

Purton Magazine



"September Morn, Purton"

By Andy le Poidevin, Purton Artists

September 2011 45p

PURTON CONTACTS



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

LOCAL CHURCHES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Contact: *Revd Judith Wells, Assistant Curate, tel 770627*
Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770210
Alan Woodward, tel 771572
Richard McCarthy, tel 770838
www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton

Services: See Diary Page in this magazine

METHODIST CHURCHES

Minister *Rev 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*

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

Things come in ... and things go out. We have several arrivals and departures this month including a welcome to our new, though temporary, vicar Revd Dr John Railton who will be the incumbent for the next twelve months (see [page 6](#)) while a permanent placement is made. We wish him and his wife Sandy a happy tenure. We also welcome the new Methodist Minister, Revd David Perkins, following the move of Revd Steve Cullis to Norfolk. In contrast we see that the former Methodist Chapel in Purton Stoke is up for sale and we have a delightful article of reminiscences from Eric Ball.

Have you ever wondered about Planning? It often seems to be a dark art and Ps&Qs agree so they have sent in an article which they hope sheds light on it. There are new initiatives coming in left, right and centre ... and going out too. In come Community Area Networks and Community Campuses, while out goes the Northern Area Community Partnership – does any organisation want to apply for a share of their wind-up funds or for redundant equipment?

Good Neighbour coordinator Claire Camm after her valuable service to Purton and Braydon has left and is replaced by Ellen Black – our thanks to Claire and our best wishes to Ellen.

Our Haiku Corner appeal in last month's issue has resulted in a flurry of contributions on a range of subjects. Please keep sending them in.

Late but still welcome is the news that the Wiltshire County History volume for Cricklade including Purton is to be published. Intended as part of a present for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee covering the whole country, it has been somewhat delayed. With the Diamond Jubilee of the present Queen coming up next year, we hope that Tony Richardson and his team won't be so late!

We have Andy Le Poidevin to thank for this month's cover picture, a watercolour entitled *September Morn, Purton*. This is the second in the series of twelve pictures that are being supplied to us by members of Purton Artists.

Our apologies to *Group 4 Patients* and the Purton Surgery. On last month's Editorial page, we said that there were over 64 appointments offered each week* by the 8 doctors in the surgery team. This of course should have been "over 640"!

Errors and omissions excepted, we have a very full magazine this month and we hope there is something in it for everyone.

[8 this was corrected in the Internet version!]

25

Senior Prefects appointed
at Bradon Forest School
for 2011/12
– see [page 34](#)

350

shoeboxes
target for this year's
appeal
– see [page 19](#)

3631

miles dog walk challenge
to be entered by local
Scouts
– see [page 39](#)

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

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Magazine Committee

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[John Creasey](#)

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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News

Annual Walk

The Parish Council will hold its Annual Walk on Sunday 4 September leaving the Village Hall Car Park around 2 pm. The walk will be approximately 3.5 miles, sturdy shoes recommended, open to all ages. We look forward to seeing you.



Rights of Way:

We have an informal Rights of Way meeting scheduled for Monday 5 September starting at 7 pm in Purton Village Hall, if you are interested in walking then why not come along and find out a little more about our local Rights of Way.

Planning Meeting – A Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for the same evening as the Informal Rights of Way meeting (5 September) and will start at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, one of the applications on the agenda will be the Widham Farm Planning Application for 50 dwellings. All are welcome to attend.

Winding up of the Northern Community Area Partnership:

Due to the winding up of this partnership there is a small sum of money available to support capital projects for Community Groups plus a laptop, printer, screen projector and display boards. If you are interested in this then an application needs to be submitted by 19 September. Contact details for an application form is Clive Wilce, NCAP Treasurer, 19 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU Tel 01793 751643 or mobile 07740 038015.

Parking on Pavements:

We receive a lot of complaints about people parking on pavements and have the following advice from the Police – if you see a vehicle parked on the pavement and you consider that it is causing a complete obstruction call 0845 4087000. A Police Officer can then be dispatched to deal with the obstruction.

Overgrowth from hedges and trees – please can you check that you have no overhanging hedges, bushes and trees. At this time of year overgrowth can often cause an obstruction to pavements and other rights of way.

Litter – having talked to some of the young people who use the skate park it is clear that some are of the opinion that our Groundstaff are employed to pick up their litter therefore they feel it is ok to drop it. It has been explained to them that ultimately their parents/guardians pay for the litter to be picked up through their Council Tax and that money could be better spent on other work around the village. Perhaps it is a case that people do need to be reminded that bad habits such as dropping litter costs us all at the end of the day, not only in money but also by creating an unsightly environment to live in and in some cases a dangerous one in particular for animals. Therefore please take litter home with you or use the bins that are provided in and around the village.

The Dog Warden will be in the small meeting room next to the public toilets on Wednesday 7 September from 9 am - 11 am, so if you have any issues you would like to discuss with him he would be pleased to talk to you.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:

- N11/02023/FUL *Broadways, Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke*, two-storey extension & conversion of loft.
- N11/02030/FUL Pump Station and land to the rear of *Paddock House, 23A Purton Stoke*, change of use of former pumping station and yard to garden and ancillary residential uses.
- N11/02204/TCA Purton Cemetery, fell 1 pine tree.

The following are Planning Appeals that have been requested by the applicants of the Planning Applications:

- N11/01265/FUL *7 Locks Lane*, Erection of detached garage and annexe (written representation)
- N11/01533/FUL Erection of dwelling at *Shepherds House, Cricklade Road* (written representation)

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

The 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 St Mary's Church

As you will know, we have been without a permanent vicar at St Mary's since January 2009. As we have had difficulty finding suitable candidates for the role in Purton, the Bishop of Bristol has kindly consented to making a temporary appointment whilst we take stock and think about the best way to move things forward.

We are therefore delighted to announce that the Rev Dr John Railton will be licensed as part-time Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's for 12 months from 1 September. John has been a regular visiting priest at St Mary's during the current vacancy, and we are thrilled that he will be taking an even more active part in the life of our parish. Purton is very fortunate to benefit from John's ministry and we look forward to working with him over the next 12 months.

John is married to Sandy, who is also a priest, and will continue to live in Wroughton during this appointment, but he will become a familiar face over the course of the next year.

If you don't already know John, why not come along to St Mary's in September and say hello?

RICHARD McCARTHY, St Mary's PCC

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 30 September from 9 am to 11 am. 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).

News From The Trustees

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

Since we have had the skateboard park we have experienced problems at the Centre. The main problem is that we have had people breaking into the Millennium Hall. They get in and ride their bikes, scooters etc around the hall marking the floor which we haven't long had done. It means extra work cleaning so that it is suitable for others to use and another thing that happens is that the people who break in are using the cooker and preparing food. We are very disappointed as we are pleased with the way the skateboard park is being used but did not expect things like this to happen. The Trustees kindly allowed the Parish Council to put the skateboard park at the Centre so we are not very happy about all these problems. There is also a great deal of rubbish left around the skateboard park – we have put bins there so please use them for the rubbish. If this doesn't happen we will have to take action to stop all this. It is not fair on other users of the Centre.

On a more positive note, the football season is starting and we wish them a very enjoyable and successful one. The Bowls Club is almost at the end of its season so we hope they have enjoyed themselves. It is the same with the Tennis Club – still hopefully if they get planning permission for lights, they will be playing during the winter months 'at home' instead of joining other clubs.

The Centre is a lovely spot so let's keep it that way and remember that the Centre is a War Memorial to the men who fought and died in the 1939-45 war.

The Institute and Village Hall

The refurbishment of the kitchen is coming along very well. It is almost finished and I must say it looks very nice and bright so this is another step forward. The outside of the Hall and Institute looks good at the moment with the flowers. I think they are the best ones we have had – they look so lovely. We have been so grateful for all the donations we have received to help us with the Village Hall disabled access and the refurbishment and just in case there is anyone who would like to help us with on-going work, here is a new way to donate.

Just Text Giving is a new free service that will allow you to donate to charity by text from your mobile phone. Text donations to any of our charities would be gratefully received.

- To make a £10 donation to Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity, text the message **PIVH00 £10 to 70070**.
- To make a £10 donation to Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity, text the message **PWVC00 £10 to 70070**.
- To make a £10 donation to The Play Close Charity, text the message **PLAY37 £10 to 70070**.

If you wish to donate a lower amount from £1 upwards, you just need to replace the £10 with the amount you wish to donate. All of the money you donate will be paid to the Charity and, of course, you can still call in at the Council Office if you are like me and would prefer to do it the old-fashioned way. Thanks very much for your support.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Philip Tucker

For many years Purton has always had its characters, but sadly back in April we lost one, Purton by adoption, in Phil Tucker. Phil had lived in Purton for some years having come here from his native Cornwall, and he'd never lost his Cornish accent. He was well known around the village, especially the local "Watering Holes" where he often enjoyed many an argument, which was always friendly, sometimes downright hilarious, after all you just couldn't be serious when arguing about whether or not Hitler was born in Shepton Mallett.

There was an occasion when during a debate (well I think it was a debate) Phil had his say and must have touched a nerve with a lady customer. This was in the old *Hope Inn*, and on a Tuesday evening, and she really reared up on Phil. 'You've got a big mouth, Phil,' she told him, but quick as a flash, Phil countered by saying, 'Indeed I have my dear, but it doesn't tell lies'. Exit lady, somewhat deflated.

Phil could be described as loud, because you always knew when he'd arrived, there would usually be a 'one liner' to set things off, and within minutes a good old argument started, good natured, and there were occasions when, with customers all having their say Phil would quietly sit down and listen in. There would always be a big smile on his face, knowing that he'd started something, but he just loved it.

Many of his friends will remember something, that often happened, namely when he started out by ordering a drink at a pub at the top of the village, I believe it was the old *Live and Let Live*, we would take a couple of sips, put his glass on the end of the bar, and announce that he would 'be back shortly'. He'd then move on to the next pub, repeat the process and so on until he reached the *Ghost Train* formerly the *Railway Hotel*), where he would enjoy his drink to the full, and set off back home, calling in at the various locals to finish his drink.

Stories concerning Phil would fill a book, and it was a great shock to his many friends when he passed away. Indeed I was leaving Purton Club to cross the road to home, on the Saturday when I met Phil in the doorway. We exchanged a few "insults" and he went into the Club for a few words with Jimmy Mills. It was a great shock to everyone when we learned that Phil had passed away on the following Monday.

The fact that he was much loved and respected was shown by the wonderful turnout of both friends and family at his funeral.

It had been known for sometime that Phil had suffered from poor health, but he never let this prevent him from enjoying life to the full. His wit was razor sharp, and his "one liners" would have all of us who knew him, listening to him in stitches. Although he was "loud" insofar as you were always know when he was about, Phil was totally harmless, and never had an unkind thought in his head. He was as far as his friends were concerned just a natural comedian, who just enjoyed an argument. His many friends, and in particular those who are members of Purton Club really miss him, for he would always do his best to help you if you had a problem. Rest in Peace Phil. You added much to the life of our village.

*written on behalf on Phil's many friends
at Purton Club by GLYNN SHAILES*

Purton & District Age Concern



We continue to lose people from our community who will be a great loss to Purton as, in many ways, they have all contributed to making our village a lovely place to live. **Len Heath** was born in Stratton and lived there before coming to Purton. He was very musical when he was a teenager and he wanted to be a professional musician but that wasn't to be and he finished up being a coach finisher in the GWR works – was that in 7 Shop I wonder? Like most of us he did his National Service, serving in the RAF which I am sure he enjoyed as he became part of a concert party.

When he left the services he returned to his job in the railway. It wasn't long before he had joined a dance band which had a following from a group of young people from Purton (early groupies?) and one of these was Jean, who was to become his wife. They were married in 1955 and moved into Jubilee Estate but sadly Jean died in 1963 but not before they had produced a daughter Linda and, with the help of Linda's nan, Len brought her up. He no longer played in the band and had switched from the guitar to the accordion which he played for pleasure.

When he retired he was talked into playing in the Kennet Accordion Orchestra by his friend John Barlow. I think this was a two-way thing as it was good for Len and John used to go with him, especially when they toured abroad to Germany and Malta. I am told that one of the highlights of these tours were the finishing-up parties and a lot of black coffee was drunk the next morning! Len enjoyed his music and I must say he was very talented. With his friend Bert he entertained at Clubs, Homes and parties etc, as we in Age Concern found out, as they would come along to our Christmas parties and, my word, didn't we have a good old-fashioned sing-song with them. Len loved his two granddaughters Jenny and Sarah and was a very caring grampy, getting so much pleasure from their company. Sadly his health has been poor over the last couple of years and eventually he moved into Stainsbridge House at Malmesbury, where he settled in well. Goodbye Len and thank you for the pleasure you have given us.

Another gentleman who has left us is **Jim Young**. Jim was a true Purtonian, born in Station Road. The family moved to several different properties during Jim's life as people did in those days. One of the houses where Jim lived was the Coach House in the High Street that used to be part of Norbury Court and, in those days, was the surgery and owned by Dr Crossley who practiced there. My word, times were hard in those days – Jim's father Bert worked for Dr Crossley and, when Jim's dad died and Jim and his brother George were little boys, the day after the funeral Dr Crossley called on Mrs Young and said, 'How did the funeral go? and I must tell you that I want you to move out of the Coach House'. Mrs Young was one up on him because she had already found a cottage on the common.

I always thought that Jim was a farmer's son but actually that was because Mrs Young went to work for Mr Whitaker at Lower Farm, Purton Stoke and he was very kind to the family. They really settled into farming life and this friendship lasted all through Jim's life. When the Whitakers moved to Lancashire Jim would visit them and they would visit the Youngs. At that time Mrs Young was allocated a

council house in Witts Lane and from there they moved to 16 Church Path, where Sheila and I now live. In the mid-1940s Jim worked at Common Farm for his uncle hand-milking cows before and after school. He then started full time but his mother wanted him to have a trade so he became a coach body maker in the GWR. It's funny that the same thing happened to me as I used to spend all my holidays at Bracknell where my uncle was a farmer and I wanted to go and work for him when I left school but I was told the same as Jim. After finishing his apprenticeship, Jim did his national service in the Royal Artillery where he was a driver.

Jim returned to what was now British Rail in 1954 and it was about this time that Jim and Peggy started courting, getting married at Peggy's home town of Cinderford in the Forest of Dean in 1957. They started their married life in part of Joe Staley's house at the end of New Road before taking out a mortgage on their present home in Glevum Close. Jim had several jobs when the railways were closing down – at Pressed Steel and Gordon Russell's Furniture Co and then he had two recalls to British Rail at Reading and stayed there until his retirement. One of the things that always stands out in my mind was that Jim always used to go to Stow Horse Fair. I believe he would get permission to have a day off school and he would come back and tell us all about it – it made me quite envious. Jim had a very good eye and was an excellent dart player. We had quite a few body makers in the village and they would play darts for *The Hope Inn*. They asked Jim to go along and join them and, when he walked in *The Hope Ma Shurey* said 'How old are you Jim Young?' Jim said, 'Seventeen, Mrs Shurey'. She replied, 'You can't have any beer, only lemonade – what do you want, white or red?' A bit different from today – the trouble was that being local Mrs Shurey knew our ages and I got treated the same – although I was tall I could still not get away with anything.

Jim and Peggy have always been very supportive of local charities and we have always appreciated their support. The last time I saw Jim was at the coffee morning at Purton Stoke and it was his wish that donations in lieu of flowers should be shared between us and Purton Helping Hand and we thank the family for respecting his wishes. Jim was a family man with his family coming first and they gave him great pleasure and comfort – Peggy and his children Julie, Christine and Robert and their families – and I am sure Jim would like me to say thank you to you all for being there for him. You were all one big happy family and you are going to miss Jim so much.

John Sorsby was not a Purtonian as he moved here when he was a young boy, living at Widham I believe. It must have been down at the bottom end as he was always saying how, when he was a boy, he played on the great big piles of trees that were hauled from Brockhurt and stored on the Common for Hills. Was Curly Smith in charge of the horses that did the hauling? A few years later the family moved to The Peak then a little later on the Webb family moved there as well and John became bosom pals with Geoffrey Webb. In fact, they were best men to one another at their weddings. Another thing about John and Geoff was that they were both fitters and turners in the GWR. The war came along and John enlisted, serving in North Africa and Italy with the Royal Engineers. John was quite an all-rounder in village life. He played cricket and was an umpire and he rang the

bells at St Mary's (when I would think Ralph Shailes was captain of the tower) and he also played darts, skittles and was a British Legion member. John's first love was cricket and I am not going to say too much about this as someone else is writing about it [See page 61 - Ed.] but he had a long social life with them, was a life member and was also captain of various teams. I know that, for quite a long time, John fancied a young lady called Eve Matthews. Eve was a very good tennis player – that I do know as I partnered her on many occasions. The tennis courts in Purton then were on the bottom end of the cricket field and I wonder if John saw Eve walking to the courts. The war defences were dug through these courts and they were no more – but the tennis club reformed and moved to the Red House. John and Eve got married and, at one time I believe, lived by the bakehouse (not far to go for the cricket!) then they finally settled in Witts Lane.

After losing Eve, John found life a little difficult as you would expect but he gradually overcame this and I believe this was down to the kindness of his neighbours and friends, keeping an eye on him, doing his shopping and giving him meals. How he must have appreciated all the kindness and friendship shown him.

One of the things that stands out in my mind is that, when he was posted to North Africa and he was in a cinema in Cairo in about 1943, he heard a voice behind him and thought, 'I know that voice' – he did – it was Harold Matthews, who was to become his future brother in law.

The sadness continues as **Harold Matthews** has also died – it is a lot for the family to bear as Harold was John's brother-in-law and it fell on Peggy, Harold's wife to make the arrangements for John's funeral and, of course, Harold's, so our thoughts go to Peggy but I know she is drawing great comfort from the way the family have rallied around and are helping. It is a great credit to you all as you must be grieving as well. Harold was one of the large family of Matthews that lived at Quarry Farm at the end of the Hyde but, strangely enough, he was the only one to be born at Quarry Farm. I don't know much about Harold's childhood but, when he left school, he worked at Webbers probably delivering papers or even going down to Purton Station with the barrow they used for selling the papers to those catching the workmen's train. However, after a while, Harold was apprenticed as a barber at Webbers under the guidance of Jack Webber, who was the resident barber. One of the conditions of the apprenticeship was that you were not allowed to set up a business within five miles of Webber's shop.

The war came along and Harold had finished his apprenticeship so he enlisted in the army and, as I have said, he met John Sorsby in Cairo. Harold served in North Africa and Italy – he sailed to North Africa on the Queen Mary. It was a small world because he met Bushy Titcombe on the ship – Bushy lived at Hook then but later moved to Jubilee. The one thing I cannot confirm is that they either took a funnel off the Queen Mary or put one on to disguise it – perhaps someone knows the answer. When Harold returned, he went to work at Vickers then as a driver at Wootton Bassett Dairies – a job he had until he retired and really enjoyed. Mind, I am told that, when Swindon was playing at home, he would get round a bit smartish as, along with Peg they were season ticket holders for over fifty years. They watched the ups and downs during that time and went to Wembley three times – of

course the highlight would have been when Swindon beat Arsenal. During the summer Harold played cricket and used to join in the mass exodus to Paignton for holidays along with a big group that were mainly from the Cricket Club. My word, they had some fun. I think the cricket side of Harold's life will be mentioned elsewhere. Harold was also a good darts player, playing at *The Hope* along with brother Philip, then moving on when the Cricket Club formed their own team and played at *The Angel*.

One thing I did find quite intriguing is that, while playing darts at *The Hope*, the men had a job to find time to get their hair cut as part of the working week was Saturday mornings and the barbers was shut when they came home on the train. So they got talking and Harold said he would cut their hair but hadn't got anywhere to do it. Les Bond, who along with his wife was caretaker of the Institute, said 'You can use a room at the Institute'. This went on for a while and then Eric Webber got to hear of it and sent Harold a letter reminding him of the conditions of his apprenticeship and the five-mile clause, so he had to stop.

Harold was one of our first minibus drivers when we started the service twenty-five years ago. To have someone of Harold's nature helped us to get off on the right foot (and he brought Peg with him as a 'shot gun') and he only gave up when he had a heart attack although Peg carried on for a good number of years. Peg and Harold had a long and happy life together – they were married for sixty-two years and were always together in everything they did. We have always appreciated their support in the many ways they have helped Age Concern and we appreciate donations coming to us in lieu of flowers. In view of Peg and Harold's connection with the minibus, these donations will go to our minibus fund.

Another gentleman who has sadly left us is **John Weldon** who lived in Hooks Hill. John was not a Purtonian but came to Hooks Hill some years ago and loved it. John and his friend Elizabeth were great supporters of Age Concern. In fact, it was through them that we got our first Burns Night off the ground as it was all arranged but we could not get a piper. John found us one and this has now become a popular event. John and Elizabeth came along to the evening to support us. John loved Purton and one of his favourite spots, especially during his illness when he couldn't walk too far, was the seat by the Cenotaph where he would watch the world go by. The Cenotaph working party appreciated the way he was always telling us how well we looked after it. To the families of all the people I have been writing about we offer our deepest sympathy.

I spoke a little earlier about having the minibuses for twenty-five years – we are having a little celebration at the Village Hall on Saturday 10 September from 10 am to 4 pm. We will have the two minibuses on show plus photos of previous ones. There will be free light refreshments so please come along and have a look. We can tell you how they are run and drivers and shot guns will be there to answer questions. We would hope to recruit some new drivers and shot guns so come along and have a chat with us all.

There might still be time to book on our 7 September mystery tour, cost £10 with tea provided and a 2 pm start. If you miss this one, the next one is Wednesday 5 October with a 10 am start – names to street wardens by 23 September, cost £10

with lunch provided. We had a lovely day at Weston but would have liked a few more people to have gone. It is a bit difficult when there are 74 people going – you have to order a 36-seater and a 49-seater, so we have to subsidise the difference. Never mind, we all had a lovely day and Weston is such a nice place now with the front complete and the new pier.

With all this going on we have to start fundraising and our next event is a jumble sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 3 September at 2 pm. Jumble can be left at the hall between 12 noon and 1 pm. Following on from the jumble sale we have our quiz night in the Silver Threads Hall on Friday 7 October, starting at 7.30 pm.

As a final note I would like to wish our new, though part-time vicar John Railton and his wife Sandy every success in their twelve month tenure. Also to the PCC for their hard work in accomplishing this.

TONY PRICE

Wiltshire Good Neighbours Scheme

Hi, I am Ellen Blacker and am delighted to have taken over from Claire Camm as the Good Neighbour Co-ordinator (GNC) for Purton, Braydon and the surrounding area.

A little about myself – I have lived in Dauntsey and Brinkworth for the last 30 years, originally coming north from Somerset for work. I am married and have 3 children. I started as GNC in Christian Malford, Dauntsey and Brinkworth last October as part of the pilot group for the Scheme in the North of the County.

When I was asked to take over from Claire, I never expected to find that this area was so active. I have trawled through the wonderful Purton Magazine and the many village related web sites and am amazed at how much goes on here! Claire tells me that there is a great community feeling and my first visits to the clubs have born this out. I have been made very welcome both by organisers and members alike. I look forward to meeting and getting to know many more of you very soon.

Just a reminder of the purpose of The Good Neighbour Scheme. It aims to support older and potentially vulnerable people to:

- Stay safe in the home (fire and security)
- Feel part of the community (local clubs and activities)
- Get help at home or going out and about (local transport, home care)
- Stay physically and mentally well (befriending, being socially active)

Meanwhile, if you have any problems or feel that I can help please do call me on 07557 110414 or email me at gncarea06@communityfirst.org.uk

Give me a challenge ... no question is too silly!

ELLEN BLACKER

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in Jubilee Estate, Vasterne Close, Hoggs Lane & Vasterne 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.

Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board (WB&CAB)

Wootton Bassett and Cricklade CAN (Community Area Network) is a new way to keep in touch with things that are happening locally with regular news from the Council, Police, NHS and many other local community groups and organisations. Have a say on important issues and take part in local events and activities. Wootton Bassett and Cricklade CAN will put you in the picture. You can join us at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/contactareaboardform.htm.

The Chairman of the WB&CAB has called an Extraordinary meeting which will take place on Monday 19 September, starting at 7 pm with light refreshments and networking from 6.30 pm, at the Memorial Hall, Tanners Close, Wootton Bassett.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider proposals from the Wootton Bassett Shadow Community Operations Board on the Wootton Bassett Campus. The agenda for this meeting will be published and available on the Wiltshire Council web site on Friday 9 September.

Public participation will be welcome as always.

ALISON SULLIVAN

Community Campuses

Residents are urged to have their say on proposals for Community Campuses for the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett areas. The Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board has set up two Shadow Community Operations Boards, one for the Cricklade area, and one for Wootton Bassett area, both made up of local residents, to consult with local people on the proposal for a campus serving Cricklade, Wootton Bassett and the surrounding areas including Purton.

The aim of a Community Campus is to provide services for residents of Cricklade, Wootton Bassett and the surrounding areas, including Purton.

Cricklade campus consultation

The *Cricklade Board* is asking you what services you would like to see and to understand what would help you to access services and facilities more easily.

Wootton Bassett campus consultation

The second phase of consultation is now underway on what is being proposed for a campus in the *Wootton Bassett* area.

People can drop in and talk to shadow board members about the campus proposals on Saturday 3 September (10.30 am - 1 pm) at Wootton Bassett Library.

The delivery of the outcome of this second phase of consultation and a final proposal for the Wootton Bassett area community campus will be made to the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board on Monday 19 September 2011.

To get involved or find out more, complete a consultation questionnaire for either or both campus proposals, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communitycampuses or collect a form from the Parish Council Office, Library or Post Office and send to the address indicated on the form

The consultation deadline for both the Cricklade and the Wootton Bassett campus proposal is Friday 9 September.

If you have any questions, contact Campusconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tadpole Lane River Bridge - Tank Traps

During October 2010 Tadpole Lane was closed for a short period for investigations on the river bridge close to the Swindon & Cricklade Railway centre and was closed again in early August 2011 to access the bridges. The plan is to carry out essential repairs and reconstruction works on both bridges in 2012 when the road will be closed for some time.

Concerns have been expressed as to how this may affect the Tank Traps which are alongside the river bank. During the feasibility stage, Mouchel the contractors have carried out research on the Traps to see if they were listed, however there are no records of this being the case. They are thought to be World War 2 Tank Traps.

The potential work on the bridge may affect 3 out of the 9 Tank Traps and they will need to be removed. (2 from the North and 1 from the South bank). Mouchel have spoken with Conservation Officers from both Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council and they have been advised to carry out a full photographic survey of the tank traps which are to be moved. This information will then be sent to the Wiltshire and Swindon record centre in Chippenham. Once the bridge works are completed two of the tank traps (1 North and 1 South) will be moved back approximately to their original position, albeit slightly closer to their neighbour to facilitate some widening of the bridge. Due to the widening, the remaining tank trap will be located in the vicinity of the bridge. Owing to the historical merit of the Tank Traps, the contractor will endeavour to follow this procedure, however it should be noted the feasibility of moving the tank traps as a whole can only be determined at the time.

I hope you find the above information useful and allay any concerns on the future of the Tank Traps.

JACQUI LAY

Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon

Purton Be Alert

During the evening of 6 August and the early hours of 7 August, 3 staddle stones and one base were stolen from College Farm Yard. This would have involved a very large vehicle and more than one person as the stones had to be dug out of the ground and are very heavy.

Did you see anything or anyone acting suspiciously?

Do you know anyone who has suddenly acquired 3 staddle stones or anyone who has tried to sell you any staddle stones. If so please contact [Purton Magazine](#) on 01793 772954 and we will forward this information. The police have been informed.

We have also been informed of other thefts from gardens, garden sheds and garages in Purton.

So be alert. Keep a watch on your own and your neighbour's property.

Distributor Required

A volunteer is needed to deliver a small number of Purton Magazines each month to The Peak. Please email John Creasey at john@creasey.org

Purton Historical Society



What an enjoyable trip we had to Highworth! I've had several comments that it was a very good outing. Thank you Helen, for arranging it.

Our meeting for September is on Thursday 22nd at 7.30 pm in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. Gordon Shaw will be talking on "The Changing Face of Rodbourne". This will be of interest to those that knew old Rodbourne and also to those of us that are incomers to see what was there originally.

Our Autumn Course (beginning 5 October) concerns scenes from Mediterranean History. We begin with a study of the fall of Constantinople and continue with a look at some famous British scandals that took place in the Mediterranean. One of the most famous involved a British Queen dancing topless.

We will include a study of the building of the Suez Canal and the fate of the Barbary Pirates who enslaved over a million Europeans. We shall look at the importance of that most underrated event – the Lisbon Earthquake and see how the British disported themselves on the Grand Tour. All this and much more.

As usual the course will last for six weeks all talks will be on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm. Full details will be available in next month's magazine.

The next Wiltshire Local History Forum Day Conference concerns "Crime & Punishment in Wiltshire". It is on Saturday 8 October at Bromham Village Social Centre. The cost is £7 and you need to book with Claire Skinner on 01249 461152 or archive01249@talktalk.net. Subjects to be dealt with include 17th century Quarter sessions, The Swing Riots, the Wiltshire Reformatory and 19th century Quarter session depositions.

Cricklade Historical Society is holding a book sale on Saturday 17 September in The Club in the High Street, 10 am - 12 noon. Their meeting is on Wednesday 21 September at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall annexe. Mr Balk will be talking on Church Architecture through the ages.

The Royal Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 8 September in the Civic Centre at 7.30 pm. Angela Panrucker will be talking on "The Most Noble Order of the Garter".

The Swindon Society will meet in the Broadgreen centre on Wednesday 14 September at 7.30 pm. Daniel Rose will be talking about "The Mechanics Institute".

EVE BOOY, Secretary (770755)



Everything has now been finalised and the result is a wonderful sum of £4500. This will now provide vouchers at Christmas – thank you again for supporting us and making this result possible.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, our first meeting is on Thursday 8 September at 7.30 pm in the Angel. Contact Pauline for details.

Next year is a bumper year and there will be lots of planning.

PAULINE WARD, Carnival Secretary

The Maskelyne Bicentenary Commemoration

By the time you read this our village project to celebrate Purton's "Major Man of Science" will be nearing its conclusion. The final event, the Family Activities Day, takes place on 20 August and a report on that will appear in October. It is to be a fun day enjoyed by all ages with parents and their children taking part, making models and investigating topics based on science, history and astronomy. The two sessions are being organized by Susan Dann from the Herschel Museum of Astronomy, Bath, assisted by Ali Rushent from Devizes Museum; two very experienced Education Officers. We have no idea how many people will attend but I know the leaders and our members who have volunteered to help are looking forward to an exciting challenge!

The long delayed special Exhibition opened in the Museum on Tuesday 8th August, after many unexpected set backs which took weeks to resolve. Finally the fire and intruder alarm systems were installed, tested and approved so that we were able to obtain permission to borrow three precious and rare navigational instruments, very similar to the ones Nevil Maskelyne would have used. They are an eighteenth century sextant, a theodolite and a two-day marine chronometer. Once properly insured they arrived in a wooden crate transported from the Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford, and accompanied by Lucy Blaxland who is the Exhibitions Administrator and courier. Each item had been recorded in great detail in documents that had to be signed by all parties involved in the loan agreement drawn up by the Director, Dr Jim Bennett, and the Museum Governing Body. Only Lucy was allowed to handle the instruments, wearing gloves, so she painstakingly unpacked and displayed them in the new state-of-the-art case which is constructed of strengthened glass and also environmentally controlled. The gauge recording temperature and humidity has to be read twice daily.

Documents on show are copies of archive material from the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich and the County Record Office at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. Extracts from letters and notebooks written by Maskelyne can be viewed. His handwriting has been analyzed especially for this event.

An extension to the loan was negotiated so that the Exhibition can remain open until 21 October. There is plenty of time left and with the new Library arrangements the museum will be welcoming visitors for twenty hours a week, in addition to a Saturday morning opening. Two stewards have to be present at all times and the committee is grateful to members who are giving up their time to be on duty.

A book to record the Maskelyne project will be written to complete the project. We have to prove that public money has been wisely spent, according to our original estimates and we have until the end of the year to complete the task.

This report ends on a high note with the terrific news that we have been awarded a Community Area Grant from Wiltshire Council to cover the cost of the commemorative plaque we intend to place near the Maskelyne family tomb in St Mary's Churchyard, as a legacy and lasting tribute to the great man. A condition of the Heritage Lottery Fund award was that we should receive some funding from

a local source, demonstrating support for our team and faith in a worthwhile project. The Purton Historical Society has spent 2011 giving all parishioners the chance to become better informed about the Fifth Astronomer Royal as we should be proud of him and his many achievements; he is an important part of our village heritage. We extend a huge thank you to all who have responded with such interest and enthusiasm, especially the staff and children of St Mary's School.

JEAN BELT

Purton Historical Society Visit to Highworth

For several years on a summer Saturday morning, Helen Dixon has arranged for Society members and friends to go on a tour of local churches in a specific area in order to study their history and architecture. Recently the format has changed to visiting a local town or village and this year the destination was Highworth.

On 23 July, twenty-one members and friends gathered outside the porch of St Michael's Church to be greeted by Jo Clark from Highworth Historical Society who was to be our guide for the morning. Inside the church there is a tympanum over the south door which is a survivor from the Norman period, most of the other structure dating from the 13th century onwards with fine fan vaulting under the west tower. The Warneford Chapel contains an imposing monument to Edmund Warneford who died in 1724 and there is also a monument to William Crowdy, dated 1838 and made by J Franklin of Purton. The outside of the tower still carries an indentation where it was hit by a cannon ball during the English Civil War, and the ball which is reputed to have caused the damage is hanging inside the church.

The town centre has a wide range of domestic architecture which seems to have been dominated by a large number of coaching inns and public houses, some of which are still in business and were to be patronised by our members for lunch. Of more recent interest is 23 High Street which used to be the Post Office. This was where WWII recruits for the underground resistance army had to report before being transferred to Coleshill for their training. In Cricklade Road the stone built Westrop House of about 1815 was the home of William Crowdy, a respected solicitor and land owner in the area. Next door we were met by Jan Body who told us about the interesting features of her own house, and then led us in two smaller groups down to her underground ice house. This was constructed in very interesting brickwork, is still in remarkably good condition and such an unexpected viewing formed a fine end to an excellent visit.

After a warm vote of thanks to our organisers and guides some of us retired to *The Saracen's Head* to sample the local food and drink.

JOHN BELT

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

OFFERED: Britax Freeway child's car seat. Hardly used. Tel 01793 770395.

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

Shoebox Appeal / Fund Raising Day 2011

Our Fund Raising day this year will be on Saturday 17 September from 10 am to 3 pm at 35 High Street (opposite the road to the Doctors Surgery and Willis Way). This will include various stalls – tombola, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, plus a morning and afternoon raffle. Lunches will be served from 12 noon. The profit from this will be used as last year, solely for the transportation costs of the shoe boxes.



The project itself is now well under way, boxes are being covered, donations both of items for the boxes and financial have begun to arrive. Many ladies have been knitting hats and mittens; others have been looking out for bargains on their travels. Our aim this year is to send 350 boxes from Purton, so we have quite a challenge. The response last year was fantastic; maybe we can equal or improve on that this year!

Items that we are looking for are taken from the Samaritans Purse Appeal leaflet listing: soft toys, yo-yo, trucks and cars, small dolls, bangle, sunglasses, tennis ball, baseball cap, pens, pencils, coloured pencils, note book, pencil sharpener, eraser, pencil case, stickers, small colouring book, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel. Sweets (NO CHOCOLATE), fruit pastilles, Chewits or Haribo types are good. The sell by date must be at least March 2012.

We have an extra event this year. Louise Tidman is undertaking a 25-mile sponsored walk with the Cotswold Challenge on Saturday 24 September. Sponsor forms are available from Louise or me.

If anyone would like to make a donation in any of the above categories, I will be pleased to receive them at the above address at any time, or my telephone number is 770686.

The actual box filling day will be on Saturday 22 October at Purton Methodist Church from 10 am to 3 pm.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Co-ordinator

Victoria County History: Wiltshire Volume 18

Cricklade and Its Environs, is a full-scale history of the town of Cricklade and the neighbouring parishes, including Purton. It is a detailed history of the area from the prehistoric period until the modern day.

We will be launching the volume at Cricklade United Church Hall on Saturday 10 September, from 2pm to 5pm. The Lord Lieutenant, patron of our trustees, will formally present a copy of the volume to the leader of Wiltshire Council, who are one of our major supporters, and then there will be an illustrated talk about the history of the area by Dr John Chandler.

The event is free, refreshments will be included, and there will be opportunities to peruse the book and buy copies. There will also be activities in the morning at Cricklade and Purton Museums. A full programme is available on our website: www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/wiltshire/news/volume-18-out-now.

ALEX CRAVEN

Plans!



You knew where you were with the Local Plan but now we are inundated with plans (and strategies masquerading as plans). So, what do they all mean? We would like to shine a light on the dark side and see if we can provide some clarity. Below is a summary in the specific context of planning and has been verified by Wiltshire Council. The final version of the Localism Bill may change some detail of the neighbourhood plan.

Development Plan: The current national planning system requires every local authority (e.g. Wiltshire Council) to produce a Development Plan. The “Development Plan” used to consist of both the Structure Plan and the Local Plan. However, this two-tier system (briefly three-tier while the RSS was around) has now been replaced by the Local Development Framework or LDF.

The LDF is a collection of documents relating to all the facets of planning and is built around one central document, the **Core Strategy**. The overall purpose of this collection of documents is to regulate the development and use of land in the wider interest of the country, county and local community. In many ways it is a mechanism for resolving the conflicts that inevitably arise when many people live in a relatively small space.

The LDF can be thought of like a filing cabinet full of a range of plans, all dealing with the same area. The Core Strategy is just one folder within the cabinet. Other folders (called Development Plan Documents - DPS - or Supplementary Planning Documents - SPDs – depending on status) tackle specific areas and topics in more detail and are all contained within the “filing cabinet” or LDF.

The LDF takes into account Government policy such as Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements (now being replaced by the new National Planning Framework). In Wiltshire, the Core Strategy – the first document of Wiltshire’s LDF is being prepared. To bridge the gap in the meanwhile, the old style ‘Local Plans’ have been ‘saved’ and are still therefore in force. Hence with Ridgeway Farm the old policies in the adopted old Local Plan apply for now. The housing numbers in the old plans were higher than the emerging cores strategies from both Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council.

Community Plan: The Community Plan is not part of the LDF or the town planning system at all. It is a plan led by the Community Area Board (of Wiltshire Council) of which ours is the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area Board. The purpose of this plan is to provide a mechanism for delivering action (and funding) at a local level; it is more about delivering the Council services at a community level. The Plan has no statutory strength and whatever is said in it has little value in the case of a planning decision or subsequent appeal. As these plans are brought to the Area Boards then the councillors sitting on the boards would be receiving firsthand knowledge of what we consider to be important – this could be fed into the Core Strategy, up to the point of adoption.

Parish Plan: Again, nothing to do with the statutory land-use planning system and, therefore, has no or little status in planning matters. It is often used as a good way

of getting people together to help give the community some focus and consensus on local issues such as speeding traffic, play equipment and village halls. But, the plan has no statutory strength and whatever is said in it has little value in the case of a planning decision or subsequent appeal. The work done on parish plans, however, could be used as the basis for the Neighbourhood Plan (see below) and is a useful gauge of how communities may have changed over the years.

Neighbourhood Plans are a new idea and come from the emerging Localism Bill. Unlike Parish or Community Plans, Neighbourhood Plans ARE part of the statutory land-use planning system. They allow local communities a say in where development can take place, but cannot contradict the LDF including the Core Strategy, and cannot be used to simply say 'no' to all development. Communities can create a Neighbourhood Plan by forming a Neighbourhood Forum, but in practice they will still need to work quite closely with Wiltshire Council and may well need professional advice. Not quite the "Power to the People" initiative it was at first thought to be. Great expectations were raised among the general public for this particular kind of plan, but the reality is somewhat different – some communities have expressed disappointment with this.

Neighbourhood Plans can be concerned with a particular issue or with development over a defined local area, and could be used by a community to secure planning permission – say for a village hall or sports facility. **They have statutory strength and therefore have a bearing in the case of a planning decision or subsequent appeal.**

In practice all types of plans exist together and provide different ways for a community to influence what happens in their area. A rather over simplification of this would be to say:

The LDF including the Core Strategy is the "Development Plan" and controls use of land through planning permissions and enforcement.

Neighbourhood Plans are linked with the LDF and are a bit more of a hands-on way for the community to influence the planning process. They have to agree with the LDF but the agenda and ideas in them are set by the community and not the Council. They are a way for the community to take action.

The Community Plan helps the community and service providers such as Wiltshire Council to interact and is fundamentally about delivering services and improving community life.

Parish Plans are a great way of bringing communities together, deciding on what needs doing to improve life locally and achieving small scale improvement projects. Although not statutory, they are still very much worthwhile.

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 (772422) Jacqui Lay (770704)
or via our web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk

The meeting of 20 July opened well as we went through our copies of the Wiltshire News (published by the Wiltshire Federation of WIs). On the cover was a lovely picture of Sylvie, who had won the Maureen Holder Trophy; on page 4 an item and photo of our winning skittles team, and yet again on page 6 a report and photo of our Bollywood Evening – now, that’s what we call “Fame”!

President Trish Baker reported on the recent Open Gardens and Scarecrow Festival which went well – though we suddenly had to buy a gazebo because of the blustery wind and wet morning. (Should you feel in need of a temporary shelter for any occasion, the Committee are prepared to rent this out for a small sum!) Despite the alternating rain and sunshine, many supporters turned up and the President’s stall raised the welcome sum of £142.93. Thank you so much to all those members who came along to help, or to buy, and/or brought along a fine collection of beautiful cakes – and to those who risked their lives putting up a clever scarecrow in the front garden!

The Christmas meeting is organised! The cost of the meal (and washing-up) will not be prohibitive and the Committee promise that, for the sum of £15 each, you will have absolutely nothing to do but eat, drink and be merry! Members can put a little money aside every month via the Treasurer, so the price will not seem alarming at that expensive time of the year, December.

You could have heard a pin drop when the speaker, Shirley Smith, gave her talk. She had been a Nanny for 50 years and we were engrossed to hear of her life with the children of the wealthy. They were lucky children indeed, to have someone like her to care for and to love them, as she did; and she was fortunate enough to live well and to travel the world with the families. We await her book with happy anticipation.

The full, enjoyable evening included a quiz based on members’ photographs as children (much laughter there!). It concluded with a short talk from Claire Camm*, the local Co-ordinator for Wiltshire Good Neighbours, about facilities on offer to help older residents through the difficulties of modern-day living. This is a confidential free service supported by Wiltshire Council, Community First and Age Concern.

The Outing on 27 July was highly successful, with 41 members going on a Canal trip from Didcot to Newbury, drawn by a lovely great horse called Frankie. A ploughman’s lunch on board and in the sunshine was much enjoyed and Jill Herbert is thanked heartily for organizing it all, including the weather!

However, our gatherings cover many subjects and are not all a merry lark: the meeting of 21 September has as its subject “Breast Awareness”, which we take extremely seriously. This will be an Open Meeting, with an informed speaker on breast cancer. Members from nearby WIs are invited, and we hope that local residents will also be interested to come as visitors, particularly the younger, more vulnerable ladies. However, please relieve the atmosphere of the evening by wearing something pink and also entering the competition which is a “Decorated Bra” – no, you don’t need to strip for the occasion!

Don’t forget to use the website – purtonevewi.org.uk

CONSTANCE REED

[* Ellen Blacker has since taken over the local WGN role – see page 20. Ed]

Recent Disorders



I had a good walk around both Cricklade and Malmesbury yesterday [9 August] and every other person appeared, rightly so, concerned with the current disorders around the country. The following has been issued by our Force and this is the message that we are keen to put out to reassure our communities. Can I ask that if any of you have questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me or the team. As the message states, it's very much business as normal and your local team are here for that purpose.

- Wiltshire Police will continue to maintain an active presence on the streets and in our communities to enforce the law
- Wiltshire Police will take decisive action against any criminality or disorder in our communities
- Wiltshire Police has good relationships with all our communities and we have the support of the public to maintain order and people's safety
- The public can help us too by being vigilant and reporting any issues to us immediately
- Wiltshire Police has plans in place to respond and deal with any outbreaks of disorder
- Our partner agencies are supporting us as part of a coordinated approach to managing crime and disorder in our communities
- Wiltshire Police is sending 25 public order trained officers to London as part of mutual aid arrangements to help the Metropolitan Police, but it will be business as usual in Wiltshire.

Sergeant MARTIN ALVIS, Neighbourhood Policing Team
Telephone: 0845 408 7000 Ext 734-815, Mobile: 07590 531 998
Email: martin.alvis@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

World's Biggest Coffee Morning : Friday 30 September

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall : 10 am - 12 noon

THIS IS THE BIG ONE

The Macmillan Charity was founded in 1911 so we are celebrating *our* 100 years and the Coffee Morning's 21st birthday.

Two good reasons to make this year's coffee morning the biggest and best ever.

Macmillan Cancer Support provide a telephone support line, Macmillan Grants and the Macmillan website, UK-wide services that benefit local people. Macmillan have also funded the following local services. At GWH Swindon we have eleven Healthcare Professionals including Nine Macmillan Nurses, a clinical Psychologist and a Dietician. We also have a Welfare Benefits Advisor at the CAB.

If you have a few minutes to spare on Friday 30 September please join us in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall. There will be a plant stall, cake stall, raffle etc and a chance to catch up with old friends whilst tucking into coffee and cake.

Money raised at the coffee morning will help Macmillan provide more services to benefit cancer patients and their families.



VILMA MUNRO

Purton Diary - September 2011

to 21 Oct: Maskelyne Exhibition at Museum - see posters for dates/times

September

1	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
3	Sa	10.00am	to 2pm: Table Top sale at Ashgrove House
		11.00am	to 4pm: Village Fete at Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent
		2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble sale at the Village Hall
<hr/>			
4	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
6	Tu	2.00pm	WI entertainers at Silver Threads Hall
7	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery tour with tea provided
9	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
10	Sa	10.00am	to 4pm: Celebration of 25 years of the Age Concern minibus service at the Village Hall
<hr/>			
11	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
12	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
13	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.00pm	After 8: <i>History While you Walk</i> - meet on the drive at College Farm House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
14	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill: Pam Clement - <i>Remembering yesterday</i>
15	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
17	Sa	10.00am	to 3pm: Shoebox Fundraising Day at 35 High Street
		7.00pm	till late: Race Night at Village Hall
<hr/>			
18	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
20	Tu	1.30pm	Silver Threads Outing
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
21	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I. at Village Hall: <i>Breast Awareness. Competition: A Decorated Bra</i>
22	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: Gordon Shaw - <i>The Changing Face of Rodbourne</i>
23	F		Autumn Equinox

	10.00am	to 3.30pm	Silver Threads Open Day
25	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
27	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Mini-Show
28	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
		7.00pm	Parish Plan meeting at Village Hall
30	F	10.00am	to 12 noon: Macmillan's Biggest Coffee Morning at Lydiard/M Parish Hall
		7.30pm	Pop Quiz at St Mary's Lower School Hall (PTA)

Every week

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

Moon Phases

● 4 September ○ 12 September ◐ 20 September ● 27 September

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.

We Record ...

Baptisms

17 July Romy Miranda Cozens at St Mary's Church
24 July Maisie Debs New at St Mary's Church

Weddings

6 August Craige Stephen Kinchin and Tanya Louise Ponting
at St Mary's Church

Funerals

25 July Ivy Buckland (93) at Kingsdown Crematorium
26 July Leonard Heath at St Mary's Church
5 August John Sorsby at St Mary's Church

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 ...



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

September - October
Purton Museum
Open during the new Library times
A Special Exhibition to celebrate the life and achievements of Nevil Maskelyne including contemporary navigational instruments

Wyn's Coach Trips

Weston super Mare
Wednesday 21 September

Moreton in Marsh
Tuesday 25 October

contact Wyn Peare on 01793 759403
1 Heberden House, Cricklade
Any Profits to Air Ambulance

Purton Age Concern

JUMBLE SALE

at the Village Hall
on Saturday 3 September
starting at 2 pm
Lots of bargains, nearly new, bric a brac, books, toys etc.
Raffle and refreshments
Jumble can be left at the Hall between 12 noon and 1 pm.

Lydiard Millicent Art Exhibition

16, 17, 18 September.
Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
Fri 16th Preview Evening 6pm-9pm
Sat 17th 10am-6pm
Sun 18th 10am-5pm
Drinks and Nibbles Available
Please come along and see the artistic skills of our local Art Group and what we have been working on this year.

Community Dance Project

Adult dance classes for all abilities and ages
Ballet, Tap and Jazz Dance
at Greendown School and the Haydon Centre
New term starting 1 September
To enrol, or for more information please call Gemma 01793 877429

Purton Parish Council

Parish Plan for Purton

Help Shape the Future of the Parish
Have your Say!
Wednesday 28 September at 7pm
at the Village Hall

'Grannie's Treasures' Sale of Collectables

Our massive sale is on
Saturday 1 October between 11 and 4 pm.
It is a sale of loved and cherished items, 'Grannie's Treasures'
It is in aid of Christian Aid funds.
The sale is being held in Purton Methodist Church on Play Close
Refreshments are being served all day.
Looking forward to seeing you!

Shoebox Fundraising Day

Saturday 17 September
35 High Street
10 am - 3 pm
Lunches from 12 noon
Tombola, Cake Stall, Bric-a-Brac
Raffle, Books
Coffee/tea available
Entrance £1

Silver Threads

Jumble Sale

Saturday 1 October
2 pm
Silver Threads Hall
Raffle, Refreshments
& Bargains

Silver Threads

Open Day

Market Stall, Tombola, Exhibition
Cakes, Raffle etc etc
23 September : 10 am - 3.30 pm
Silver Threads Hall
Coffee/Lunch/Tea
See posters for details
Ring Pauline for tickets Tel 770251

Aaron Moody's

Race Night

(Raising funds for his
Bradon Forest World Challenge
trip to Morocco)

Purton Village Hall
Saturday 17 September
7 pm - till late

£5 per ticket
Includes Chilli & Rice/Jacket
(veggie option available)
Licensed Bar
Great raffle prizes to be won

Tickets: tel 772562
or 07905 188 220

Purton Age Concern

Invites you to a

Special Celebration 25 Years of our Minibus Service

Come and join us at the Village Hall
on Saturday 10 September any time
between 10am and 4pm for
refreshments and reminiscences!
See you there!!

Ladies' Health and Beauty

Fundraising Day

in **Aid of Hop, Skip and Jump**, Swindon
(Disabled Children Day Care Charity)
on Saturday 17 September at 11am to 3pm
(Doors open at 10.45am)
at Steam Museum, Kemble Drive, Swindon.

Entry ticket £3.00, available from
Beyond Beauty 07778 664697 or
Personal Presents 07974 320713 or
e-mail mace@macetoons.co.uk.
Tickets also available on the door.

Taster treatments
Over 25 stands

Refreshments available.

Village Fete

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

Organised by
Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund
Charity Stands

Traders Face painting BBQ
food and drink from the bar.
Free competitions for children

Children's Fancy Dress competition
at 2pm, under 6 and 6-11 years.

Special guest Angela Richens and
her dancing dog Teddy from
Britain's Got Talent.

PURTON PLACARD

- plus -

Table Top Sale

Ashgrove House
Saturday 3 September
10am - 2pm
(subject to weather)

St Marys PTA

Pop Quiz

Friday 30 September
Lower School Hall
Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start
Tickets £2 per person – teams max 6
Licensed bar (thus adult-only event)
Tickets available from Lorraine
(772357)

St Mary's Church, Purton

Barn Dance

Saturday 1 October
7 pm to 10.30 pm
at Village Hall, Purton
All welcome
Bring and Share Supper
Licensed Bar
Tickets Adults £6,
children (under 11) £3
Tel: Sandra 770157, Alison 772896,
Sheila 770970, Val 771201,
Gladys 77037

World Challenge Morocco 2012 Fund-Raising Event

AN INVITATION TO ALL PURTON RESIDENTS
FOR A FANTASTIC

CURRY BUFFET NIGHT

"2 SITTINGS"

1st at 6 pm 2nd at 8 pm
on Tuesday 4 October

At the BOMBAY LOUNGE

2 Roughmoor Village Centre, Peatmoor, West Swindon

Priced at £15 each person

Why not arrange a table with your friends?

Limited tickets available – please respond as soon as possible

Contact: Helen 771645

This fund-raising event is being organised by

George Griffin Aaron Moody

George Dudman Robert Mills Nathan Hiles

Plus a great raffle prize draw

Prizes already promised for this raffle include Golf for 4 at The Bristol Golf Club
(near Cribbs Causeway)

and 2 x Tickets for Premiership Rugby

Raffle tickets will be on sale separately in September and at the Bombay
Lounge on the Night!

From Cricklade Fire Station



During July crews from Cricklade responded to 17 emergency calls:

1/7/11 at 17:39 light fitting fire, private residential school, Cricklade
3/7/11 at 22:23 shed fire, Fullers Avenue, Cricklade
5/7/11 at 16:07 car fire, Castle Eaton
7/7/11 at 01:23 automatic smoke alarm activation, residential school, Cricklade
7/7/11 at 21:54 automatic smoke alarm activation, residential school, Cricklade
9/7/11 at 08:11 standby duties, Swindon Fire Station
9/7/11 at 16:11 light aircraft crash, false alarm with good intent, South Cerney
9/7/11 at 22:06 standby duties, Swindon Fire Station
14/7/11 at 14:42 field fire, Latton
15/7/11 at 03:38 articulated lorry fire, A419 Latton
20/7/11 at 14:40 emergency special service call, Reids Piece, Purton
29/7/11 at 23:17 serious flat fire, Swindon - make pumps 4
31/7/11 at 09:47 road traffic collision, person trapped, A419, Castle Eaton
plus 4 co-responder calls, Cricklade

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 - Escape Plans

- Make your Fire Action Plan with everyone in your home, especially children the elderly and disabled.
- The best escape route is your normal way in and out so keep it clear.
- You also need to think of a second and alternative route in case your primary route is blocked in a fire.
- If you can't escape, you will need to find a room to wait in until the Fire Service arrives. Choose a safe room, ideally with a phone and a window that opens.
- Don't waste time investigating or rescuing valuables.
- Before you open a door, check it with the back of your hand. If its warm, don't open it – fire is on the other side. Remember to shut doors behind you.
- Make sure everyone knows where to find the door and window keys.
- If there's smoke – keep low to the ground where the air is cleaner.
- Don't go back in for anything, even if there's someone left inside. Wait for the Fire Service and give them as much information as possible.

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](#).

Exhibit of the Month: Chapel Memories

I am indebted to Eric Ball for this month's contribution:

There must be a number of local people who have noted with regret a "For Sale" sign placed on the Purton Stoke chapel; another small indication of the retreat from organised Christianity taking place in this country.

The old chapel has been running down for some years with services becoming spasmodic and then ceasing altogether. In its last days the building was used as a youth club.

The chapel was first erected in 1832 on the north side of the main street opposite the Post Office. The building with seating for 84 cost £160, but only £10 was raised before the opening, so the congregation started with a heavy debt around its neck. Fortunately two energetic men came to live in the neighbourhood and by their generosity and leadership the debt was paid off. So flourishing did the Primitive Methodist presence become that a more spacious building with seating for 140 was erected on the present site in 1868, using the materials from the original building as far as possible. This was not without opposition from some local people, for when zealous Chapel Members wheeled the bricks from the original location to the new position after their normal working day, they were subjected to taunts and, perhaps, the occasional missile. A further extension was made in 1905 for a school room. A legacy of £30 had been left for this project and additional funds were raised by sponsoring name, or initial, stones built into the extension. The sponsoring rate was likely £5 and 10/- respectively. Lydiard Millicent folk were gathering funds for a similar project near to the same time by way of name stones.

There was also a stable on the site, primarily for use by visiting preachers who arrived by pony and trap. My father has told me of his task of cleaning harness in readiness for his local preacher uncle's journeys round the circuit to expound the scriptures.

Mr William Neville, whose pre-war memories I transcribed for this magazine in 2005, under the title *A Healthy Boyhood at the Spa*, has told me of some of the more light hearted happenings in chapel in long-ago days. Mr. Frederick Neville, William's father, was a local preacher. One Sunday, Mr. Neville was preaching an especially rousing sermon based on the seventh chapter of Daniel where verse nine has "*his throne was like the fiery flame and his wheels as burning fire.*" As if influenced by Mr Neville's fiery sermon, (and there were some who averred that it was so!), the service had only just reached its conclusion with the preacher heading off along Spa Lane for home when cries of "The chapel is on fire" came from a group of people near the building. Flames could be seen leaping skywards from around the chimney. The hero of the hour was Ted Simpkins. He quickly brought two ladders and, swarming on to the roof, tore tiles from around the chimney stack with his bare hands so that the buckets of water passed up to him could be thrown directly on to the blazing rafters. The Cricklade fire brigade had been summoned. The hand operated trailer pump arrived towed by a van but the Purton Stoke people had acted so vigorously that the fire engine did not need to be used.

One visiting preacher was exceptionally short in stature. When preaching, all

that could be seen above the pulpit was the preacher's arms waving to emphasize a point. One time this diminutive man had neglected to fasten properly the pulpit door. He was waving one hand and leaning with the other on the door when the catch gave way and the embarrassed preacher came hurtling down the steps to the level of his congregation.

Mr Frederick Neville was not a small man but on one occasion, just before the commencement of the service, he was stooped low in a praying position and could not be seen by the congregation. A lady bustled into the chapel, seated herself, and looking round, enquired, in the vernacular, 'Where be the pass'n, be a gone out?' At this Mr. Neville popped up from the praying position to announce his presence.

Another time, the same lady misunderstood a move by the person in the pulpit. The lady had very poor sight. This could have been her excuse for being unable to read. The preacher kindly took the large print bible down from the pulpit and propped it up in front of her while he used a small book. She thought she was being prompted to read some scriptural words and said, 'I b'ent no scholard but I'll say what I knows', and proceeded to recite the twenty-third psalm. The preacher, Mr Neville, was touched by the lady's simple sincerity but her husband put in, 'He didn't mane you to rade 'en, only to follow 'en.'

Another memory is of a hand mark on one of the pews in the chapel. A regular worshiper habitually rested his gnarled hand on the pew end. So constant was this good man that an imprint of his thumb and fingers remained on the woodwork. (A kind of stigmata!) Vigorous washing failed to erase the mark and threatened to remove the varnish. Even after applying another coat of varnish the magic imprint could still be seen ...

ERIC BALL

I have a booklet in the museum's collection which commemorated the Chapel's centenary in 1968. The booklet is 16cm square and runs to a cover and 8 inside pages. I will include the full text of the booklet on the web site at www.purtonmuseum.com

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

Our Lady of Walsingham

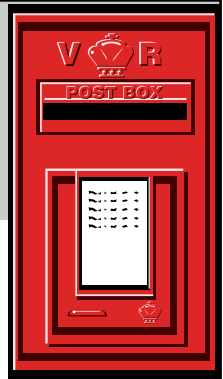
A Sung Latin Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, 24 September at 5pm in St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH. It will commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on the 950th anniversary of the reputed appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Richeldis, Lady of the Manor. The music for the ordinary of the mass will be the *Missa Choralis* of Franz Liszt (1811-1886) the bicentenary of whose birth St Mark's Church marking this year.

The choir, under the direction of Sam Bayliss BA (Oxon), includes members who have regularly worked and recorded with BBC Symphony Chorus, the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford. All are welcome and admission is free.

Further details from Sam Bayliss 07960 619 480.

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.



■ IVY BUCKLAND

We would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts and offers of help following the death of our mother, Ivy.

We would also like to thank Marie Curie Cancer Care, Prospect Hospice and her carers for their support and kindness over the past few months.

David, Brian and Linda Buckland



■ DOM'S ROCK

We cannot thank everyone enough for all of the help, time and generosity to all of those that helped in our mission to place a memorial rock on the high hills for Dom. With special thanks to my big sis Val, my niece Jodie, Eddie Saunders, John Holland, Jeff Comer and Son, Margaret Entwistle, Glinis Hill, Shirley Bevington and those of you that generously donated towards the plaque ... we couldn't have done it without you!

With love

Wendy x



■ KIND THOUGHTS

I would like to thank all friends and neighbours who attended the funeral of my husband, Jim, also for all the cards and condolences which I received. The support that people gave me was very much appreciated.

Peggy Young

■ FAMILY THANKS

I would like to thank all friends and neighbours for cards and love shown to me and my family after losing Harold so suddenly. And thanks to Judith Wells for a lovely service and being there for us.

Peg Matthews

■ GROUP 4 PATIENTS

Further to the good work that goes on in Purton by various organisations I think we have one of the best surgeries around.

From my own experience, the doctors and staff should be congratulated on their efforts, including all of those involved with the G4P, (Purton Patient Participation Group). Compared with other surgeries, (in other parts of the country), that I have been told about, ours stands over and above that of many others.

I have been told about patients waiting in an area to be 'counted in' and if you are not 'counted in', then you come back on the following day to be 'counted in' again whereby you could be unlucky again!

The G4P Group helps people

understand how it all works and people have the opportunity to contribute with their suggestions and help to control their own health care. We must of course treat the surgery staff with courtesy, respect and understanding and also realise that their job is sometimes very difficult under certain constraints that they have.

If you work with the Surgery and understand about its function plus using courtesy and respect towards the staff then, (from my own experience!), you will be rewarded with an excellent service.

Well done to all at the surgery for your efforts and long may it continue. Hopefully with the help and input required from all.

Chris Glead

After 8

It had been intended to have a barbeque in Rick and Helen's garden. However, the weather being colder, we congregated in the warmth of the kitchen to chat over drinks until we were all assembled. Fortunately, the dining table was large enough for everyone to be seated in comfort, admiring and then eating the impressive array of salads and hot meats. The healthiness of the first course was completely ruined by the number and size of the fantastic desserts which, naturally, we couldn't resist. As a hostess, Helen distinguished herself further by providing fresh mint from the garden to make Mary's birthday cup of tea.

For some strange reason, we ended by playing word games. With embarrassment, I have to report that accurate Chinese Whispers were beyond us and Word Associations were a psychologist's nightmare. Mistakes caused great hilarity and the whole evening was a wonderful way to lead into what we hope will be a relaxed summer,

We would like to thank Helen for her hospitality and for adapting so readily to our presence in the house.

GWYNETH DATSON

The next meeting will be "History While you Walk" (around Purton) on Tuesday 13 September. We will meet on the drive of College Farm House at 7 pm.

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





2011 INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR 'YEAR 6'



Our traditional three-day Induction Programme (29 June - 1 July) for Year 6 pupils who are joining Bradon Forest in September was very successful. This was preceded by a Year 6 Parents' Evening where parents met with their child's Year 7 tutor, our Student Peer Mentors (*pictured*) and with Senior Staff. In our experience parents have found this very helpful in supporting their children when they come in for their Induction days the following week.

The induction was thoroughly enjoyed by our new Year 7s. They had a great range of experiences including meeting their tutors and a number of teachers who will be teaching them next year. Feedback from parents and students has been very positive. In the assembly at the end of day three, the Year 6 pupils already felt part of the Bradon Forest family and, judging by feedback, are certainly 'raring to go' in September. Many thanks to Mr Winward (Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral), Mrs Davies (Head of Key Stage 3), Mr Brett-Harris (Head of Year 7), the Key Stage 3 team, the new Year 7 tutor team and all colleagues, both teaching and support, who worked so hard to make this valuable Bradon Forest provision such a success for our new students and their families. The Year 9 Peer Mentors did a terrific job in supporting the Year 6 pupils over the three days and they are really looking forward to their role in September.

SENIOR PREFECT TRAINING – BRAESIDE EDUCATION CENTRE 2011

This year we have selected 25 pupils from Year 10 to become next year's Senior Prefects, who will take on important roles within the school. Their training consisted of a two-day course at Braeside Education Centre in Devizes where they were put through a number of different activities in order to prepare them for working together next year.

Activities during the training consisted of team-building exercises, communication/dilemma games (*End of the World* game), problem solving challenges (egg drop, tent building, first aid, shelter building), group cohesion tasks (day navigation walk), leadership and role taking, night blindfold walk and campfire/team games.



Senior Prefect Team: Sean Ash, Jemma Bradley, Maegan Bryon, Emily Bullock, Charlotte Bunce, Charlotte Densham, Victoria Egerton, Hannah Fogarty, Kyle Greenwood, Rhianne Groom, Laura Halford, Shona Hargreave, Thomas Hawkins, Iona Hudson, Andrew Johnson, Tanisha Kalra, Bryony Keep, Jake Looker, Lucy Martin, Zoe Mayo, Natalie Mosely, Tayten Nyahwa, Ryan Staggs, Jessica Warren and Oliver Webb.

UKCA NATIONAL SCHOOLS' CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

In June, 15 girls from Bradon Forest School's Cheerleading Squad travelled to the Manchester Velodrome to participate in the UKCA National Schools' Cheerleading Championships. They competed in the Key Stage 3 Beginners Cheerleading category along with 12 other schools from all over the UK.

YEAR 11 PROM

The Year 11 'Prom' took place on 25 June at the Hilton Hotel, Swindon. 180 students attended along with many members of staff. Everyone had a superb evening.

As is traditional the 'Prom' was organised by our Prefect team with the help of the Key Stage 4 team and support staff. This year there were more parents, friends and relatives to see the arrival of our Year 11s in a phenomenal range of transport and 'means of conveyances'! Unfortunately this year it was marred a little by rain (first time in 12 years of our Proms). However, the canopy and lobby were used to enable lots of photographs to be taken.

Every year the students look so grown up, elegant and fantastic: the girls in a superb array of beautiful dresses and the boys in their tuxedos.

ST MARY'S KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 SPORTS DAY

St Mary's C of E Primary School was unable to hold their sports day on their own school site this year due to the building of their new school.

When Mr Tucker asked me if Bradon Forest School could host the event, we were more than happy to help. I was very pleased we managed to fit a full 100m track on the field. It was great for the PE department to see the primary pupils in action, with lots of proud parents encouraging the Key Stage 1 pupils in the morning and the Key Stage 2 pupils in the afternoon.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Open Evening: Thurs 22 September

Open Mornings: Thurs 8 September - Wed 21 September

Wed 5 October - Tues 11 October

Mon 17 October - Tues 18 October

Please see website (www.bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk) for further details.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

On The Lighter Side

'Owzat!

Seen on the BBC Test Match Special message board:

Dave from Newbury wrote – "I was dragged to a wedding but determined not to miss a stroke [of the 2nd Test Match against India]. I sat towards the back and occasionally listened to my phone on earphones to glares from my wife.

At the crucial point – 'does anyone know of any impediment ...' – I thrust a short fist with a quiet but positive "yes!" as Stuart Broad got his hat-trick. Two or three aisles glared at me, at which point my phone was confiscated by my wife."

Haiku Corner

In response to last month's call for Haikus, we have received the following poems:

Maurice Card wrote:

*Clear skies above us,
the Hercules wave farewell.
No more flying over*

*Purton Magazine
launches new Haiku Corner.
Japan meets Purton*

*A 'must read' each month -
It's Purton's Age Concern page
Tony Price tells it all!*

Maurice also commented, I've not come across Haiku before - but I've got to say I like the brevity of it.

Rick Dixon responded to the challenge in the Editorial:

*Swindon's news from Wales -
Wessex Male Choir beat the world.
Eisteddfod triumph!*

Rupert Whelan tried his hand again with:

*Newspapers in trouble
Does Purton mag tap your phone?
Don't think we know how!*

*September sunshine
brings extra month of summer.
Well, we can but hope!*

While **Francis Sheppard** supplied the following relating to recent concerts in the BBC Proms series:

*Promenade concerts;
brilliant performers play
wonderful music.*

*Promenade concerts;
the very best of music –
sublime sounds soaring.*

*There is sweet music
wafting across the airwaves
each and every night.*

*Passion and purpose –
top quality music
on the biggest stage.*

*Verdi's Requiem;
power, passion, poise and peace
for the Norwegians*.*

*Elgar's violin
concerto sounds magical
from the Albert Hall.*

*Such memories of
hot nights in the Albert Hall;
never forgotten.*

*What must it be like
to be good enough to play
solos at the Proms?*

*Composing music
must be so satisfying
when it's performed well.*

*How is it that fine
words and wonderful music
cause such emotions?*

[* The Verdi *Requiem* concert was dedicated to those affected by the terrible events in Oslo and Utoeya, two days previously. Ed.]

And thinking of our need for an extra Distributor (see page 22), **Francis** added:

*Purton Magazine
needs a new distributor
to cover The Peak*

We would love to see more Haikus – poems based on a Japanese meter of 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second and 5 in the third. Please continue to send them to the contact address on [page 4](#).

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Both Rainbows and 2nd Purton Brownies said farewell to some girls who'd reached the end of their time in the units. The Rainbows held a Pot of Gold party for the six girls leaving: Emma, Holly, Katy, Kelly, Katelynn and Rhea. They had a party tea and played their favourite games. 2nd Purton Brownies had an evening of animal themed games for their leavers.

1st Purton Brownies completed the Adventure Out badge with Fire and Water activities on the same evening: "Fire" was lighting candles and making "smores" (toasted marshmallows sandwiched between chocolate digestives) whilst "Water" was experimenting with bubble mixture. Guides too spent a meeting making bubble mixture and experimenting with it. Both Brownie units went independently to Coate Water to play crazy golf and were lucky that the rain held off.

We held a District event in July at our County campsite just outside Wroughton. Unfortunately the rather inclement weather that day meant that we cancelled the Rainbow activities, but we went ahead with Brownies and Guides. We completed a range of activities relating to weddings in order to gain a Royal Wedding Challenge badge created by a Welsh Guide unit. Activities ranged from Guides making buttonholes and decorating mini wedding cakes to games and wedding carriage races. Whilst the Brownies were just there for the afternoon and left early evening after campfire singing, the Guides did an overnight. The plan to pitch tents was put off by the heavy rain forecast for that night and the prospect of drying them after just one night of use so we slept in the hut on the campsite instead.

We're now all enjoying our summer break although by the time you read this we will be gearing up for the Autumn term's activities. If you would like a part in guiding in Purton, please do contact us. We always welcome more adults to come and help with the units. The Guide unit especially could use some extra adult help from September. We're not looking for people to be in charge of any of our units – we are very lucky in that respect – but extra regular adult assistance would be great. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact either Gill Woodward or Jane Templar for an informal chat.

JO SULLY

Just a Thought

- Live for today, for tomorrow is promised to no-one.
- Never complain about growing old; far too many people have been denied that privilege.

RAF Lyneham to be Defence Training Centre

RAF Lyneham will become a Defence Training Centre from 2013, the government has announced. Defence Secretary Liam Fox told the House of Commons that the Defence Technical Training Change Programme centre would move there. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) made the decision to close RAF Lyneham in 2002 as part of a strategic review of military bases. It had been thought the MoD would sell off the base which will close in 2012.



Military lecturer Peter Caddick-Adams, at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham, described the announcement as 'excellent news'. He said, 'There was a great fear that the Lyneham estate would be sold off, which made no sense. It's a very intelligent use of the estate which has had a lot of money put into it over the years and it would be a shame to see it sold off quite cheaply.'



Initially 1,500 posts will be based at Lyneham when it reopens in 2013.'

ALISON SULLIVAN, *Community Area Manager*
Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board

Photos courtesy of Gwylfa John:

1. The last Lyneham Hercules Fly-past over Purton on 1 July 2011.
2. Avro Lancaster over Malthouse Farm, Purton, 16 July 2011

Purton Twinning Association

**** WANTED ****

1. On our May visit to Héric our French friends challenged us to win back the 'Bamford Cup' for Football. The cup, named to commemorate the Twinning Association's late Chairman Duncan Bamford, was won by Héric ten years ago, so many potential players would have been too young to have even watched the match. We are looking for at least one team – senior, junior or mixed – full, 5- or 7-a-side or any combination of those. The match is to be played in Héric next year on a date to be arranged. Costs would be travel eg minibus plus ferry. Accommodation will be arranged with Héric Twinning families.

2 After their visit to Purton last year, which included seeing a cricket match in progress in Purton, we have challenged (for want of a better word!) our French Friends to a Cricket Match. This is to be played here next year. We are therefore looking for a team of 11 (more may be helpful) – this can be mixed and of any age.

Please contact Sara Brown by 30 November 2011 if you are interested in taking part in either event.



International Sponsored Dog Walk in Purton!

On Saturday 8 October, Purton Veterinary Group and 1st Purton & Lydiard Scout Group are joining together to support a UK and International Sponsored Walk for *Nowzad Dogs*.

The aim of the charity this year is to walk the distance from the UK to Nowzad, Afghanistan collectively! A huge total of just over 3,631 miles! We are confident that, with everyone taking part with or without a four-legged friend, we can help walk this distance and the charity to reach their target! The Scout Group will be working towards their International Friendship Award.

If you have ever owned a dog or been lucky enough to be part of a dog's life you will want to support this event! So who are *Nowzad Dogs*?

The lads of 5 Troop, Kilo Company, 42 Commando Royal Marines arrived in the wartorn town of Now Zad in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan in November 2006. Their mission was to provide stability for the local people during a period of ever decreasing security.

And as one of the Royal Marines, Sergeant "Pen" Farthing, was soon to realise, it wasn't only the local people that needed their help. For some of the many stray dogs of Now Zad they now had a guardian for the first time in their lives.

Pen takes up the story ... 'When we first arrived in the town of Now Zad I broke up a dog fight that was taking place right outside our remote compound. What I didn't know was that one of those fighting dogs would then befriend me! I couldn't say no to those big sad eyes, the now very former fighting dog, became my buddy and found himself a name – Nowzad'.

Soon the first ever dog warden of Now Zad, was looking after two more dogs "RPG" and "Jena", strays that were very under nourished and didn't look like they would survive the onslaught of the approaching Afghan winter.

Unbelievably they then gained "Tali" who crept in under the gate carrying 6 little puppies followed by an injured "AK" bringing up the rear. And then to complicate matters "Jena" had 8 puppies as well – life was just a little busy at the best of times in the compound that the Marines called home for nearly three months in the heart of the Taliban tribal belt.

You can read all about this story in the books "One Dog at a Time" and "No place Like Home" – both available from our local book shop in Wootton Bassett High Street (you will also need a box of tissues), or read about the charity at www.nowzad.com. Proceeds from this work will contribute to the charity's work, in particular to Vet Education and a Neutering Programme, as well as animal rescue.

If you would like to join us in our sponsored dog walk – more information and registration forms are available at Purton vets (771869) from the beginning of September, or from Jan Fisher, Assistant Group Scout Leader. We have two walks available to suit every walker with or without a doggie! There is a book voucher kindly donated by Wootton Bassett Books for the person collecting the most sponsorship money and also a raffle running from the Vets in Purton High Street.

Please do join us for this very special fundraising activity!



JAN FISHER

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

Group for Patients - G4P

Green Gable Surgery in Cricklade is a Branch or satellite surgery. While Purton Surgery is the main surgery for the practice, at Green Gable Surgery the provision of services is the same and patients can be seen urgently in both surgeries. Cricklade patients can be seen at Purton surgery and Purton patients can be seen at Cricklade surgery. But if you need an urgent (within five hours) you need to phone the surgery where they wish the appointment to be – this is to avoid two patients being given the same appointment.

In the rare event of a staff shortage then the main Purton surgery will need to stay open and Green Gable Surgery may therefore be closed. Cricklade patients will be able to be seen at Purton.

Seasonal Flu Clinics will be starting at the end of September and the surgery would initially like to invite the following to call the surgery to make an appointment ...

- Anyone over 65 years of age
- Anyone age 5-64 years who has one or more of the following
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Chronic Heart Disease
 - Chronic Renal failure
 - Has undergone a splenectomy
 - Severe Asthma resulting in recent hospitalisation or taking inhaled steroids on an ongoing basis (i.e. not seasonal)
- Anyone in receipt of a Carers Allowance
- Pregnant Ladies

The surgery intends to complete its vaccination programme by the end of October. Please ring 770207 (752633 for Green Gable branch surgery) to make an appointment from 14 September onwards. Patients who do not fulfil NHS criteria will be turned away as we can't give this vaccine privately. A special Saturday clinic will be available in early October exclusively for patients in the at-risk groups who work during Monday to Friday.

We are now on Facebook

Look for 'Purton Surgery G4P' on *Facebook*. We will update it with the latest information and coming events.

Email contact

Please remember that if you would like information by email then let us have your email address – either hand it in to the surgery marked '*for the attention of Kim*' or send it to us by emailing groupforpatients@gmail.com

Numerical Error!

You may have noticed the numerical error in the August edition of the Purton Magazine underneath the Editorial – if you did check on page 37 you'll have seen that the 8 doctors see 640+ patients per week, rather more than the 64+.

Health promotion events: We want your views

Please indicate in the table below the subjects you are interested in and would like to know more about. Suggestions we have had so far are to raise awareness of...

Prostate cancer	
Diabetes	
Travel Health/vaccines/sun awareness	
Healthy lifestyle	
Other	

Could you please rank in order of preference (with 1 being your first preference). If you have any other subject you would like to be added then use the last box for this.

Please return this form either to the surgery – marked ‘for the attention of Kim’ – or by email to groupforpatients@gmail.com

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary G4P

Purton Luncheon Club Garden Party

It is very pleasing to report that the Luncheon Club garden party, held on Sunday, 24 July at College Farm House, was an outstanding success. Many thanks to Caroline and Hector McLean for providing such a beautiful venue and for allowing the many helpers to take over their home for the day.



People who help at Luncheon Club gave up their Sunday afternoon to work extremely hard behind the scenes in the kitchen providing the advertised Cream Tea. Special thanks to Sheila Price and Pauline Hall for making the delicious scones for the visitors while many other Purtonians generously provided a wonderful variety of cakes to be eaten on the spot and to be sold. Others contributed plants as well as jams, jellies and vegetables and still more provided a very attractive array of raffle prizes. We would like to acknowledge the generous support of Francis and Anne Young of *The Pear Tree*; Jackie Holt, Hairdresser; Andrew Hiscock, Butcher; and John Toomer's of Lydiard Millicent. Age Concern and its volunteers lent essential tables and chairs as well as bringing and setting them out for us.

Music in a beautiful garden on a warm summer's day offers an extra pleasure, and we enjoyed listening to Val Evans and her group, *Chalice*, who entertained us with folk songs for every mood. Theirs was a very special and much appreciated contribution to the afternoon

So many people were involved in the success of this enterprise, not least those who supported it by attending. This was truly an example of Big Society in action. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the Luncheon Club, whose Wiltshire Council funding has been withdrawn, made £900.

ELIZABETH WARD

Purton Bowls Club

Congratulations to Alison Fail for reaching the National Champion of Champions final at Leamington on Tuesday 9 August. Unfortunately she lost in the 1st round in a close match against the All-England Champion.



All league games will be over by the end of August, and competitions completed with Club Finals being played on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September. On Friday 16 September we travel to Weymouth for our annual tour playing at Weymouth and Melcome, Portland Prison Officers, Bridport and Sixpenny Hanley. The last game of the season, to be played on 24 September, will be "The Bartlett Trophy" in memory of the late Mick Bartlett one of our very popular members.

Another piece of good news: the Ladies beat Wootton Bassett to reach the final of the Swindon & District double rink.

BARBARA WOOLFORD

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

Season 2011 was one of both encouragement and disappointment. Encouraged by the support of new players we were disappointed not to play well enough to achieve promotion back to the West of England Premier League. However, our younger players have made excellent progress and, on one occasion, four under-fifteen members played valuable parts in a match, won by Purton, where we were very short of senior members.



Having recently attended the funeral of John Sorsby I was reminded of his considerable contribution to Purton cricket in the years after the end of the Second World War. In common with many other Purton men he worked hard to repair the pavilion and the ground so that cricket could restart. During the war the outfield had been used for grazing cows and I can only imagine the hard work needed to restore it to a reasonable state. John helped to raise urgently needed funds to purchase a new mower – in a short period £460 was raised to put the club on a sound financial footing. In 1953 he was part of the labour force which dug out a 275-yard long trench in order to bring piped water to the ground. From 1953-1957 he was vice captain of the 1st XI and from 1968-1970 he was captain of the Sunday 2nd XI. When his playing days were over he took up umpiring and he was a stalwart member of the club's skittles team. He gave unstintingly of his time and was for many years a hard working committee member. Thank you, John, for your efforts and contributions which are recorded in Purton's cricket history.

From the Archives

On 23 June 1979 when Mark Gardner, aged 12, played his second match for Purton, the star of the afternoon was Mike Canter who top scored with 49 against an attack which included David Lawrence, who went on to play for Gloucestershire and England. David's figures in the match were 7 overs, 1 maiden, 20 runs and 1 wicket. His victim – Mike Canter!

JOE GARDNER

Swindon & District League Results

Most Swindon & District League matches are now completed with a small backlog outstanding though the weather has been kind for the most part and only a handful of matches had to be postponed due to bad weather.

The men have had a mixed season; the Men's A should finish third behind the very strong teams of Pewsey and Wootton Bassett in Division 1. The B team are safe in Division 3 after a season of disruptions and will hope for better things next year. The C team are, in spite of their brave efforts, in the relegation zone in Division 4 so have a challenge for next year. The D team secured the Division 8 title the younger players in that team being ably assisted by the wily, more mature players (we try to avoid the word 'old'!) while E team have found life in the same division a bit tough after last year's promotion and have been relegated, but will no doubt be aiming to bounce straight back up again next season!

The Ladies have had a similar set of results but first congratulations to the A team who finished top in division 1 and will look forward to receiving their well deserved trophy shortly. The B team suffered the agony of 9 close matches going the wrong way (a 3-5 defeat), leaving them bottom of the same division, yet never feeling like they didn't belong. The C team have had an excellent campaign and have secured promotion from division 4 finishing second behind Marlborough B and the D team had a solid season and finished mid-table in Division 5, with many different ladies taking up the opportunity to play in their matches.

The mixed A team started with modest ambitions of remaining safely in Division 1, only to end up claiming 3rd place. The B team, with some skilful play remain in Division 1 so A and B are in top flight for next season. The mixed C team reached 4th place in probably the most competitive division in the whole league, with 6 out of 8 teams reaching double figures; never quite knowing how each match would pan out. Last but not least the mixed D team: they never quite hit top form in Division 5 and will play next year in Division 6, but they allowed many different players to enjoy the excitement of competition.

Another busy yet thoroughly enjoyable season with matches played in good spirit and with great sportsmanship, battling the windy conditions early in the season and relishing the warmer, less breezy, nights towards the end. Even though we will miss the competition (and the socialising with the opposition afterwards in the Red House), we are all looking forward to the social tennis sessions Tuesday evenings from 6 pm onwards and Friday evenings for all - come on down and join in!

HILARY COATES – Ladies Captain

STOP PRESS: The Junior Singles Tournament will be held on Saturday 3 September from 10 am.

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.

Advertisements are accepted in good faith and their inclusion does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service. Purton Magazine is a totally independent publication and is, in no way whatsoever, connected to any other publication, whether local or otherwise.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Sue Smith and Sue Todd paid us a welcome return visit to talk about the remedies, myths and legends associated with wild flowers of the Cotswolds. Their talk, illustrated with many slides of the wild flowers described, was both informative and amusing. The doctrine of signatures, the medieval belief that every plant with some kind of physical resemblance to a part of the human body was efficacious in treating illnesses of that part of the body, was the origin of many folk remedies some of which, surprisingly, still play their part in medicine today. The bark of pussy willow, for instance, was used for centuries as a cure for headaches and arthritic pains long before modern science discovered it contained salicylic acid, the natural form of aspirin. Less convincing was the belief that marsh marigolds would protect one's home from witches and evil fairies on Walpurgis eve or that primroses would encourage a large clutch of eggs to hatch. Celandines, wood anemones and violets, the latter with goat's milk, were beauty treatments for the skin, while dandelion leaves, in French *pissenlit*, were a trusted diuretic used to treat urinary malfunction.

In today's environmentally aware gardening we all know of the insecticidal power of garlic, but do we realise that wild garlic (ransoms) reduces high cholesterol and high blood pressure? Recent scientific analyses have shown that bluebell bulbs contain elements useful in treating certain cancers, crab apples and white dead-nettle can be used to treat bowel disorders and lily of the valley, like foxglove, can assist in curing some heart problems. On the other hand, the reputation of *stachys silvatica*, also known as wound healer, as an excellent healer of cuts from sharp knives or swords, probably stems from the doctrine of signatures thanks to its long sword-shaped leaves.

In the Middle Ages the antiseptic qualities of wild thyme were emphasised by its presence in the small bouquet circuit judges carried as a preventative of plague. Today these bouquets are carried merely as part of a historic ritual although wild thyme itself was used as an antiseptic in field hospitals in the 1914-18 war.

St John's wort, which is in bloom by 24 June, St John's day, is known today for its usefulness in treating mild depression and rose hips, whose vitamin C was extracted during the last war for a population suffering from a lack of imported fruits, are now known to contain a substance helpful in the treatment of arthritis.

We were regaled with these and many other instances of the truly beneficial and the frankly imaginary qualities of many of the wild flowers of the Cotswolds. It only remains for me to remind you never to plant an elder – the witches' tree – or the devil's bit scabious, for fear of what you might encourage!

At our next meeting we shall be holding our usual 'Mini-Show', a chance for members to display their successes for this year, and hopefully win some prizes!

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



Right: St John's Wort (hypericum)

Swindon & Cricklade Railway



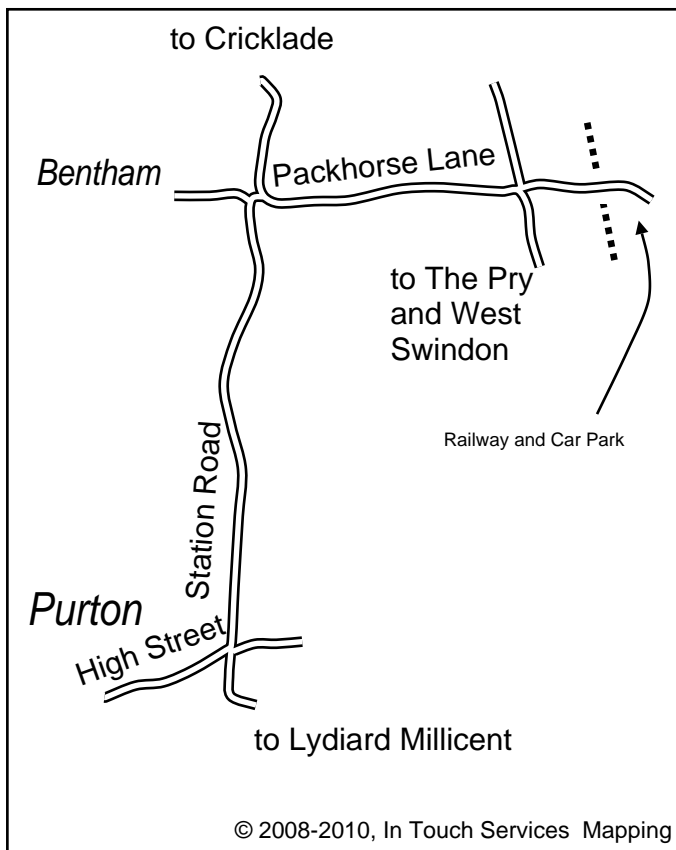
WARTIME WEEKEND: Sat/Sun 10/11 September: 10 am to 6 pm

A diverse gathering of vehicles and equipment, mainly from the 1940s, gather on the field opposite the railway, by kind permission of Mr Marklove. It is enlivened by set-piece battles and people in the military and civilian dress of the day

If you are part of a re-enactment group, or someone who likes to dress up in the 1940s look, get in touch. People like you are especially welcome and add an extra dimension to a diverse and nostalgic weekend.

Steam train rides on our extended line are included in the price of £8 for adults, £5 for children and £6 concessions. Family of 2 plus 2 £24. Under 5's free.

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.

Purton Guide Dogs

Well we were certainly blessed with lovely weather for the Carnival, with the result we took £150.34 in total on our stall. In complete contrast on Sunday for Bowood Show, it rained virtually all day and I took a total of £12.20. Then on 24 July, I did a stall at Eastcott Vets Open Day, and took £3.95.

As always, many thanks for all your support.



BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



O is for ... Orchards

The name of Purton, anciently spelt as Piritone and from the Anglo-Saxon *pirig-tun*, literally means Pear Orchard or farmstead where pear trees grow. As we progress into autumn, we will see bags of apples and other fruits outside houses where their trees have produced so much fruit that the owners cannot cope with the glut. So much so that they are usually offered free instead of for sale.

Our garden holds the remaining trees from an orchard of about ½ acre and, probably because of the warm frost-free spring, we have had our best crops ever of apples, damsons, cherry plums, blackberries and, if the squirrels let us have any, hazelnuts!

O is for ... Opinions

Purton Magazine is pleased to carry many different opinions supplied by contributors and all opinions are welcomed for consideration. It follows that opinions expressed in your magazine are solely those of the respective contributors and it is hoped that healthy debates about some topics raised will be continued in future issues. Our main purpose is to engage, inform and occasionally entertain our readers, often with interesting opinions as well as useful information.

We are always very grateful to receive monthly contributions from a score and more local people because your magazine would be very empty without such regular material. Letters, articles and photographs are welcomed for consideration from anyone in the community on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are supplied (but maybe withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this magazine – especially with those recognisable in photographs.

O is for ... Obituary

In the Editorial column last month, mention was made that tributes to someone who had recently died can only be included in your magazine if the information is provided. While that seems rather obvious, it seems that many people have been relying on Tony Price and his Age Concern and he can only really write about people that he knows well and wants to write about.

We do encourage all readers to submit contributions for publication and that can easily include an obituary about someone close, especially if a photograph can be supplied as well. Contact details for your magazine are usually on page 4 but please remember that the copy date is the 10th of the preceding month because that allows a few days for contributors to be contacted and any points clarified if appropriate.

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

O is for ... Olympics

The London Olympics are already less than a year away. This time next year your magazine could be celebrating some outstanding achievements and medals won. Before then and through the London 2012 Inspire Mark Programme, non-commercial organisations have the chance to be part of it and Team Wiltshire is the steering group for the London 2012 games in Wiltshire. They will act as a co-ordinator for Inspire Mark projects and can help with the application process. Further details can be found under the 'Leisure and recreation' section of the Council web site – www.wiltshire.gov.uk

O is for ... Ornithology

In last months' magazine there were some very interesting details about the bird population of Purton since when, a red kite was spotted sweeping high over the top end of Hoggs Lane – a rare visitor indeed. If readers could provide further advice and suggestions – such as filling special bird feeders with nyjer (thistle) seeds to attract goldfinches mentioned last month – then many others in our community will know what to look out for, especially if drawings and/or photographs can also be supplied.

Diamond Jubilee

Cast your minds back, if you will, 9 years ago to the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations in the village. We had a village day at the village centre with entertainment, bouncy castle, face painting and everybody that came thought it was so fantastic that we ought to do it more often. Well we are doing it again, next year, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As it went so well we're going to repeat the event more or less the same as in 2002.

It will take place at the Village Centre; bring a picnic, drink, chairs, tables, blankets etc, but NO gazebos or barbecues please. There will be entertainment, face painting, nail painting, a story corner, archery, sword fighting and other things we still have to arrange. There's no entry fee and just about everything will be free. It will take place on Sunday 3 June 2012 over the a 4-day bank holiday Diamond Jubilee weekend so if you go away on holiday that time, sorry we can't change it.

It's early days yet and there's still lots to organize but we do need entertainers. So if you fancy about twenty minutes of fame we could use you. It doesn't matter what you do sing, dance, play an instrument, act, recite whatever. If you're interested, please contact Sue on 772581.

I'll give out more details in future magazines as more things are sorted out. So put the date in your diaries and pray for good weather.

TONY RICHARDSON