

Purton *Magazine*



"Autumn Pears"
by Cathy Hyland, Purton Artists

October 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>(Mon 2 - 5pm; Tues 2 - 7pm, Wed 10am - 5pm; Fri 2 - 7pm)</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, tel 853197*

1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT

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

BRAYDON Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, WOOTTON BASSETT

Parish Priest *Father J Reville tel 852366*

Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Wootton Bassett

Services: Holy Days Vigil 7.00pm Holy day 9.30am

Sundays 10.30am Mass

For times of weekday services please see Church notice board

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

Priest *Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586*

St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade

Holy Days 7.00pm Mass

Sundays 9.30am Mass

From The Editors

Our front cover illustration by Cathy Hyland is a timely reminder of autumn as well as an appropriate reference to our local history – quite apart from being a lovely watercolour.

Before looking back at our history, the Parish Council has been delegated the responsibility of street naming and will need to work with developers whenever the need arises. In preparation and on [page 5](#), the Parish Council are asking readers for their suggestions – which may well interest local historians.

Most readers may well be aware that the name Purton is derived from pear trees or a pear orchard. One local historian traces the name back through some variants to Puritone in 796 – see [page 45](#). A significantly larger book, *Wiltshire Volume 18, Cricklade and Environs* containing almost 50 pages on Purton and Braydon has recently been published by Victoria County History – details are on [page 15](#). An illustrated talk was given at the launch of the book in Cricklade at which warm tributes were paid to members of the Purton Historical Society for their cooperation with the editors over a number of years.

The bicentenary celebrations of Nevil Maskelyne, perhaps our most famous inhabitant from the past, concluded in the last one-day event in August although the exhibition continues in the museum until 21st October. However it seems that there are (or were) some Purtonians who had no idea that we had a museum in our village – it is up the stairs in the Institute, above the library. That said, more than 200 visitors have been recorded since 9 August. If there are any more readers who would like to visit the exhibition, the opening hours have recently been extended to match the new library opening hours – see [page 22](#). There is more on the Maskelyne story and the Purton Stoke connections on [page 30](#)

The new arrangements at the library have happened because of the budget reductions firstly by the Government and then by Wiltshire Council. However, Purton has again come up trumps because, thanks to more than 40 volunteers coming forward to be CRB checked and trained, the opening hours of our library will now be extended, rather than reduced. This wonderful reaction from within our community has attracted some high profile media coverage and more details can be found on [page 22](#).

Some autumnal haikus have been received on [page 37](#) and – whisper it quietly – the clocks go back an hour on 31 October. Sorry!

22

Bradon Forest students
create new record with 8
or more A*/A grades
– see [page 34](#)

£50

is the top prize at the Age
Concern quiz
on Friday 7 October
– see [page 12](#)

101

is the new national non-
emergency telephone
number for the Police
– see [page 7](#)

CONTENTS

After 8	Parkgate Farm Landfill
Age Concern	Police Non-Emergency Line
A-Z of Purton	Poppy Appeal
Bowls Club	Postal Sunday School
Bradon Forest School News	Prayer for Purton
Carnival News	Ps & Qs: Green Tips
Church Floodlighting	Purton Placard
Cricket Club	Purton Postbag - letters
Cricklade Band	Purton Profferings
Cricklade Country Market	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Darts League	RBL Horticultural Show
Diary Pages	Recycling Bins
Evening W.I.	St Mary's School
Gardeners' Guild	Staddle Stones
Guide Dogs	Swindon & Cricklade Railway
Haiku Corner	Tennis Club
Historical Society	Twinning Association
Library News	Victoria County History
Maskelyne and Purton Stoke	Volunteers Lead the Way
Maskelyne Bicentenary	We Record ...
On the Lighter Side	Wessex Male Choir
P&L Charity Fund	Wiltshire Good Neighbours
Parish Council News	Work at St Mary's Church

Purton
Magazine

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Parish Council News

Annual Parish Walk

This year the walk was held on Sunday 4 September with 25 walkers and 2 dogs joining Cllr Ron Harris the Parish Council's Rights of Way Chairman. The four-mile walk started from the Village Hall car park. Fortunately the weather was dry and warm. The walkers proceeded up Church Street, down Church Path and across the road towards the Cricket Pitch, then continued up towards Toomers, crossed the road and on towards Washpool. At Washpool they turned and headed back across the fields to the rear of Lydiard Millicent and came out at Chestnut Springs. They then walked through Lydiard, past the church and continued across the fields to the back of Purton; where some of the walkers branched off for their final leg of the walk home. The walkers extended their thanks to Ron for leading the walk; it was a most enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



Dog Warden – the dog warden will be in the small meeting room next to the public toilets on Wednesday 5 October from 9 to 11 am, so if you have any issues you would like to discuss with him he would be pleased to talk to you.

Planning Meeting – the next Planning Meeting is scheduled for Monday 3 October, starting at 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall. One of the applications that will be discussed at the meeting will be the new application for a further 50 dwellings at Moredon Bridge which is within Purton Parish. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

The planning application for 52 dwellings at Widham Farm was discussed at the Parish Council's Planning Committee Meeting on Monday 5 September. Several people attended the meeting and expressed their opposition to the proposal. The decision of the Committee was to object to the application. A copy of the Parish Council's letter of objection can be provided on request, or a copy can be seen on the Wiltshire Council's web site at www.wiltshire.gov.uk under the planning section for North Wiltshire.

It is still unclear when the Ridgeway Farm planning application will be going to the Wiltshire Council Strategic Planning Committee as it has missed the September meeting. It is now likely to be either the October or November meeting. The delay is due to the applicant being required to do more traffic assessments. This is partially due to some of the challenges the Parish Council has made about the information and data put forward by the applicant.

Street Naming – Wiltshire Council has passed to Parish Councils the job of street naming, therefore Parish Councils will be required to work with developers to achieve this. As this could prove to be something of an onerous task we would be

interested to know if you have any suggestions for street names so that we can start a file for when names are needed. We do have to be careful not to use names that are similar to existing ones and if we use the names of local residents either living or dead the families' permissions have to be obtained. Depending on where a development is, we are proposing to look at old maps to see if there are any names in the locality that could be used. Your suggestions would be appreciated.

Rural Housing Needs Survey – The Parish Council is working with Wiltshire Council to carry out a rural housing needs survey in the parish. A survey form will be delivered to your home during October. Please take the time to fill out the form and return it as it will help to determine local needs. This information will be helpful in many ways not least to feed into the Parish Plan. Thank you in anticipation.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:

- N11/02137/FUL *35 Ringsbury Close*, two-storey and rear extension
N11/02035/FUL *Widham Grove*, Change of Use of outbuilding to self-contained annexe (Renewal of 08/01372/COU)
N11/02149/FUL *68 Pavenhill*, first floor rear extension
N11/02420/TCA *Church Street*, tree work
N11/01821/FUL *Tennis Courts, Rear of 7-12 The Hyde, Purton*, floodlighting for two tennis courts (Resubmission of 10/04138/FUL)

Planning Appeals:

- N11/01265/FUL *7 Locks Lane*, erection of detached garage and annexe (written representation). This appeal has been dismissed.
N11/01465/FUL & N11/01464/LBC
Restrop Farmhouse, erection of single storey extension (exchange of written statements and site visit by an Inspector)

Community Arts Training – Wiltshire Council runs a 4-day community arts training course for anyone who would like to develop the skills and knowledge to set up and manage an arts project that will benefit their local community. It may be of interest to any community group including those with no experience of the arts or an arts practitioner who wants to run community arts projects.

Participants need to be based in Wiltshire. Statutory and voluntary organizations with paid staff will be charged £40pp, whilst voluntary groups, individuals and artists will pay £35pp. The next 4-day course will take place on 4/5 and 11/12 November 2011. Deadline for applications is 5 October. For more information and an application form, please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/arts or email arts@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone arts development officer, Meril Morgan on 01249 705531.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646
email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk
Website www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil

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.

New National Non-Emergency Police Number

From 19 September, a new national non-emergency telephone number for the police service – dialling 101 – will be available for communities across Wiltshire. As part of the National roll out, the current non-emergency number 0845 408 7000 will eventually be phased out and replaced by 101. While 999 is a well recognised number to report emergencies, the 2010 British Crime Survey found that only 54 per cent of the public knew which telephone number to call if they wanted to speak to their local police about policing, non-urgent crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

Why is 101 being introduced? The introduction of the 101 number will give local communities one easy way to speak directly with their local police to report and discuss all non-urgent police-related issues. It is being introduced as part of the Government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999 and help the police efficiently and effectively tackle crime and disorder. This new number will not change the way we respond to non-urgent calls. These will still be received by the call handlers in our own control rooms.

How does 101 work? 101 will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When someone calls 101, they will hear a recorded message announcing that they are being connected to their local police force. The system will determine the caller's location and connect them to the relevant police force. If a caller is on a boundary between two or more forces, the recorded message will give them a choice of which force to be connected to. The message will also give the caller the option to select an alternative police force if the incident they are calling about took place in another force area.

When should callers use 101? Callers should use 101 to report less urgent crime or disorder, to contact the police with a general enquiry or to speak to a local officer.

For example:

- if their car has been stolen;
- if their property has been damaged;
- where they suspect drug use or dealing;
- if they want to report a minor traffic collision;
- if they want to give the police information about crime in their area; or
- simply if they'd like to speak to a local police officer.

Can people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, use 101?

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can text-phone 18001 101.

Will it be more expensive for the public to contact the police on 101?

Individual telephony companies currently decide on the cost of dialling an 0845 number so it depends on the contract a force is on as to how much it costs to dial an 0845 number. With 101 it has been nationally agreed that a flat rate of 15p will be charged whether a member of public is calling from a landline or mobile, irrespective of how long their call lasts.

How will 101 be promoted to the public?

We will be running an awareness raising campaign in the run up to 19 September, including the distribution of posters, flyers, contact cards, information on our website, media, internal communications etc

What will happen to the current 0845 408 7000 number?

The 0845 number will be phased out over the next six months. If a person calls it during the 'phase out' period, they will still get through to Wiltshire Police.

What are the timescales for the rollout?

The first Region that went 'live' with 101 was the South East region (Metropolitan, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Essex) on Monday 11 July.

Wiltshire will be part of the 'Region Two' roll-out on Monday 19 September, alongside the other South West forces (Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset).

It is anticipated that 101 will be live across all forces by January 2012.

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.org.uk



Two parties of our members visited Highgrove on 16/17 August and it was something to remember – a fine garden of great statuary and ornament, some of it quite unexpected! It seems that Prince Charles never refuses a gift but finds a place in the Highgrove gardens for their tremendous variety – there are surprises around every corner, as not everything is appropriate to an English country garden! But it was cheering to note that the plants were almost all those that we could grow ourselves, e.g. wallflowers, golden rod, phlox, pansies, tobacco plants. A light lunch was available after the two-hour tour. In all, a thoroughly good day out, without the need to go too far from home. Many thanks to Jane Smith for organizing the event.

Not a great deal of news and discussion for a summer evening, but the meeting of 17 August was a riot of fun! We were dressed for the seaside and had, in effect, a day out, making sandcastles, eating ice cream cones, having a sing-song and, best of all, wearing decorated hats competitively. A complicated voting system made it easier to select the winner, for had it been left to a judge's choice it would have been almost impossible to choose the best because they were all so beautiful. Hearty congratulations to Diane Charles who took first prize, but really it was a case of "Everyone a winner"!

On 24 October we shall be organising a Soup and Sweet Lunch from 12 noon till 2 pm at the Silver Threads Hall. Tickets £5 – to include raffle tickets! I don't think we have ever turned anyone away but it is advisable to turn up in good time for this popular event!

We go to press too early to report on the important September meeting on breast awareness, but members might like to be reminded in advance of the October meeting which will involve Christmas shopping, with stalls including cards, wrapping paper, knitted toys, preserves – and chocolate – and all accompanied by mulled wine and nibbles! No wonder we have so many members – but still room for more ...

CONSTANCE REED

Purton & District Age Concern



It is very sad having to start my piece again with news of people who have departed from our village and it will not be quite the same without them, but obviously not as sad as it is for family and friends who have been very close to these people. I sincerely hope that I am not being over optimistic in classing these people as my friends. All of these people have contributed to make our village what it is – a lovely place to live.

Barrie Bunce was the type of person who it was always a pleasure to meet and have a chat to. He was positive, cheerful and always ready to help in any way he could and, of course, we all know how brave he was. I first met Barrie when, after playing football, I would take the shirts along to his mum to wash. Then, when I was working in *The Angel* for Joyce's mum and dad, I saw the courtship develop between Joyce and Barrie, which was quite good for me because, when Fred and Win were on holiday, Barrie and Joyce wanted me out of the way, so I got home earlier. I thought then what a lovely couple they were and nothing changed over the years. I am not going to write too much about Barry because there is a gentleman more qualified than I am to do that. What I do know is that Barrie was a real family man, a good husband, father, father-in-law and, of course, a lovely grampy. He was the type of chap who, no matter what he did, whether it was work or pleasure, he made a good job of it and it seemed to come quite easily to him. We have just held the Royal British Legion Flower Show – a great success I might add – but, when it comes round, Barrie's name always gets a mention in conversation because he was a great show man, especially with his shallots. In fact, the strain he had developed won first prize at this year's show. I am sure everyone who came into contact with Barrie will have lovely memories of him, especially his family, and I sincerely hope it will give them strength through the coming months and years to come. [See *Cricket Club* article on page 58, Ed.]

Sadly another gentleman has died who had connections with *The Angel* where he was the host for a good number of years along with his wife – I am talking of **Fred Collier**. I first came across Fred and Kate when I worked in *The Grapes* which was a pub opposite the Faringdon Road park in Swindon. When I was serving Fred it was always 'Have one yourself' and then I always had to tell the landlord who had bought me the drink. Fred and Kate took *The Angel* and, guess what, I worked for them there – not so much travelling and they were excellent employers and very generous – that's what I remember most about Fred – his kindness and generosity. They were there until about 1983, I think. I played darts there for a good number of years and it was almost embarrassing when we were playing away and Fred came with us as you had a job to buy a drink – he always wanted to pay all the time. Notice I said *almost* an embarrassment! This was the type of person he was – I went in *The Angel* one Christmas Eve, ordered my usual pint of 3 Bs, nearly finished it and Fred said 'Try this little glass of liqueur'. Well it was very nice but it spoiled the taste of the beer. However, I need not have worried because Fred kept topping my glass up all night – a good night and cheap! He told me afterwards that I had been drinking sloe gin.

One of Fred's loves was bowls which he was very good at playing. He played for Garrards as that was where he worked and where he met Kate. I believe that, when Garrards' factory closed and Garrards'sports field closed in Shrivenham Road, the team moved to Westlecott Bowls Club lock, stock and barrow as they say but still kept the name Garrard. Fred also was a county player. As I have said, Fred was very kind and, of course, it was a joint effort along with Kate. I know that we in Age Concern have felt their generosity many times and I know how much they appreciated Mrs Rita Webb being there for them as their street warden when they moved into Hooks Hill. I should think that they had some of the best years of pub life but they deserved it for all their hard work and kindness – such generous people and always a nice warm welcome when you went in *The Angel*. They are still being generous as money in lieu of flowers is coming to Age Concern, which is greatly appreciated.

Another person who will be sadly missed, especially at St Mary's is **Lily Strange**. Lily lived in Old Town, Swindon, and moved to Purton when she was about eight. Her father was a policeman – he only had one arm. I wonder whether he lost it while in the Police Force. He was a big man and always very smart and upright. I bet Glyn and Keith Shailes, who lived next door, had to behave themselves! What was amazing was that Mr Pinchin could garden as well as anybody with two arms – his garden was perfect. Sorry I am digressing. Lily went to Purton School and I feel sure she went to Secondary School after passing exams at Purton.

I first got to know Lily when my brother Godfrey was choir master at St Mary's and they introduced girls into the choir. The thing with the choir was that we had outings and I am pretty certain that was when Frank and Lily started courting as, like me, Frank was already in the choir. Why I said I think they started courting then, I remember them sitting together on one outing all cuddled up together on the way home and I think that was the start of their lovely relationship. Lily and Frank got married at St Mary's and their first home together was at New Road then, when Lily's mum died, they moved into Station Road to look after her dad. Lily worked in the clerical department at the Railway Works, giving this up when Gill was born and then Angela. Lily was like I said about Barrie, she was good at everything. She was a real home maker. Her cooking was something really special and her sewing excellent. Did Miss Wheeler start her off with sewing at Purton School. Another of Lily's loves was gardening and she would always have plants over that she had grown and would sell them for charity. My view is that she was a pillar of St Mary's Church and she was in the choir for over sixty years. You can see Lily along with the rest of us on the photo in the choir vestry taken in 1953. What talent she had – she was a bell ringer and hand bell ringer and played in the Wootton Bassett orchestra. What I think was the top of her range was her piano playing and what was important was that she shared it with others, playing for Mother's Union, St Mary's Fellowship, Coffee and Chat and for the residential and nursing homes in the village for their Songs of Praise. She passed her love of music on to her daughters and her two grandsons of whom she was so proud. We have so much to thank Lily for and she was such a lovely person.

Lilian Frost is another person who will be sadly missed by all who knew her, although for the last two years she has been at Park View Nursing Home where she was lovingly cared for. Lil was born at Upper Pavenhill to Ted and Flo Simpkins, not far from where she ended up living as she and husband Joe built a house in Ted's garden. She was one of five children and went to St Mary's School, quite a step from where she lived especially if the weather wasn't very good. She liked school and enjoyed maths. Mr Lloyd, who went on to be headmaster, was a student teacher there in those days and she must have been taught by him. Flo died when Lilian was seventeen and Lil's brother Pete was twelve, so she became a mother figure to Pete. When she left school Lilian went into service with the Grimes family – it was the same Grimes that lived in the house where Brian and Joan Frost now live. In fact Lil could remember putting Dick's wellingtons on for him. After that she was in service at Marlborough.

Lil used to go to the dances at Lydiard in the old Reading Room and that is where she met husband Joe. Joe was from Yorkshire and was stationed down here. He was a very good dancer as was Lil – anyway, one thing led to another and he walked her home. When she saw her friend the next day she was asked how she got on and Lil replied 'He was a bit slow – he walked on the other side of the road'. If he was slow, he must have been keen walking all the way from Lydiard to Purton and then back to camp. Also he wasn't that slow as they got married six weeks later. Was this perhaps because Joe was posted overseas? Still, whatever the reason, this was the start of fifty-three happy years of marriage, living first with Lil's dad Ted and later in the house they built in the garden. It was here they brought up their four children, Brian, Andrew, Joe and Brenda. Lil was an excellent cook and Saturday's dinner was always steak pie, mash and peas, served early as Lil like to go and watch Joe play football. I think one of the nicest stories I heard was that, when the sun shone on a Sunday, Lil would get the children to take the dining table and chairs outside to have their Sunday roast and get one of them to take a jug round to the Live and Let Live to get it filled up with shandy. It sounds lovely, especially with the beautiful view. You can understand Lil being so happy as she was a contented person doing knitting for all the family, going to bingo at the Workman's Club (in fact when Lil and Pete went to the Christmas Cracker show at the Wyvern, they would take a picnic to have at half time so they could go straight to bingo at the Club where they had many friends) and to the Derby with her brother Pete. Another of her loves was watching village weddings with her friends Roma Dodson and Bet Beasant. In fact, Roy Blake would give her a list of forthcoming weddings and she would go off with her flask and sandwiches down to the Church. She was a post lady for a good number of years. What a lovely start to the day to have a chat with Lil and I bet you would end up laughing – you couldn't help it. Lil had such an infectious laugh. I think it was lovely that every night she would open her bedroom window and look towards the cemetery to say goodnight to husband Joe who was buried there. She would also pray for her beloved family every night, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and also for anyone else she thought might need a prayer.

Lil has been a great supporter of Age Concern, coming on our outings and

especially our Christmas parties. In fact, since Lil had been not so well and after she went to Park View, her family would bring her to our less able party at the Silver Threads and her brother Pete's family would do the same for him so that they could have a nice afternoon together. The family looked after Lil lovingly at home for a long time and, to give them a break, she would go to Battlelake Farm for respite care where, here again, she was lovingly cared for, this time by Vicky and her family. I know that I have been down there on several occasions when Vicky would say 'I've got someone who would like to see you' and she would take me in to see Lil. I don't know who was most pleased but I know I felt a lot better having seen her with a kiss, a cuddle and a good laugh. What a way to remember someone – with laughter. We were so touched that the family asked for donations in lieu of flowers to be shared between us and the Helping Hand. To all the family and friends of the people I have mentioned, we offer our deepest sympathy and thank you for sharing these people with us.

Derek Lee, our treasurer, has handed in his resignation also Maureen Griffin, our assistant treasurer has handed in hers. The good news is that they are both staying on the committee. Derek took the job on when we were in a bit of a spot so he helped us out when we could not find anyone else and Maureen offered to assist him having previously done the treasurer's job for many years. To both these people could I say thank you most sincerely for keeping our finances on a sound footing. It is surprising how much the job involves, especially time-wise. Well, the good news is we had an extraordinary general meeting before our committee meeting to elect replacements and we welcome another team to our fold, because Colin Freemantle has been elected treasurer and Sylvia, his wife, as assistant treasurer. We thank these two most sincerely for kindly taking on these posts and we hope they will enjoy working in Age Concern as much as we do.

We are in the process of becoming Friends of Age UK Wiltshire. This is because Help the Aged and Age Concern have amalgamated and we felt, rather than being fully fledged members of Age UK we would be Friends – perhaps not so much paperwork but time will tell. We have had an assessment done and we seem to be doing the right things, so watch this space. We will keep our name but I suppose we will be known as Purton and District Age Concern, Friends of Age UK Wiltshire.

Our last jumble sale was a great success so our thanks go to all concerned who helped in one way or another. We cleared over £300 profit. Our next fundraising event is coming up on Friday 7 October when we have our Quiz Night at the Silver Threads Hall starting at 7.30 pm with a top prize of £50 – four persons per team maximum. Tickets are £7 and this includes a hot supper – please bring your own drinks. We would love to see you there. Booking advisable so give me a ring on 770696 or Ron and Heather Harris on 770850.

Following on from that we have our annual Antiques and Collectables Fayre at Purton Village Hall on Sunday 16 October 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Refreshments will be available and entrance costs 50p. This event is run for us by Jenny Barnes so all enquiries to Jenny on 770339. If you would like a stall you may be too late but you could give Jenny a ring.

Belated congratulations to Dave and Muriel Haines who live in the Hyde.

I believe Dave came from Swindon but Muriel is a local lady – with a maiden name like Curtis you would bound to be Purton born and bred. You would consider Dave local for the time he has lived here and the way the pair have always been involved in village life one way and another in years gone by. They have always supported local charities very generously. One of Dave's loves has always been watching Purton play football – he certainly didn't have far to go. So our congratulations and very best wishes to them both.

Although I say it myself, we had a lovely trip on our last mystery tour. The weather was fine and we haven't been that way for a long time. Where did they go I feel you asking yourself. We went to Tringford, a little village by Bicester and, to get there we went via Highworth, Lechlade, Minster Lovell, Witney, Bicester and on to Tringford for tea. My word it was some tea – sandwiches with a wide range of fillings, cakes, scones and what I found delicious were buns cut in half and filled with jam and cream, everything was home made, even the jam on the scones and buns. There were plenty of cups of tea or coffee as well – it has got to be among the best we have had and we've had some good ones. The village hall where we had tea was very nice, set on the edge of the village green and I knew we were in for a good tea with the lovely warm welcome we got. The journey home took us back to Bicester, Woodstock, past Blenheim Palace onto Charlbury, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Burford, Bibury and Cirencester. It only costs £10 for the trip and the tea – we cannot understand why more people do not go. Perhaps we are not doing something quite right. Please tell us, or if there is something you would like instead please let us know. The last trip of the year will be on Wednesday 5 October with a 10 am start and lunch provided, cost £10 (£12.50 for outsiders).

We had a day celebrating 25 years of having our first minibus and what a lovely happy day it was. Yes, 25 years of voluntary work and long may it continue. We started off having an exhibition of the minibuses in the village hall car park and photos etc. inside the hall. Then, in the evening, we all went out together, committee and minibus personnel, and had a meal (and I might add, we all paid for our own). There is a feeling of comradeship amongst us all to enjoy each other's company like this which is a bonus that comes from being involved in Age Concern. I would like to quote from the card we received from a lady who came to see us during the day with a kind donation enclosed. "Congratulations on 25 years of your minibus service. Thank you to the volunteer drivers, shotguns and everyone involved with this wonderful service. As a regular passenger, I very much appreciate the minibus which takes me to WI, Silver Threads, Luncheon Club, concerts, cheese and wine evenings and various other event in the village, most of which I would not be able to get to without your help because of my health problems. I have always found everyone so friendly and helpful"

Just a little footnote in answer to Val Walker's letter – I too was going to Church 40-plus years ago and there's not too many about who have had the pleasure of continuously attending St Mary's for the years that I have and I am grateful. Also those of us who attend the eight o'clock service didn't have the choice about the service we would like, it was chosen for us.

As you know, I am dead against the pews being taken out. The front row was

taken out many years ago as I feel this was quite sufficient. We, in Age Concern, have had concerts there with band and choir etc. and there was plenty of room. The chairs that are being used look out of place, with nowhere to put your books and not enough room for the principal mourners at funerals. It alters the whole character of the Church. So, if you feel like I do, write and object to the Diocesan Registrar, The Diocesan Registry, 14 Market Place, Wells, Somerset BA5 2RE. If you wrote before, you need to write again and the letter needs to reach the office by 8 October 2011.

TONY PRICE

Purton Twinning Association



Following on from the success of the wine tasting held two years ago, the Association will be holding another tasting for members and their guests in the Silver Threads Hall on Friday 4 November at 7.30 pm. As before there will be up to eight different wines to taste from a single domaine in the Languedoc-Rousillon region of Southern France. This domaine is continuing to develop and improve its range of wines and this will be reflected in the wines available to taste.

After the tasting there will be a ploughman's supper and the opportunity to order wine for delivery before Christmas. The cost is £2.50 per member, £5.00 per guest.

Numbers will be limited and members and guests must book and pay before Friday 28 October.

Contact Phil Gosden or Sara Brown to book.

Your new Recycling Bin

All residents in North Wiltshire should have now received their new blue-lidded recycling bins and started collecting their plastic bottles and cardboard for recycling.

Not sure what to put in your new bin? You can only recycle **plastic bottles** and **cardboard** in your blue-lidded bin and not other types of plastic packaging.

For more information and frequently asked questions please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

Not yet received your blue-lidded bin but your neighbours have? Contact the council on 0300 456 0102.

LUCY SIMMS, Campaigns and Events Officer

Poppy Appeal

House to house collections for the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will take place from 29 October until 13 November.

Please support the 2011 Poppy Appeal.

Mrs J E BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser



Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 28 October 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).

The Launch of the Victoria County History Wiltshire Volume 18 Cricklade and Environs

The Victoria County History, founded in 1899, is an encyclopaedic record of England's places and people from earliest times to the present day. It is written by historians working in counties and Wiltshire has a fine record as it has produced more volumes than any other area except Oxfordshire. These "big red books" provide an invaluable resource for everyone interested in local history.

On Saturday, 10 September, representatives from Purton Historical Society assembled in Cricklade to attend the launch of Volume 18 which contains almost fifty pages on Purton and Braydon. The Lord Lieutenant formally presented a copy to the Leader of Wiltshire Council. After refreshments there was an exhibition to view and a chance to peruse the book itself, though not many copies were purchased at a discounted price of £82.50! This is a saving of 25% and the special rate is valid until the end of November.

Dr John Chandler gave an illustrated talk about the book as he has been closely associated with the research involved. Contributions are acknowledged from some PHS members who proof read and checked the Purton section, with particular regard to the history of the village in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Consequently warm tributes were paid to members of the society who have cooperated with the editors over a numbers of years. Most references are made to the books written by Alec Robbins, especially *Purton's Past*. We feel proud to be associated with such a prestigious volume and are negotiating with the editors to have a version of our section published separately as we think such a book would meet with a great deal of interest.

JEAN BELT

Purton Historical Society

What an enjoyable time was had by the families that came to our Maskelyne Families Activity day. There was so much to do that some families came back again in the afternoon. I only wish that I'd had time to paint a plate or make a suncatcher. All ages were enthralled with the activities on offer.

Our talk this month is on Thursday 27 October in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. Mike Boyes will be telling us about "A Victorian rector and nine old maids", but I've heard that it's very respectful in that they are his daughters.

It is not too late to sign on for our Autumn Course this starts on Wednesday 5 October at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. This term we are going to hear about "Tales from the Mediterranean". Contact Inez Gale on 770138 or Paul Booy on 770755 for further details.

Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 19 October in the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Mike Marshman will present his research on "Education in Nineteenth Century Wiltshire".

The Royal Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 13 October in the Civic Centre at 7.30pm. They will be welcoming back Martin Way for part 2



of "The Glimmer in the Dark". This time he will be talking about the Saxon language, literature and art. We went to part 1 earlier in the year and he is a fascinating speaker.

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 12 October in the Broadgreen Centre at 7.30 pm. Jonathan Harries will be talking on "The Great Western Railway Laboratory".

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Nevil Maskelyne Bicentenary Commemoration

Family Day, 20 August 2011

On 20 August the Purton Historical Society held the last one-day event marking the two hundredth anniversary of the death of Nevil Maskelyne, Fifth Astronomer Royal. This took the form of a Family Day in the Village Hall and the idea was for different generations to have fun together; parents, grandparents and children of any age. These days have proved popular in other areas (this was the first to be held in Purton) and in the morning, after a quiet start, the hall was soon buzzing with the sound of excited groups participating in the activities, all exploring the themes of science, astronomy and history. They included constructing model orreries (to demonstrate the positions of the planets), painting plates with Georgian patterns, making astronomical suncatchers, cross stitch book marks, paper sailing ships and dolls in eighteenth century costume. Faces were painted with solar designs while some families visited the museum to work out the answers to a Maskelyne Quiz set by Ali Rushent from the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. She had assisted Susan Dann from the Herschel Museum of Astronomy, Bath, and together these two Education Officers arranged the day's programme. In addition souvenirs could be purchased, one mother kindly set the scene by agreeing to wear an eighteenth century costume and some especially keen visitors returned in the afternoon to complete unfinished tasks.

From the comments it seems that an enjoyable time was had by everyone. "My children have learnt so much!" one parent remarked and several grandparents appreciated the chance to share a learning experience with their grandchildren. We thank all the enthusiastic volunteers who supervised the groups that were organized by Susan and Ali, Caroline for her expert face painting and the other helpers without whom this special day could not have taken place.

The Maskelyne Exhibition continues until 21 October after which the sextant, theodolite and chronometer will return to the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford University. More than two hundred visitors have been recorded since 9 August. Opening hours coincide with the new library times. Apparently there are Purtonians who had no idea a museum existed and others who have never ventured up the Institute stairs before! Having found us, several people intend to join the PHS now that they know what we do. All this has been made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund award and a great deal of effort by the project team led by Brian Freegard, the Museum Curator. So far it has been a demanding, challenging and rewarding year.

JEAN BELT

St Mary's CE Primary School

The staff at St Mary's were seeing red at the start of this new term, literally that is. At 9.30 on Thursday 1 September, the children and staff gathered for a whole school assembly on the upper site playground (the lower school hall being unable to accommodate such a large number) and the vibrant new red uniform made a dazzling sight as the children sat in the post-holiday sunshine.

Although everyone at St Mary's is looking forward to relocating to the new school at the beginning of 2012, work and play in the existing buildings continues at an energetic pace with the teachers planning exciting topics and activities for the two terms leading up to Christmas. One of the first activities is the time capsule. All of the classes in the school are to produce an item for a time capsule that is to be sealed in a cavity beneath the internal stairs within the new building. Other items relevant to St Mary's will also be placed in the capsule so that the existing school will be part of the new building. There will be an opportunity for former pupils of St Mary's to take a trip down memory lane before the closure of the Victorian building; more information at a later date.

The new school build continues to make great progress. Now that the scaffolding is being removed the style, shape and size of the building is now clearly visible. Cowlin have continued to make great strides in delivering us our wonderful building. They are on track to hand the building over in mid December ready for us to occupy and begin using in January. There will still be some extensive work taking place for a year or more whilst the school field is laid and re-instated but the design of the new build allows us to have extensive hard play and habitat areas to use in the mean time. Bradon Forest continue to be very generous in allowing us to use their facilities whilst we await completion and for this we continue to be very grateful.

St Mary's is also seeking ways to celebrate the identity of Purton in the new school. We are delighted with the pear artwork created by Toni Dickinson, a local artist, and the children during the Church Activity Week held in August. We will look to give this a place to be proud of in our new school. Meetings with our landscape architects have also enabled us to find a very special pear tree (Latin name: *Santus Maria*), which will be planted in one of our habitat areas.

If everything remains on track, we will have just 15 weeks to prepare to move



into our new school. Time will certainly fly past and all of us at St Mary's remain very grateful for all of the support and encouragement that the local community have afforded the school as it strives to build a legacy for the children and families in Purton. We are not there yet, but we are closer than we have ever been!

Faculty Application for Work at St Mary's Church

The Parochial Church Council of Purton have received a Diocesan Advisory Committee Certificate recommending the permanent removal and disposal of the two nave pews and associated work, and for a plaque to mark the grave of Nevil Maskelyne. The committee opinion is that this work *"is not likely to affect the character of the church as a building of special architectural or historic interest."*

The Wiltshire Planning Office have also been consulted and replied, *"the loss of the pews have a very minor impact upon the architectural and historic interest of the church, which would be amply compensated by the enhanced use of the building"*.

A public notice has been posted at St Mary's Church advertising the application for a faculty for this work as of 10 September 2011 for 28 days.

DAVID NETTLETON, Purton PCC

Postal Sunday School

For a whole variety of reasons many children no longer attend Sunday School, yet their parents would be happy for them to learn more about the Bible if it were possible. Therefore I have started a 'Postal Sunday School' with the local title of 'Explore the Bible'. There are many such groups all over the UK, all using the same materials.

The movement was started in 1958 by a couple in Ireland, and has now spread to many other countries, with the lessons being produced in several languages. They are nondenominational, and can be used with any of the main versions of the Bible, such as the King James, New International Version and Good News. They are graded according to age, from 4 to 15 and above.

Adults who have children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces etc, who cannot attend a Sunday School, but whose parents agree to them enrolling, can obtain application forms and lessons from me.

My contact with the children is through the adults who introduce them to the scheme. The children pass the lessons back to me for marking by post or via the adult. Then the next lesson is sent out. The lessons are free and there is no obligation to continue with them if they are felt not to be suitable.

For more information, enquiries and application forms, please contact me, Irving Winson, 21 Highridge Close, Purton SN5 4BS. (Tel: 772898)

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common and Locks Lane*. 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.

Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund News

We held our **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 31 August, and would like to thank Constance Reed from the Lydiard Magazine for being our sole visitor! If you are interested to know how we have done over the past year please ask for a copy of our annual report and balance sheet. A list of the donations we have made over the past year are given below.



Thanks must go to Howard and Caroline from the *Sun Inn* at Lydiard Millicent for allowing us to hold our **Village Fete** on Saturday 3 September. Unfortunately it was not as busy as we had hoped, despite coverage in the Adver, local mags and radio, together with banners and posters. At least it kept dry for us! As a charity ourselves we raised £155, the other charities, which included the NSPCC, RNLI, Cats Protection league and others have promised to let me know how much they raised. We do appreciate everyone's support.

Our next event is our **Christmas Craft Show** on Saturday 5 November, in Purton Village Hall, from 10.30am to 4pm. There are just a couple of tables left – please call if you would like to take part. Donations of craft materials are always welcome for our card making classes.

LYNDA WARREN, Chairman
lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk

- September 2010 - £200 Purton Helping Hand towards shortfall from carnival for Christmas vouchers
- September 2010 - £100 Purton Village Hall towards new cooker
- September 2010 - £200 Lydiard Millicent Village Hall towards renovations
- October 2010 - £75 Lydiard Millicent Primary School, just a drop in the ocean to help with their move, the money was put towards books for the new library
- December 2010 - £200 - £50 each towards Christmas lunches for Purton Silver Threads, Purton Luncheon Club, Purton Stoke Christmas Lunch, Lydiard Millicent Luncheon Club
- June 2011 - £50 was raised for Purton Helping Hand Carnival through face painting at two of their events
- August 2011 - £150 Purton Luncheon Club
- August 2011 - £100 Action on Hearing Loss (Purton)
- August 2011 - Face painting during a very quiet charity afternoon at the *Brookhouse* pub on Saturday 28 raised just £14. £7 was given to them for their Help For Heroes Fund and £7 used to purchase prizes for the children's competition at the Village Fete we are holding at *The Sun*.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier. Please call me, Ellen Blacker on 07557 110414.



Green Tips - Private Drains, Sewers and Private Water Supplies

Up to now the water authority, and in our area that is Thames Water, was only responsible for public sewers and private sewers built prior to October 1936. New legislation has now come in, as from 1 October 2011, which puts the responsibility for all sewers and lateral drains, private and public, which were in place and connected to a public sewer prior to 1 July 2011, to the Water Authority. There are a few exceptions such as those owned by the railway and on Crown land.



The problem which may face Thames Water is that many of the private sewers are problematic, not fit for purpose, need replacing etc. and this of course will all cost money to put right which will be recovered from our water bills. It is estimated that more than half of properties in England and Wales are connected to a private sewer and the cost could add between £3 and £14 per year to our bills. The new legislation is seen as a positive step as many hours are wasted arguing who is responsible for what, incurring call-out bills, and high costs to home owners to put right problems with private sewers.

So when does the private drains serving your property become a sewer or a lateral drain? Technically, this is when any two sets of private drains meet or if this does not happen then when the private drain feeds into the main public sewer.

As an example, in this village there is a row of houses which all have private drains running down the gardens where they connect to another drain (which would be a lateral drain) running behind the houses, which in turns connects onto the public sewer, via a chamber in the highway, at one end of the row. Technically, if the drains had been put in after October 1936, up to now all of the pipe runs would have been the responsibility of the owners until the connection in the highway. As from 1 October 2011, where the first house meets the second house private drains this then becomes the responsibility of the water authority. However the drainage run from each house down their gardens, until they meet with the newly adopted lateral drain, is still the responsibility of the owner of the house.

Thames Water has sent a very useful leaflet explaining the new system and showing some useful diagrams.

For those with web access www.ccwater.org.uk/server.php?show=nav.1278 is the Consumer Council for Water – who represents the interests of water consumers in England and Wales – so any other problems which you cannot solve with Thames Water, ask them to help you.

Any systems put in after 1 July 2011 should now comply with a set standard and more than likely will be adopted by the water authority.

The Private Water Supplies Regulations 1991 have been replaced with new regulations in January 2010 – The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 with regard to the testing of private water supplies.



Water Supplies: an alternative view

A private water supply could be where the water is being supplied from a well, springs, river, lake etc. but also distribution systems connected to the main water supply. For example a distribution system is where the water from the water authority is then run down a private system to a single or a number of other properties, this could include caravan sites, hotels, B & B, hospitals, private roads (where the meter is on the public highway) etc. The Regulations require Local Authority Environmental Health to complete a risk assessment of all private water supplies by January 2015 and they will be responsible to monitor these systems to ensure that water from private systems is wholesome and clean. To ensure that the public who drink water and consume food from private supplies are not put at risk. If only the householder and their family consume the water then it is not necessary to have the water tested.

You can find more info on:

www.privatewatersupplies.gov.uk

<http://dwi.defra.gov.uk/consumers/advice-leaflets/PWS-newregs.pdf>

www.nemco-utilities.co.uk/private-water-supplies-74.html

Compiled by Jacqui Lay for Ps & Qs

Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities

Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities

New members are always welcome

Contact: Jane Smith (772422) Jacqui Lay (770704)

or via our web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk

Church Floodlighting

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



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 14 September | The Church was floodlit to celebrate what would have been the 80 th birthday of Jim Young .
Love from all his family |
| 30 September | St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of John Boast on the 8 th anniversary of his death.
Miss you and love you always.
Wife Carol and all the family.
Also in memory of Shaun Adam Roberts , our tiny Great Grandson; who was stillborn on 11 August 2007.
Now cradled in the arms of Jesus.
God bless and always in our thoughts |
| 30 October | St Mary's Church will be floodlit in memory of Jessica Mutter , on her birthday.
In loving memory from all her family. |

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

Purton Library: Volunteers lead the way in Wiltshire

Back in January this year, Wiltshire Council approved plans that would deliver the necessary 28% savings from the libraries. Even following the same levels of reductions in Government funding, the plan would still retain the full network of service points including all 5 mobile libraries. However, the 10 smallest libraries in the county – which account for only 3% of current library visits and which include Purton library – would need to be operated in partnership with volunteers.

In the March issue of Purton Magazine, the Parish Council warned that our library could be under threat of closure and appealed for volunteers to come forward. In order to keep it open for a minimum of 3 hours a week, 12 volunteers would be needed to work with 5 hours of staff time at Purton. However members of staff would also be carrying out backroom work and therefore would not always be present when the library would be open.

Rather than just 12, over 40 people in this great community of ours have already come forward and constitute the largest number of volunteers at any library anywhere in the county. Throughout Wiltshire more than 300 volunteers have been trained by Wiltshire Council to run the facilities. Such has been the response here that no more volunteers are needed in Purton at the moment. Also the opening hours of our library have actually been extended by 4 hours a week from Monday 5 September (see below). That is in contrast to one or two other libraries in Wiltshire where opening hours have had to be reduced.

Indeed, the response from our community has been so positive that our library volunteers have been featured in *ITV West Country Tonight*, *BBC Points West*, the BBC News web site and BBC Local Radio – as well as other local media. Having interviewed a couple of volunteers, the BBC Local Radio team will be coming back to do a follow up piece when the system has been working for a while.

All the Purton library volunteers have been checked through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) system and have received detailed on-site training, especially with the relatively new self-service electronic devices. Those machines are broadly similar to the touch screen self-service machines that now operate in many supermarkets. Perhaps the biggest challenge has been for the two Community Library Volunteer Coordinators to produce a monthly rota for 40+ people and their own personal schedules – in some ways it must have been like trying to herd cats!

So when you next visit Purton Library, you may well meet many different people from our community working there to help you. They have arranged to donate some of their time to keep our library open and now for a little longer each week. The new opening hours are:-

- Mondays 2.00pm to 5.00pm
- Tuesdays 2.00pm to 7.00pm
- Wednesdays 10.00am to 5.00pm
- Fridays 2.00pm to 7.00pm

ONE WILLING VOLUNTEER

Library News - New Library Opening Hours

Following a major review of the library service, Wiltshire libraries' new opening hours will start from Monday, 5 September. All of Wiltshire's libraries will remain open thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have come forward to help the council safeguard the library service. In Purton Library we will be operating the opening hours with the support of volunteers and will continue to offer a friendly and welcoming service for all members of the community. The two members of library staff who have become familiar faces to customers will be taking up new posts. Janet Saunders will taking up duties at Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Libraries as well as providing support to the volunteers at Purton Library. Ali Carter has been appointed as Library Assistant at Malmesbury Library.

Library customers can find details of all the new opening hours for Wiltshire libraries on the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries. Bookmarks giving details of the new opening times will also be available from all libraries.

Circus Stars Summer Reading Challenge

This year the national Summer Reading Challenge for 4 to 11 year olds has been proving as popular as ever and volunteers at the library have been kept busy listening to the children and giving out stickers and rewards for each book they have read. I visited St Mary's Primary School with local storyteller and author Neil Griffiths to promote the challenge before the end of term. Neil involved the whole school in an interactive story session which left no one in doubt that storytelling is a wonderful world of imagination and discovery and that reading is fun.

CAROLYN KENNEDY, Community Librarian

Parkgate Farm Landfill Site

Residents are being asked to keep to marked footpaths around the Parkgate Farm landfill site for safety reasons.

The Hills Group, which runs the site, says that because of the number of vehicle movements in and around the site it needs to make sure walkers use secure paths.

Walkers who come to the end of New Road are asked to use the clearly signed bridleway across the field rather than go through the busy marshalling yard. It means people avoid the industrial units which are busy with vehicles.

The other route which some walkers have used but which is not a recommended right of way is the bridge over the railway line which has regular traffic movements.

The safe routes in both instances are clearly marked. If anyone sees a footpath sign which is not clear can they please alert Brian Fitzpatrick at Hills via brian.fitzpatrick@hills-group.co.uk

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

OFFERED: AIWA analogue stereo/CD/cassette system with speakers, remote control and all the rest of the parts; 01793 771438/07769 712799.

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

Purton Diary - October 2011

October

			<i>to 21 Oct:</i> Maskelyne Exhibition at Museum during library hours
1	Sa	11.00am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Collectables Sale at Methodist Church (Christian Aid)
		2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (Silver Threads)
		7.00pm	Barn Dance at Village Hall (St Mary's Church)
2	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Harvest Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Dorcan Choir</i>
5	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
		7.30pm	Purton Historical Society Autumn Course: <i>Tales from the Mediterranean</i> at Silver Threads Hall. Then on 12 and 19 Oct
6	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
7	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Age Concern Quiz night at the Silver Threads Hall with supper
9	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Service for Church Anniversary at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
10	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
11	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
12	W		Methodist Women's Fellowship at Shrivenham Methodist Church
13	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
15	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (Helping Hand)
16	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service for One World Week at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	<i>to 4.30pm:</i> Age Concern Antiques and Collectables Fayre at the Village Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
		6.00am	Informal Service at Methodist Church
18	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Talk</i>
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: Treasure Trail led by Avril at Jan's
19	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Christmas Shopping and a Quiz
22	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 3pm:</i> Shoebox Filling Day at Methodist Church

23	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
24	M	12.00	<i>Noon-2pm</i> , WI Soup and Sweet Lunch at Silver threads Hall
25	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Fred Swift - <i>Bee-Keeping</i>
26	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
27	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall: Mike Boyes - <i>A Victorian Rector and Nine Old Maids</i>
29	Sa		RBL house-to-house Poppy Appeal collections start
		1.30pm	Table Top Sale at Village Hall (Helping Hand)
		2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (Guide Dogs)

30	Su	2.00am	End of British Summer Time - clocks go backwards
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	All Soul's Service at St Mary's Church

November

4	F	7.30pm	Wine Tasting evening at Silver Threads Hall (Twinning Assoc)
9	W	7.30pm	Whist Drive at Silver Threads Hall (Air Ambulance)

Every week

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

Moon Phases

 4 October
  12 October
  20 October
  26 October

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
 Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

PURTON PLACARD

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

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

Purton Age Concern **ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES FAYRE**

at the Village Hall
Saturday 16 October
10.30am to 4.30pm
Raffle and refreshments
Come and browse around
the many interesting stalls

Wyn's Coach Trips

Moreton in Marsh

Tuesday 25 October

contact Wyn Peare
on 01793 759403

1 Heberden House, Cricklade

Any Profits to Air Ambulance

Helping Hand

Jumble Sale

Saturday 15 October
2.00pm

Silver Threads Hall
Raffle & Refreshments

World Challenge Morocco 2012
Fund-Raising Event

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

Priced at £15 each person

Contact: Helen 771645

Organised by

George Griffin Aaron Moody

George Dudman Robert Mills Nathan Hiles

Includes a great raffle prize draw

'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!

Whist Drive
on Wednesday 9 November
7.30pm
at Silver Threads Hall
Proceeds to
Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Purton Historical Society
Maskelyne Bicentenary
Purton Museum Open during Library hours
The Special Maskelyne Exhibition
ends on 21 October 2011
after which the contemporary navigational
instruments will return to Oxford

**ENCORE IN
CONCERT**
in aid of Macmillan Nurses
at Bath Road Methodist
Church
on Thursday 20 October
at 7.30pm - entry £5

Purton Guide Dogs
Jumble Sale
Saturday 29 October
2.00pm
at Silver Threads Hall
Everyone welcome

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

**Purton Evening Women's
Institute**
Invites you to enjoy
**The WI SOUP & SWEET
lunchtime event**
At the Silver Threads Hall
12 noon - 2pm
on Monday 24 October
Ticket £5 - to include raffle tickets!

Helping Hand
Table Top Sale
Saturday 29 October
1.30pm
Village Hall
Tables £6 - tel 770251
book early!
Raffle, Food and plenty to buy
Admission 20p (children free)

Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Sunday 4th December
Village Hall, Purton
2-4pm

Meet Father Christmas in his grotto,
have your picture taken and
receive a gift. Also Grand
Prize Raffle, Tombola,
Cake Stall, refreshments
and lots more



Free Entrance
Registered Charity 1031501

Purton Age Concern
FUN QUIZ EVENING
at the Silver Threads Hall
on Friday 7 October 7.30pm
£50 FIRST PRIZE
£7 per person
(includes hot supper)
Bring your own drinks
4 persons per team max.
Booking advisable on 770696

On The Lighter Side

Most Police Officers will tell you that they have heard every excuse in the book, especially when apprehending someone. However, The Sunday Times reports that Police in Yorkshire heard a new excuse when a drunk horse-and-carriage driver ran through a red light. A 56-year-old local man was stopped after his horse, Fred, pulled the carriage the wrong way up a one-way street and straight through the traffic lights showing red. He blamed the mistake on his horse's colour-blindness!

The man, defended in court by the aptly named solicitor Mr Dobbin, admitted being drunk in charge of a horse and carriage and received a 12-month conditional discharge.

Air Safety

According to the Sunday Times, John Sentamu, the first black Archbishop of York tells a good story. A recent one is about a jumbo jet that develops engine trouble, half way across the Atlantic.

"As we are losing altitude" says the captain, "some passengers will have to be dropped in to the water with their life jackets. As this airline operates a strict equal opportunities policy, we will do this alphabetically. Are there any Africans on board today?"

Silence.

"Are there any black people flying with us today?" Again, silence.

"Anybody from the Caribbean?"

As each letter is called out, a little boy sitting near the back tugs urgently at his father's sleeve. "Dad, Dad" he whispers "what are we?"

"Quiet boy" says his father. "We are Zulus."

Classic Puns

- A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."
- Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam!"
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it.
- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."
- A Buddhist refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
- A group of chess Grand-Masters checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them, in no uncertain terms, to clear off out of it. "But why?", one asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Road Sign

This sign sprang up somewhere near Bristol and is reputed to have been the work of Banksy. Needless to say the Authorities were not amused and quickly had it removed!



Zen Teachings

- There are two excellent theories for arguing with women. Neither one works.
- We are born naked, wet and hungry, and get slapped on our backsides ... then things just keep getting worse.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left.
- Don't be irreplaceable; if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

Imponderable Ponderings

- We know that indestructible black boxes are used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of the same stuff?
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the "terminal"?

Sad Story

A young couple on their way to the church to get married were involved in a dreadful car crash and both died instantly. On arriving at the Pearly Gates, St Peter quizzed them about their lives and they told him they were about to get married. "Can we get married in heaven?" they asked. St. Peter looked worried and said, "I will go and try and find out." And off he went.

Three months later he returned obviously quite stressed and said, "Yes, that's all right. I can arrange for you to be married." The man asked, "Oh, by the way, if it doesn't work out can we by any chance get divorced in heaven?"

St Peter exploded in anger. "Look here, young man. It's taken me three months to find a priest up here. How long do you think it'll take to track down a lawyer?"

Exhibit of the Month: Rev. Nevil Maskelyne and Sophia

... and their Purton / Purton Stoke connections

I am grateful to Jim Caslaw for the following article which he has produced as a leaflet for Purton Stoke, for their Anniversary Picnic. Initially it was going to be held at Ponds Farm for reasons that will become obvious in the text, but due to circumstances ... it is now either in one of Will Ponting's fields after a cricket match, or at the *Bell Inn*, depending on the weather.

The Maskelyne family had been property owners in Purton and Purton Stoke for at least 11 generations. The earliest record of land transfer was to a Robert Maskelynge in Purton, dated 1435, in the reign of Henry VI.

Rev. Nevil Maskelyne, Nevil's grandfather, was born in 1679 and, at 18, inherited estates in Purton and the Lordship of the Manor of Cricklade. He lived at West Marsh farm, at the end of Mopes lane, as "Squire" Maskelyne. He was a JP and MP for Cricklade and Wootton Bassett.

In 1690, he married Ann Bathe, the daughter of the Vicar of Purton, and they had 11 children in 12 years. In 1706 Ann died and, 5 years later, in 1711 Nevil also died. They are both buried at St Mary's Church, Purton.

Their eldest son, another Nevil, inherited the property at 19, and with his sister Jane, became responsible for the care and education of their 9 brothers and sisters.

He obtained an appointment in London as a clerk to the Secretary of State in the Foreign Office. However in 1716 he gave up this post to his younger brother Edmund, sold off West Marsh Farm, the Borough, Hundred and Manor of Cricklade and retired to Down Farm in Purton.

Edmund, our Nevil's father, was baptized at St Mary's Church in Purton in August 1698, but then lived in London, married Elizabeth Booth, from Woodford, Chester and had four children: William, Edmund, our Nevil the future Astronomer Royal in October 1732, and Margaret. William and Edmund were both baptised in St Mary's church. Sadly there is no record for Nevil otherwise he would pass the "Tony Price Test" and be a Purtonian!

His father died in 1744 when Nevil was 12.

Nevil's brother William took his BA in 1747, and became a Fellow of Trinity at Cambridge. He was obliged to take up Holy Orders, failed to get a professorship there teaching Hebrew, and retired to Pond's Farm, Purton Stoke which he had inherited from the Bathe family in 1752. He remained a bachelor, but did father a child, Jane Secker, when he was at Cambridge.

His other brother Edmund obtained a commission in the Honourable East India Company at the age of 17. Soon after arriving at Madras he met Robert Clive and they became friends. Edmund also became a matchmaker for his sister Margaret. Clive was intrigued by the letters she sent to



Rev. Nevil Maskelyne

Edmund and she was persuaded to travel to India to join him. Within a few months she became Mrs Clive. After his time in India, Edmund came back to this area and bought a house, Bassett Down in Lydiard Tregoze. He died in 1775, also a bachelor, and is buried at St Mary's Church Purton.

The Maskelynes were active in local life. In the Purton Stoke Poores' Platt Charity records their names keep appearing as either Trustees or as a Chairman of the Trustees until the 1770s. William Maskelyne of Slyfield Lodge, Braydon Forest testified at the Inquiry in 1733, held in the Bell Inn, to establish that only the poor of Purton Stoke were entitled to the Charity. He also agreed to rent the Platt for 10 years to pay the solicitor's fees of £223, that the poor had incurred to hold the Inquiry. Maskelynes were also fortunate in acquiring common land in the pasture and arable land Inclosures of 1738 and 1799. Nevil, the uncle received 137 acres and Edmund, his brother, received 47 acres, while Nevil himself received 28 acres.

We can return to Nevil's story now. He studied Classics at Westminster School, but after seeing the eclipse of the sun with a camera obscura in July 1748, applied himself to optics, astronomy, algebra, geometry, mechanics, pneumatics and hydrostatics. In 1748 his mother died. In 1749 he entered Catherine Hall, Cambridge, as a sizar. Sizar received free education but had to earn their keep as servants to the wealthier students. He went on to Pembroke College, then Trinity, taking the Mathematical Tripos and graduated as the seventh wrangler in 1754.

He wanted to become a Fellow at Trinity so took Holy Orders in anticipation and became Curate of Chipping Barnet Church in Hertfordshire, officiating at marriages between 1756 and 1763. He sailed to St Helena and Barbados making astronomical observations, working on the lunar method and testing Harrison's fourth timepiece, the watch, as solutions to the Longitude problem. He presented his findings to the Royal Society and published the British Mariner's Guide.

In 1765 he was appointed Astronomer Royal, continued to make contributions to Astronomy and Navigation, and published the Nautical Almanac for the rest of his life. All of his scientific achievements are recorded in detail elsewhere.

He inherited Pond's Farm on the death of his brother William in 1772 and Purton Down in 1775, when Edmund died. Regular visits to Purton Stoke were made, in autumn in his Berlin carriage, to spend time with his relatives. In 1773 he applied to the King to take 6 weeks leave, (signing his letter as a most obedient and most humble servant) probably to visit Mr and Mrs Large, who had then become his tenants at Ponds farm. After 1785 his visits would be accompanied by Sophia and their daughter Margaret.

He died at Greenwich in 1811 but was brought "home" to be buried at St Mary's Church in Purton.

Rev. Nevil Maskelyne's wife Sophia Rose

Her father was born John Pate in 1723. When he was 12 he inherited a large estate from his uncle John Rose, with the stipulation that he would change his name to Rose when he reached 21.

The Estate included Cotterstock Hall in Northamptonshire with cottages and neighbouring farms in Cotterstock, Glapthorne, Ensor, Oundle and Ringstead,

producing a good income of about £500 a year. And so it was that in 1744 by a Private Act of Parliament he became John Pate Rose. He then spent some time in Jamaica, where the Rose family had many holdings, and came back to London where he met Martha Henn. They never married but she bore him two children Letitia, in 1751, and Sophia Rose, in 1752, which he accepted as his. He died in 1758, when Sophia was in her sixth year. In his will he left his entire estate to be divided equally between his two daughters and appointed two Trustees to administer his property until his youngest, Sophia, reached the age of 21. By that time his property



included Mount Hindmost, a sugar plantation with slaves, in Jamaica. It brought shipments of sugar and rum back to England, several times a year and each shipment produced an income of about £500. Martha Henn was given an annuity of £150 a year. Immediately after his death, however, she changed her name to Mrs Martha Henn Rose. The Trustees carried out their task diligently. The girls were sent to a boarding school. In 1762 a payment of eight shillings and sixpence was authorised to give the girls' tutor a gift of coffee and chocolate.

In 1773 the Trustees handed over the Trust to the two women. The three women now lived together in their London property until Martha died in 1783. In her will published in 1784 she left Letitia *her* property, Cotterstock Hall and left Sophia a half share of the other properties which now included a house in Northill, Bedfordshire, and an estate in Ramsey, Huntingdonshire. The Jamaican plantation had been sold by then.

As young women with property, their fortunes, i.e. their marriage prospects, changed immediately.

Within six months, in July 1784 at St Andrew's Church in Holborn, London, Letitia, at 33, married Rev. Sir George Booth (6th Baronet). He was 60 and a widower of 20 years. A month later at the same church in August 1784 Sophia Rose, at 32, married Rev. Nevil Maskelyne, who was now 51 years old.

Nevil and Sophia had one daughter, Margaret, a year after their marriage. Margaret was an accomplished artist. Amongst others she made sketches of the Dame School in Purton Stoke and Purton House.

After Nevil died Sophia came back to the area, to Bassett Down to stay with her daughter, who had inherited that property, until her death in 1821. She is also buried at St Mary's Church.

JIM CASLAW

I will put a copy of this on the Museum's web site at www.purtonmuseum.com. Purton Museum is open during Library hours – see the inside front cover of the Magazine for these hours.

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

After 8 – Summer Evening Walk

On Tuesday evening, 16 August we set off from Cricklade Town Hall for a circular five mile walk to explore the Thames path and the old Wilts and Berks canal. After a rainy day we were blessed with a perfect, beautiful sunny evening which show-cased the infant Thames and the water meadows at their very best. Apart from enjoying the typically English scenery, the well placed information boards told us about the history of the disused lock, lock- keeper's cottage and canal basin. We had a brief encounter with the noisy A419 when our path ran parallel with it for a short time and then a left turn took us into the peaceful lanes of Cerney Wick. Feeling very virtuous we walked on past the Crown pub and back to Cricklade along the old railway. It was lovely to walk through the churchyard and past the old cross and cottages in the fading light.



MARY HODGES

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18 October, a Treasure Trail led by Avril at Jan's (11 Station Road)

New members are always welcome. Please contact [Avril](#) or [Janet](#).

We Record ...

Baptisms

- 21 August Ruby Louise Kinsella *at St Mary's Church*
28 August Kyra Morgan Rhind-Tutt *at St Mary's Church*
11 September Caitlin Rose Eastman *at St Mary's Church*

Weddings

- 20 August Anthony Jon Gooding *and* Jessica Joy Bernadette Childs
at St Mary's Church
Phillip David Thomas *and* Tara Louise Cozens
at St Mary's Church
10 September James Alexander Ashley *and* Megan Ruth Elliott
at St Mary's Church

Funerals

- 8 August William James Young *at St Mary's Church*
22 August Barrie Bunce (69) *at Kingsdown Crematorium*
31 August Lily Esmay Strange *at St Mary's Church*
9 September Lillian Rose Frost *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 ...





SUMMER 2011 RESULTS REPORT

Students, parents and staff were delighted with our excellent results this year. The high standards of recent years have been exceeded with a record breaking 22 students gaining 8 or more A*/A grades.

12 A*/As: Molly Hall 11A*/1A (*pictured right*); Mary Coe 10A*/2A Natasha Chilambo 9A*/3A Joshua Yetman 9A*/3A, Jennifer Allan 7A*/5A; Daniel Granville 7A*/5A; Hannah Pettit 6A*/6A. Rosanna Robinson 4A*/8A. **11 A*/As:** Kim Hyun Seo 9A*/2A; Marianne Fish 8A*/3A; Annayah Prosser 7A*/4A; Ben Francis 6A*/5A; Ben Madley 5A*/6A. **10A*/As:** Rosie Hutchins 1A*/9A, Chelsea Davies 10A. **9A*/As:** Louis Maddison 5A*/4A; Eiranjit Chahal 3A*/6A; Rhiannon Courtney 2A*/7A; Joanne Cook 2A*/7A. **8A*/As:** Paula Hagar 3A*/5A, Michael Booth 1A*/7A, Olivia Stanton, 1A*/7A.



On results day virtually the entire year group came into school to collect their results personally at 9 am – the local press was present and there was a real atmosphere of celebration. GCSE measures for the year group (245 students) include: **70%** gained 5+ A*-C (with **54%** gaining 8+ A*-C) plus: **72%** A*-C grade in English; **73%** A*-C grade in English Literature as well); **67%** A*-C grade in Mathematics (with **24%** of Maths grades being A*/A) 60% gained at least 2 A*-C Science GCSEs (with 60 students taking Physics, Chemistry and Biology as separate subjects); **47%** gained A*-C in a Modern Foreign Language with 17% gaining A*-C in both French and German. The results were also very pleasing across the ability range with a significant number of students with average scores on entry exceeding their expected grades. I would like to congratulate all students on these impressive results, which will enhance their future life chances during these uncertain times. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff team and the support of parents in helping our students to do so well.

A LEVEL & UNIVERSITY SUCCESS

I am delighted to report that the results of the students who left Bradon Forest in 2009 were excellent. Early indications from both Cirencester and New College are of another successful year for ex-Bradon Forest students with large numbers going onto degree courses. Particular congratulations to the following ex-Bradon Forest students (Year 11 leavers in 2009) who were three of the 'magnificent seven' highlighted on the Cirencester College press release. They were: **Emon Majdabadi-Farahani** who achieved A*s in Maths, Chemistry, Economics and Biology as well as an A in General Studies and a C in German. He is off to Oxford University to study Medicine. **Monabil Ali** was a member of the Finance Academy and achieved a full set of A grades in Business Studies, Economics and Sociology as well as a Distinction in the Personal and Business Finance Diploma. He is going to the University of Reading where he will benefit from a £1000 scholarship. **Sophie Grubb** achieved an A* in Psychology and As in Textiles, English Language

and Media Studies. She is heading off to Cardiff University to study Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies.

Special congratulations to the following ex-Bradon Forest students: **Nick Taylor** who obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Natural Science (Chemistry) at Cambridge University; **Jenny Medland** who obtained a 2:1 Honours Degree in English at St Catherine's College Oxford University and **Andrew Tedstone** who after obtaining a First Class Honours Degree in Geography at Cambridge has recently completed his MPhil at the Scott Institute in Cambridge and is starting his PhD at Edinburgh University later this month. There have been over twelve ex-Bradon Forest students who have gone to Oxford and Cambridge during the past few years. Parents of these students, and all their teachers at Primary School, Bradon Forest, Sixth Form College and University, should be justly proud of them and their terrific achievements.

YEAR 8 OUTDOOR EDUCATION DAYS ACTIVITIES/CAMP AT KEYNES PARK

Our traditional Year 8 camp was held on two separate days last year at the Outdoor Activities Centre at Keynes Park in the Cotswold Water Park. The weather was kind on both days and the students all enjoyed a fantastic range of activities. (100 students 10 May and 101 on 11 July) Students were able to choose one activity run by qualified instructors from kayaking, raft building and archery. This was the highlight of the day for most, with students enjoying learning a new skill and in the case of kayaking and raft building, getting wet! Students also took part in sessions run by the PE Department with the help of Year 11 GCSE PE students on camp craft, initiative games and rounders. A BBQ tea 'cooked' by the PE team was enjoyed by all in the beautiful setting of the park, next to the lake. Two great days for students and staff with Jo Pendlebury, Director of Training and Development at Waterland, summing up our students by saying the youngsters from Bradon Forest were amongst the best behaved they have had using their facilities.



END OF YEAR AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

This year virtually 1000 parents, relatives and friends attended over the four days! Our Awards Assemblies are a special event for both students and staff, with guests invited each year to present awards. Our guests were:

Year 7	18 July 2011	Mr I Tucker, Headteacher, St Mary's CE Primary School
Year 8	19 July 2011	Mr A Henstridge, Headteacher, Peatmoor Junior School
Year 9	20 July 2011	Mr M Thomas, Head of Additional Needs/PE Teacher, BFS
Year 10	21 July 2011	Mr A Haney, Chair of Governors, Bradon Forest School

Awards at Bradon Forest are presented for all aspects of school life – academic, cultural, sporting and social. The student with the most awards receives 'The Student of the Year' award and the Tutor Group with the highest total receives the 'Tutor Group of the Year' award. The inter-form rivalry is as keen for the tutors as it is for the students!

Year Group	Students receiving award(s)	Tutor Group of the Year	Student of the Year	Sportsman of the Year	Sportswoman of the Year
Year 7	118	7Y and 7Z	Brody Anderson	Miles Jolliffe	Georgia Clifford
Year 8	150	8S	Rhian Williams	Luke Neves	Grace Bartlett and Molly Griffin
Year 9	125	9R	Elliot Gunton	Aaron Moody	Chandanie Mistry
Year 10	154	10Z and 10T	Jessica Warren	Tayten Nyahwa	Sian Towler

The Assemblies also finish with the Sports reports and presentations of the Winter and Summer Cups. Our Awards Assemblies are an important part of Bradon Forest's tradition and an aspect of school life that we wish to preserve. The recognition of teamwork and individual merit, plus the enjoyment our Awards Assemblies provide, are a celebration of the effort, hard work and achievement across all aspects of school life at Bradon Forest. It is a very enjoyable way for each year group to formally conclude an academic year and the assemblies are greatly valued by students, parents and staff.



L. SPIERS, Headteacher

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Have you ever thought about helping out with one of our groups? We're currently looking for adults to work with our older age groups.



The Purton Guide unit has two leaders, but work commitments can mean that there are some weeks when one can't make it. We'd love to find someone else to support the unit – not necessarily to attend every week but to be a back-up to our two regular leaders. Guides are aged 10 to 14 and aim to develop their own programme of activities with guidance from their leaders. To give you a taste of what they do, over the past year, girls have taken part in the Swindon Gang Show, a boating weekend, overnights and weekends away, they have cooked, had craft sessions, been to local country parks and joined with Guides from other areas for a range of activities.

We would also like to extend the guiding provision locally by setting up a Senior Section group for girls in Purton and Cricklade. Senior Section is for girls aged 14+ who may be Young Leaders with Rainbow, Brownie or Guide groups and also for girls who've outgrown Guides but want to continue in guiding without taking on a leadership role. It's not unusual for a Senior Section unit to meet perhaps fortnightly rather than weekly, to take into consideration the demands of school work and exams.

If you're interested in finding out more about either of these opportunities, or for more information about guiding in Purton in general, please contact Jo Begg.

Some Haikus for October

The approach of autumn seems to have brought out a batch of seasonal haikus.

From **Heather Hunt**:

The year moves onward
It's autumn in the garden;
Cyclamen abound.

End of October
Gives another hour in bed
As clocks are put back.

Juliet Morton gave us:

September

Season of cobwebs,
Daddy-long-legs and decisions;
To clean or leave them?

While **Francis Sheppard** send in:

Autumn approaches
though the leaves have yet to turn,
great colours to come.

Autumn approaching
safely harvesting the crops;
mellow fruitfulness.

Approaching autumn,
cool mists and lengthening nights
brings winter closer.

Plenty of fruit – now
we can live up to our name,
Purton was pear tun.

The sun's fading warmth
prepares the earth for winter
and cold nights to come.

Shadows lengthening
earlier in the evenings
closes summer time.

A glut of apples –
many a stew and crumble
readily enjoyed.

We have also received some football haikus from a reader who would prefer to remain anonymous – all will become clear!

New football season;
lots we can anticipate
during cold winters.

Transfer window closed;
the waiting is now over,
just need to win games.

Changing football clubs,
how many managers sacked
by the season's end?

New football season
brings new players and concerns
for Tottenham fans.

Premier League brings
eight goals against Arsenal –
so hard not to gloat.

News from The Cricklade Band

The band's been going full pelt throughout the Spring and 'Summer', including bandstand concerts in the City of Bath with hundreds in our audiences and very appreciative comments from worldwide visitors.

It's partly because we've been so busy that we have to begin with an apology. Those of you who have been waiting for more details of our 'Big Night Out' in October will unfortunately be disappointed. We've taken the decision to shelve this event due to unforeseen circumstances, plus we don't want to do anything that's any less in quality than you're used to.

However - Hogtoberfest IV, the Return of the Pig - will be back in 2012, the band's 125th Anniversary year, with extra crackling!

Saturday 19 November - the band's Crew will be holding the usual Autumn Table Top Sale. It's going to be at The Club at Cricklade from 11am to 1pm.

If you're a Table Top seller, please give Val or Rob a call on 01793 750516 to book your table at just £5. Setting up is from 9.30am.

If you're a Table Top browser, who knows what you might find? Although the band itself will have our now famous cake array, tea, coffee, bottle stall and, of course, a raffle.

Sunday 18 December - the festivities begin here with Christmas Show 2011. This may well raise the roof of the Leisure Centre this year because, in addition to the band, we have special guests, up to 150 special guests, in the shape of bigsingthing, Swindon's new community singing group, sort of based on 'Rock Choir' (but not as expensive to join - for more details go to bigsingthing@yahoo.co.uk). So, 30 musicians, 150 singers, fantastic raffle, bar, refreshments, no snow - you can forget the telly that night and experience it all live!

For more about the band, BandAcademy, 'Wanted' poster, where we are and what we're doing, please check out the website at: **www.thecrickladeband.co.uk**.

PAUL HEWER

Wessex Male Choir

The choir will be performing in a concert on 29 October at St Bartholomew's Church, Wootton Bassett at 7.30 pm to mark the Bible Society's celebrations of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible. The choir won the International Eisteddfod

in Llangollen in June this year and this concert should be one to watch out for. Tickets will be available on the door, price £7.50, and proceeds go to the Bible Society.



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.



■ MANY THANKS

I would like to thank everyone for their kind enquiries lovely cards and goodies since I had my operation. I also appreciate the offers of help while I have been home.

Special thanks to Gillian, June and John for their care.

Thank you all once again.

Joan Garlick

■ SPECIAL THANKS

Joyce Bunce and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the many cards and messages they received following the recent loss of Barrie. Also thanks to those who attended the service and who donated money in Barrie's memory to Prospect Hospice.

Special thanks to David and Stuart for their contribution to the service.

■ LILY STRANGE

I would like to extend a very big thank-you to all who sent cards of condolence, both to me and my family on the death of my wife Lily. It was a great comfort to me to realise how much she was liked and appreciated, judging by the number there were in Church for her funeral. I would also like to thank everyone who gave generously to the Prospect Hospice and St Mary's Church in her memory.

Frank Strange

The Royal British Legion Purton Branch

The Horticultural Show Committee would like to thank most sincerely all our sponsors, advertisers, judges, the Red House, and most of all the exhibitors for supporting the show. We are able to send the British Legion Poppy Appeal nearly £500 which is fantastic. We hope to see you all again in 2012!!

Many thanks

HEATHER HARRIS



Staddle Stones

Last month we reported a theft of staddle stone from College Farm in the High Street. We have been told that 2 more have now been stolen from a front garden in Station Road.

Please phone the Police on 101 – the new non-emergency number ([see p 7](#)) – if you have noticed anything suspicious.



Purton & District Darts League



This year's AGM was held at *The Angel* on Thursday 24 August. It was attended by representatives of all the teams that will be playing in the League in the 2011-12 Season.

The new season will commence on Thursday 8 September and the League will consist of 14 teams. For the very first time the League will have its own web site at www.d4rts.com/paddl. The Committee voted in favour of a donation if £100 to go to *Help For Heroes*.

The Chairman, Mr Alan Herbert – “Bim” to most people – is in his 50th year as a Committee member, 36 of them as Chairman. He must be older than he looks! Well done, Bim. Keep up the good work.

PIERS BULGER

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



Memories of the past have returned with the passing of two more stalwarts of the club.

Barrie Bunce started playing for Purton at the age of 16 when in 1958 he topped the batting averages and also took 33 wickets. His career was interrupted by injuries but he returned to play in the 1970's where his contribution to the success of Purton was considerably augmented by his practical skills. He was at the forefront when both the wooden pavilion (1973) and the wooden garage (c1980) were replaced by the buildings we have today. Always wholehearted and honest, Barrie continued his support when his playing days ended. For many years his wife, Joyce, provided teas at the weekend and during this period raising teams was not difficult. Purton, it appears, has long had a reputation for the quality of the teas it provided and I am sure Barrie contributed to these as well even if it was only as a 'washer up' when the 'goodies' were produced at home. Barrie's effort on behalf of the club will long be remembered by those who knew him.

Frank Ayres, who lived in Swindon, was another hard worker. Playing most of his cricket in the 2nd XI he was always available and he made valuable contributions to the committee's work. He always had so many ideas that it was difficult to bring meetings to a close as Frank would say, 'and just one more item Mr Chairman!' In 1970 when the club produced a small booklet on some aspects of its history he worked hard to persuade companies to advertise in it and he did sterling work in selling copies; sometimes I fear for people who possibly did not want to purchase one! It will be easy to remember his infectious enthusiasm and he will always have a place in the story of Purton Cricket Club.

October 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the generous gift of the cricket field to the parish by Mr J.H.Sadler. Having been club president for many years he was anxious that the cricket field in which cricket had been played for so many years should be permanently secured so that there was no possibility of the club being turned out at any time in the future. A small exhibition will be on display in the museum during November 2011 to recognise the generosity of a man who did so much for the village as well as securing Purton CC's future. Further copies of *A Gift for all Time*, a booklet describing Mr Sadler's gift, will be available.

JOE GARDNER

Purton Bowls Club

A good crowd attended the Club Finals on Saturday/Sunday 4 and 5 September with lunches and teas being served all day. The results are as follows:



	Winner	Runners Up
Men's Singles	C. Baker	M. Crouch
Men's Handicap	D. Hall	G Price
Men's Pairs	I. Walters	P. Hudson
	C. Baker.	W. Robinson
Men's 2 Wood	D. Hal	C. Baker
Ladies Singles	A Fail	J. Fish
Ladies Two Wood	J. Bird	A. Fail
Ladies Pairs	J. Bird	J. Fish
	A. Fail.	J. Hamer
Mixed Pairs	A. Fail	S. Williams
	P. Berry	C. Baker
Mixed Two Wood	M. Crouch	C. Mitchell
Mixed Novices	A. Davie	S. Crouch
Triples	J. Fail	D. Harrison
	D. Williams	M. Brown
	M. March	C. Baker

Swindon and District Competitions will have been held on 10 September. The Club Tour is on the weekend of 16 September. The season closes at the end of the September.

Competitions played on weekend 9-10 of September:

	Winners
<i>Andy Rudden Trophy</i>	D. Gingel D. Harrison
<i>All Swindon and District Finals:</i>	
Men's over sixty singles	G Price
Men's under 25 singles.	J. Fail
Ladies Singles.	A. Fail
Ladies double rink final.	J. Bird J. Preddy B. Cars
	A. Fail C. Mitchell J. Hamer
	D. Gingel M. March
County Secretary and Treasurer's	A. Fail R Boyles.

A very successful season.

BARBARA WOOLFORD

DISCLAIMER

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The final Saturday session of the season was very well attended and all the children enjoyed the games which had been arranged to test the skills they had learned over the summer. Megan Gardner and Alex Hicks were the winner and runner-up respectively but all of the children completed the tasks with great enthusiasm and no little skill. As always I must say a big thank-you to Teresa Miles for her help at these mornings – I couldn't do it without her!

The Junior Singles Tournament which took place on Saturday 3 September attracted a good entry and it was particularly pleasing to be able to run a girls event for the first time in four years. Ellie Gardner, Daisy Kendall and Georgia Horsell were all taking part in their first matches so were helped with the scoring and where to stand by Teresa. By the end of the morning all three were playing some good rallies and were enjoying their first experience of competitive tennis. Ellie won the cup with a narrow 4-3 win over Daisy.

In the Junior section of the boys event, Elliot Gunton retained his title by winning a tight, tense battle against 11-year-old Oliver Nadsen by 6-4, 7-5.

The Senior section saw some very good, competitive matches between boys who have been taking part in several of the men's matches over the summer. Jack Adams, considered by all the boys to be the favourite, played extremely well to win all four of his matches with the loss of just 7 games and get his name on the cup. The runner-up spot went to Jake Looker who battled to 3 tie break wins against Conor Webley, Matty Hall and Daniel Horsell.

The club are very grateful to Nicola for her commitment to junior coaching and the time and effort she regularly puts in to encourage the juniors and give them some idea of the fun – and the ups and downs! – of playing tennis.

Meanwhile the adult club members, having finished the league matches, are indulging in a little fun themselves with a club tournament – results next month. Sadly the nights are rapidly drawing in and by the beginning of this month we shall already have started indoor social sessions. These are open to all members and we shall be playing this season at the Next Generation courts from 7 to 9 on Friday evenings. It keep us fit and in training for both the winter league games and the summer ahead. Anyone interested? Come along and join us.

CAROLINE McLEAN

Purton Guide Dogs

We did a stall at the Cricklade Show in conjunction with Swindon branch. I didn't think there were quite as many people as last year. We still managed to take £110.96. Our next venue will be our Jumble Sale in the Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 29 October – I know that is the same day as the Helping Hand Table Top but hopefully some of you will still be able to support us as well.



As always, many thanks for all your support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Mrs Dorothy Baker came at quite short notice for our 23 August meeting when our original speaker was unable to arrange transport. Mrs Baker's subject was *The Tulip Trail*, and she entertained and informed with great style. She dressed in traditional Dutch costume and draped chairs and tables on the stage with an iridescent orange material before setting out during her talk a fascinating collection of different artefacts associated with Holland and the tulip trade.

We learnt that the tulip originated in Asia, from as far east as China to as close as Turkey. About four centuries ago, during the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Austrian ambassador to Turkey sent to a Dutch friend some Turkish tulip bulbs. The recipient sent some to an English friend, and so they slowly spread. At first they were eaten, in Germany with sugar, in Britain with oil and vinegar! During the sixteenth century the Turkish sultan made the tulip his personal symbol and a Turkish merchant in Istanbul said that one bulb was more valuable than a human life. Throughout Europe wherever tulips flourished, people happily paid vast sums for bulbs of rare varieties. Unusual sports (variants), now known to be caused by an aphid virus, became much sought after: in Louis XIV's France one such bulb would fetch as much as a country estate and tulip mania spread like wildfire, as described in *The Black Tulip* by Alexandre Dumas. Crazy speculators tried to outbid each other, at times with tragic consequences as fortunes were made and lost. After three years of this madness the Dutch government decreed that all tulip notes – promises to buy and sell – had to be honoured and the bulbs supplied to the buyers. Much as with the credit default swaps of very recent economic history, the whole speculative bubble collapsed with bankruptcies and suicides.

Mrs Baker displayed a lovely tulip vase of the kind that was extremely fashionable in the eighteenth century, with five separate spouts so that five blooms could be displayed to their best advantage. She also showed us some very colourful Dutch flower paintings and talked about how, following the Reformation, Dutch still life artists conveyed a stern moral message on the *vanitas vanitatem* theme while making these same paintings so beautiful that they became very popular. The tulip, by that time closely associated with Holland, figured strongly in these paintings.

She showed us photographs of the famous Keuchenhof Gardens, a tourist attraction for many years, and told us how over ninety Dutch bulb companies plant these gardens every year with ten million bulbs so that the gardens become a living catalogue of their wares. Tulips have been grown commercially in Britain since the 17th century and early in the last century the Spalding district became our principal bulb growing area with the famous tulip parade in the first week of May as the bulbs must have their blooms removed to ensure good flowers the following year.

To complete a most entertaining talk Mrs Baker celebrated the significance of the tulip with a display of artefacts decorated with tulips, from weekend bags and wellingtons to tablecloths and coffee mugs.

Tony Price gave the vote of thanks.

At our next meeting, to be held on 25 October, Fred Swift will talk about Bee-Keeping. The competition is 'An autumn arrangement'.

DIANA THOMBS (Chair), MOIRA WHITE (Secretary)



P is for ... Parish Council

Purton Parish Council was formed in 1894 and the first Parish Council Minutes dated 4 December 1894 can be found at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. At this time W.E. Gladstone was Prime Minister and he worked tirelessly to bring about the formation of Parish Councils which resulted in all non-Church business being transferred to elected Parish Councils including burials which had been vested in Burial Boards.

After the 1st World War, central Government began to give more responsibilities to Parish Councils including the provision of allotments and playing fields.

The Local Government Act of 1972 is the Act most often referred to when describing the modern powers and responsibilities of Parish Councils. Parish Councils have more formal powers and responsibilities than most people realise.

The new Localism Bill currently going through Parliament will give even more powers to Parish Councils. With this in mind and the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans which will help determine planning decision the Parish Council has started to work with the community on a Parish Plan which will help to determine our Neighbourhood Plan. Time has moved on from the early days of Parish Councils but the fundamental reason for their existence is the same and that is to serve their community.

P is for ... Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund

which was set up and registered as a small, local charity in September 2006 and registered as a charity in the November of that year (Registered Charity number 1116986). The Fund is designed to provide financial and other support to organisations and individuals within Purton, Lydiard, Braydon, Common Platt, Hook, Greatfield, Greenhill and Purton Stoke.

How do we raise money? The Fund holds three or four fund raising events throughout the year as well as attending table top sales, shows etc. The only expenses deducted are those relating directly to the fund raising activities. No committee members or associated volunteers receive any form of personal reward.

What happens to the money? The profits of the fund raising events are held in a bank account and distributed to organisations as the committee see fit, the most recent donations were given to Action for Hearing Loss and Purton Luncheon Club. The financial accounts are available to the general public on request and an open meeting is held each year to which all are welcome.

If you would like to know more, email chairman Lynda Warren at lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk

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 "Q or R is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 October, via the addresses shown on [page 4](#).*

P is for ... PADS

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society was formed in 1973 by a group of like-minded people sitting around a table in *The Angel*. PADS has now been going for 37 years and tries to put on a Pantomime and at least one play during the year. The next production will be our Pantomime for February 2012 and if you wish to be involved, please contact Sue 772581 or Lindsey 771890. We do not meet regularly unless we are rehearsing so do not have a membership as such, just a mailing list to let people know what is going on.

P ... is for Ps & Qs

Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities, an environmental group that was started in 1994 after a talk at the Purton Evening WI. The group has been very successful in raising awareness among our community on matters key to our village and its future. Also the group encourages people to feel empowered to make their own voices heard when they have something that they want to say – especially to a variety of local and regional authorities. Currently there are more than 150 on the Ps and Qs network – see www.purtoninfo.org.uk for further details.

P ... is for Purton

Martyn Whittock is an historian living in Wiltshire and who lectures on local history. In his book *Wiltshire Place Names* we learn that the "name of our village is a survival of Saxon fruit growing. Purton means pear-tree orchard, coming from Saxon pirige (pear) and tun. In this name, tun is probably used in its earliest sense of enclosure and the name is first recorded in 796 as Puritone. The shorter form of the name does not appear until 1211 as Pertune. However as late as 1580 the slightly longer form was remembered and the village was called Pyrton alias Puryton."

P ... is for Purton Magazine

The first issue produced by what is essentially still the current committee was for January 2004 and contained 52 pages. By comparison, the September 2011 issue contained 72 pages but, as always, we are totally reliant on two key groups within our community. Firstly our contributors, without whom there would not be a magazine in the first place and secondly our distributors, without whom we would not reach our loyal readers. Both groups are the vital volunteers who take part in the monthly process "to engage, inform and reflect all aspects of Purton life and to stimulate interest, concern and involvement in Purton affairs." While new or replacement distributors are occasionally needed, new contributions to each issue of this magazine are *always* welcome from anyone in the community before the 10th of each month. Contact details appear on [page 4](#).

P ... is for Parliamentary Constituencies

Under plans just released by the Boundaries Commission, the North Wiltshire constituency appears to be one of just two constituencies that could disappear from the South West region. The proposals indicate that Purton would come under a Chippenham constituency with an electorate of just over 75,000. The proposals are now subject to a two-year consultation period. The first stage is for the public to submit comments to the Boundary Commission before 5 December 2011.

P ... is for Pedley

An American researcher has found that many years ago, a certain Mr Pedley remembers that his old gardener, Mr. Wilton, used to boast that he walked all the way from Bibury and back to see Robert Watkins hanged at Watkins Corner in 1819. Apparently, the gardener always spoke about a terrible thunderstorm which raged that day – so next time you hear a thunderstorm ...

P ... is for People

It is worth saying again that it is the people of Purton that make this such a good place to live and this opportunity is taken to thank everyone in our village who has done something – anything – to help another, especially in their hour of need.

P is for ... Play Close

Alec Robbins' book *Purton's Past* describes this as a close of pasture containing about three acres together with a house called 'Weekes', which was given to the village in 1641 by Henry Glead, Innholder. The green was "to be used for a place of exercise, recreation, lawful sports and pastimes, at all fit and convenient tymes and seasons for the common good and benefit of the young and other inhabitants of Purton." The house was to be held in trust for an almshouse for the poor people of Purton. The area of the Play Close today is about two-thirds of an acre, instead of the original three acres. In the 19th century indignant Purtonians attempted to frustrate the making of a road across the Play Close. They dug deep ditches across the road works of Mr Haskins, a farmer who wished to give himself easy access to the High Street. A compromise solution was then reached.

In 1924 the Trustees, Josiah Haskins, Margaret Storey-Maskelyne, Charles Iles Esq. and Rev. R. B. Harrison applied to the Charity Commission to have their responsibilities transferred to the Purton Parish Council. This was agreed and the Council has continued to be responsible for the Play Close ever since.

P ... is for Purton Cricket Club

According to Frederick Lillywhite, Purton Cricket Club is the 9th oldest cricket club in the country. Rather like a Wisden before his time, he collected scores and biographies of what he termed "big" cricket matches, several of which were matches involving Purton Cricket Club. He published at least 10 volumes entitled "Scores and Biographies" from which he lists "dates of the formation of some of the most famous clubs and others." Even if our cricket club was considered an "other", the ground up behind Purton House and The Pear Tree hotel is still a wonderful place and when you walk around, remember that that noble sign of an English summer has been played on that ground since 1820 – over 190 years ago.

Carnival: 15-20 June 2012

Planning has started and details will be in the next issue.

Good News! We will be paying for Float Insurance so get thinking and planning your float. We would like a Bumper Procession.

Local Talent to entertain – it's Carnival not X-Factor

For enquiries, ring Pauline on 770251.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary (tel 770251)

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

HALLOWEEN GHOST TRAIN 28 & 29 October, 6 pm to 8.45 pm

This spectacular party on wheels grows in popularity every year, Even with the horrors of the Halloween dungeon at the end of the line, we still make it suitable for all the family. Tickets cost £7 for adults, £5 for children including chocolate bar, £6 for seniors and £22 for family of two adults and two children.

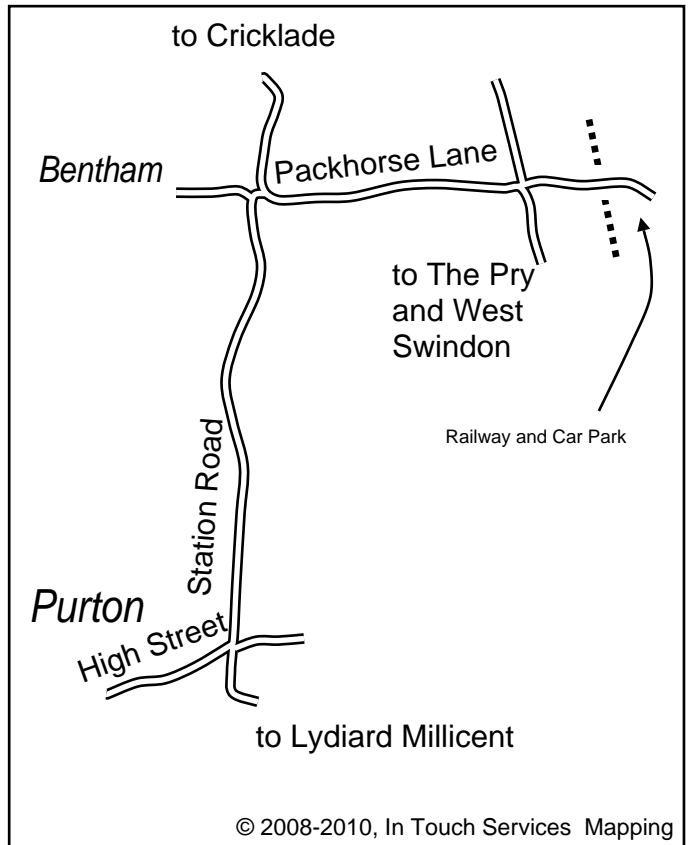
STEAM TRAINS RUN ON October 2/9/16/23/30 11 am to 4 pm

DIESEL TRAINS RUN ON October 1/8/15/22/29 and Wed 26th 11 am to 4 pm.

Tickets cost £7 adults, £6 seniors and £5 children for steam and £6 adults, £5 seniors and £4 children for diesel. Cafeteria, shop, museum, picnic area, free parking.

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

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



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