concerning a hot Sunday in July 1883.

OPPOSING INFLUENCES - The parish church at Purton, though a spacious building, is imperfectly ventilated. On Sunday last a gentleman of the congregation found it necessary, owing to the intense heat, to open one of the doors; he had scarcely time to resume his seat when a lady rose hastily from hers and closed it. The heat became so oppressive that some of the congregation were compelled to leave before the close of the service.

We may possibly have a scorching July in 2011 but nowadays we don't have contrary ladies like that in the congregation ... do we?

ERIC BALL

ATOZ OF PURTON

M is for ... Mud Lane

This lane is an ancient route in Purton which extends out from the Iron Age Settlement also known by locals as “the camp” from Ringsbury to Restrop being part of the way from Minety to Swindon via Bagbury Lane, as marked on the Parish of Purton map dated 1744.

The lane, FP no.104 on the ordnance survey map (Explorer sheet 169), well used in the past by generations of Purtonians and others, has sadly now become neglected.

A Diversion Order for FP no. 104 (Part) was made in 2010, and since that time a Definitive Map Modification Order no. 16 2011 was confirmed to record Mud Lane with the status of bridleway.

Through this action a threat of closure hangs over our ancient right of way, resulting in the loss of yet another piece of our precious heritage.

M is for ... Maskelyne

The name of one of the longest standing families in the history of Purton. Their first home was at West Marsh where George and Jane Maskelyne lived at the time of Queen Elizabeth I. Son Edmund greatly extended the land belonging to the family and became Member of Parliament for Cricklade in 1625. His son Nevill established a charity for the poor of Purton, together with a payment for a minister to

preach a sermon on Good Friday. He also became M.P. for Cricklade. His eldest son Nevil moved the family home to The Downs while his third son, Edmund, married to Elizabeth, had three sons and one daughter. The eldest son William inherited The Ponds at Purton Stoke, then their second son, Captain Edmund, bought the Bassett Down estate on his return from India. Third son Nevil (*above*), the most gifted member of the family, was appointed the fifth Astronomer Royal by George III in 1765. Their sister Margaret married Robert Clive of India. Nevil died at the Greenwich Observatory on 9th February 1811, but was buried here in St Mary's churchyard. Three generations of fine

memorials can be seen inside the church in the St Nicholas Chapel. Miss Margaret Story Maskelyne (*left*) was the last member of the family to live in Purton.



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

M is for ... Maskelyne Congratulations

The Historical Society needs to be congratulated by the village for the exceptional celebrations that took place in May. Maskelyne certainly was 'a major man of Science' and his bicentenary honoured his memory.

St Mary's Church is especially grateful to Anne Bartlett for her stupendous flower arrangements that added to the beauty of the Church and to the village celebrations. Thanks also to all the children from St Mary's School who decorated the porch and to all others involved.

M is for ... Methodist

The first record we have of any Methodist presence in Purton says that on 3 June 1740 John Wesley (the founder of Methodism) rode on horseback between Oxford and Bristol, and in Purton he 'ate and conversed'. Over 100 years later, the Methodist Churches at Upper Square and Playclose were built.

In 1973 these two congregations merged to become Purton Methodist Church and the church building in the Playclose was renovated for all future use, with the church in Hoggs Lane being closed. We continue to meet today for regular services, and our other works and meetings include Junior Church, youth work, 'Coffee and Chat', Lent Lunches, prayer, Bible study, united services, etc, with many items shared under our Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) with friends at St Mary's Church.

We welcome any who would like to come and join with us.

And what of the future?

With the world changing so quickly in so many ways, we trust God to lead us forward as we know that He has the answer.

M is for ... Minister

The Methodist Minister at Purton since September 2007 has been Rev Steve Cullis, but his appointment finishes on 31 August this year and he now moves to Acle Methodist Church. We wish him, and his wife Julie, a happy time as they move and then settle down in Norfolk. We have enjoyed Steve's ministry and thank him for the time he has spent with us at Purton since September 2007 and in the Upper Thames Circuit since September 2003.

The Rev David Perkins moves from the



Methodist Circuit in the Isle of Man to Wootton Bassett Manse on 1 September and his responsibilities include being the Minister for Purton. We welcome David, and his wife Christine, and we look forward to his time of ministry with us.

M ... is for Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide. In 81 countries, our members share one heartfelt vision – to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue through prayer, programmes, policy work and community relationships. By supporting marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity, we tackle the most urgent needs challenging relationships and communities.

Our members are not all mothers, or even all women. Single, married, parents, grandparents, or young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. For all 4 million members, what Mothers' Union provides is a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community – through prayer, financial support and actively working at the grassroots level in programmes that meet local needs. We lobby local and national governments on issues affecting family life and campaign to challenge legislation that neglects the vulnerable and marginalised. We are also represented at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Mothers' Union in Purton has been in existence for 80 years and currently has 11 members. We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month, normally at the Methodist Church, but occasionally elsewhere. For further information on Mothers' Union in Purton and meeting venues, contact Gladys Legg on 770375.

M is for ... (Purton) Magazine

So many of us read Purton Magazine each month and are unaware of the effort, skill and time that has gone into each edition. Thank you to Rick and In Touch Services as well as all the Committee for making the magazine such a good read.

Purton Magazine is also available ... in colour, at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk. Web site visitor numbers (unique visits) over the last two years are shown in the bar chart below:

