

Purton & Magazine



*Christmas Morning by Christine Rawlings
(Acrylics)*

December 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 / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
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

Priest-in-charge: Revd Dr John R H Railton, tel 814162

email: john.railton@btinternet.com

Asst. Curate: Revd Judith Wells, Assistant Curate, tel 770627

Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770375

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

This editorial is being written in the middle of a November that we are already being told could become the warmest on record. While a rare orchid *stanhopea* has flowered unexpectedly at Treborth Botanic garden in North Wales, it is becoming increasingly difficult to realise that this is the December issue of your magazine and that Christmas will be less than five weeks away when you read this. Maybe Christine Rawlings' warming illustration on our front cover will help us to prepare for whatever lies ahead.

The Helping Hand Christmas Vouchers will be delivered from 1 December and the village's Christmas tree should be on display around the same time. All the preparations should be enough to get us thinking about Christmas presents and, on [page 39](#), there is an article about ethical Christmas present shopping. And as if there is already not enough pressure when buying presents, we learn on [page 42](#) that the Evening WI are holding in January, a Worst Christmas Present competition! Perhaps that is enough warning to make sure that those presents we are not quite sure about being completely suitable should be despatched outside the village for fear of future embarrassment locally.

At least we will be able to make best use of all the ever increasing recycling facilities for the extra waste that seems to be part and parcel of Christmas these days. On [page 20](#) there are nearly a dozen top tips for recycling the wrapping paper, cards and other left-overs together with a list showing the changes in the collection days for all related services.

The recent publicity about the willing band of volunteers who are keeping Purton Library open has prompted John Doyle, a Wiltshire author to come and give a free talk on Thursday 8 December – more details are on [page 18](#). On the following day, there is a 'Tea and Tinsel' gathering at Purton Surgery with an opportunity to chat with the staff.

The day after that, Saturday 10 December is the next copy date for Purton Magazine. As in previous years, we again wish to produce the January issue just before Christmas so that the production team are also able to enjoy the holiday period. Therefore please would all contributors ensure that their material is received on time – many thanks in advance. Until then, we hope that your Christmas preparations are both comfortable and constructive.

14

teams entered the recent whist finals and our Evening WI came first – see [page 42](#)

80%

of all crops are pollinated by honeybees – see [page 41](#).

379

shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child donated from Purton – see [page 14](#).

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Purton
Magazine

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Magazine Committee

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Distribution enquiries only:

[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Housing Needs Survey – Wiltshire Council, with the assistance of the Parish Council, is carrying out a Housing Needs Survey for Purton and by the time you read this you should have received the Survey form through your door. If not, then please contact the Parish Council Office and we can provide you with one. We are hoping that you will take the time to fill in the form and return it as it will provide a valuable assessment of local needs. At a time when a lot is being said about the need for low cost housing, a survey of this type can help provide a clearer picture about the needs within our community. This information will also be helpful during the Parish Plan process.

With regard to the Parish Plan, if you were not able to attend the first meeting which was held in September the opportunity is still there for you to get involved. If you would like more details then please contact the Parish Council Office and ask to speak to Helen Griffin or email her at admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk. We will need a great deal of help and support in developing the Parish Plan which must be lead by the community, rather than the Parish Council. Your views count and can help to influence and develop a plan for the future so please get involved.

Snow Clearance – Wiltshire Council would be pleased to receive any offers of help from Local Farmers with suitable equipment for clearing snow. If you would like to help then please contact the Parish Council Office and your details will be passed to Wiltshire Council.

Main Gates into the cemetery – the main gates into Purton Cemetery from Church Street will need replacing in the next year or two. The Parish Council has discussed this and would like your views on whether the new gates should be wooden or metal. Your comments would be appreciated.

St Mary's Church – the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the closed Churchyard which includes the paths through the churchyard. In the coming months plans are in hand to replace the paving slabs leading to the West and South doors of the Church and from the road to the perimeter wall. We hope this work will cause as little inconvenience as possible to those visiting the Church during the relaying period, and we hope the end result will prove beneficial to Church visitors for several years to come. Wiltshire Council will be doing some of the work to the path closest to the road, hopefully before Christmas, and the rest of the work will be carried out by a local contractor early in the New Year.

Dog Warden – the dog warden will be in the small meeting room next to the public toilets in the Village Hall car park on Wednesday 7 December 2011, from 9.15 to 11 am. Please call and see him if you have any issues relating to dogs. In particular if you have witnessed people allowing their dogs to foul without picking it up, please report them to Sebastian. However much we try to publicise the need for people to clean up after their dogs, to generate a cleaner and nicer environment for us all to live in, there are still those who do not seem to feel the need to do so. Part of the Localism Bill that Central Government is talking about is for people to take more responsibility for their communities. Dog owners picking up their dogs'

mess and property owners cutting back overhanging tree and bushes from pavements and highways are some of the simple things people can do, and should do, without having to be prompted or reminded to do it.

Grants – Do you have a community project that could do with some additional funds? The Area Board still has funds available for community area grants. More information and guidance can be found on Wiltshire Council's web site www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantsscheme or contact alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information, or Unitary Cllr Jacqui Lay email Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel 01793 770704.

Planning Applications

The Planning Applications for Ridgeway Farm (700 houses), Widham Farm (50 houses) and Moredon Bridge extension (50 houses) are still being considered by Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following planning applications:

- N11/02522/FUL *Purton Petroleum, Storage Depot, The Pry*, The installation of a control of major accident hazard alarm
- N11/02845/FUL *Canlea, Pavenhill*, Two-storey side extension to both side & rear, alterations to roof & external alterations (Resubmission of 11/02086/FUL)
- N11/03002/FUL *7 Jubilee Estate*, Second storey side & rear extension

Wiltshire Council has refused the following planning applications:

- N11/03100/FUL *Norbury Court, High Street*, Replacement windows

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

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

**Purton Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners
a very happy Christmas.**

We Record ...

Baptisms

16 October	Rosie May Ockwell
30 October	Holly Mary Drewett

Funerals

20 October	Philip Williams
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Special Birthday

7 December	Pauline Ward - 90 years old!
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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 ...



News from the Trustees

Village Hall: We are all very pleased that the kitchen is finished and, as far as we are concerned, it is a good job. Along with the kitchen refurbishment we have, as you would say, the supporting cast like cups, saucers, plates, cutlery and, of course, cooking utensils. We will have had an open day by the time you read this for all the kind people who supported the project. We are exceedingly grateful to all these people for, without their help, none of this would have been possible.

There is only one outstanding item to really bring the hall up to the standard we would like and that is the gents toilet – poor men left till last! I am pretty confident that this will be the next step – hope so at any rate. If anybody would like to have a look at the kitchen, please get in touch. Someone will make themselves available to show you around – you might even get a cup of tea if you are lucky.

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre: We have just had our half-yearly meeting with the users. This is always a nice occasion and any grievances can be aired or any suggestions made. We, the Trustees, find them very useful and hope the users do as well but at least it's a way for us to go forward on a united front for the good of the Charity.

I was somewhat taken aback in last month's magazine to read, under the heading of "R is for the Red House" bought by the Parish Council in 1946. Well, I know and so do the old Purtonians that the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre was purchased by the village for the village as a war memorial to the men who gave their lives in the 1939-45 war. The people of the village at that time wanted a permanent memorial in the form of a playing field or village hall. A committee was formed to see if the money could be raised to buy the Red House that was on the market for £8,500. The house at that time was empty after being used as an army camp during the war. A committee was formed with the principals being Col. F.W. Wilson Fitzgerald as Chairman, Fred Leach as Treasurer and John Scott, secretary – others on the committee were Col. Hugh Ryder of Manor House, Mr Bob Wightman, an auctioneer and estate agent, who kindly did all the advising free of charge, then a Mr V. Jupp, a practising solicitor, who was co-opted on to the committee, a good move as all his advice etc. was free of charge again.

John Scott had rented the land around the Red House from a Miss Russell who owned it but had moved away to Bournemouth, so it was suggested that, as John knew her, he should make arrangements to meet Miss Russell and her agent Mr Fox. Miss Russell asked John how much he thought the village could raise. John had been to see business people and farmers and had a fair idea and John said '£5,000'. Well, her agent went mad and 'What's more', Miss Russell said, turning to her agent who, by now, was dancing around like an apoplectic sparrow, 'If the Purtonians agree with your committee's proposals, the price will be £4,975 and the £25 extra will be my donation'. The villagers were summoned to a meeting in the Institute – this public meeting was chaired by Captain Ward. Lots of donations were promised at that meeting – one of £1,000 with £500 to be paid at a later date, one of £100, two of £50 each and eighteen of £25 and lots of £10s and £5s and the Chairman said to John that, if he could produce nineteen people willing to donate

£25, he would be the twentieth. This was done and they were able to tell the meeting how much had been raised. Carrying on from there, Fred Leach and John Scott sat in the reading room at the Institute, where those lovely copper urns were, for twelve evenings, collecting the villagers' donations and that is how the Red House was purchased to become the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre. LEST WE FORGET.

Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Area Board Meeting Changes

We are trialling a new way of managing the next Area Board meetings to address concerns over time management.

The November (already passed) and January Area Board meetings will each be conducted as a two-part meeting as follows:

- A Business Meeting (6-6.30 pm) followed by an adjournment for the usual refreshment and networking opportunity from 6.30-7 pm, reconvening for the ...
- Main Meeting (7-9 pm)

We intend to deal with routine matters, including those that simply require a decision by unitary councillors, in the business meeting while presentations and topics requiring greater public participation or discussion will be dealt in the main meeting.

It is envisaged that the business meeting will typically include, for example: Chairman's Welcome & Introductions; Apologies; Minutes; Declarations of Interest; Chairman's Announcements; Task Group Updates; and Grant Applications; before then adjourning at 6.30 pm.

The main (reconvened) meeting will then commence (at 7 pm) with Partner Updates as the first item, followed by any topic/issue presentations.

Both parts of the Area Board meeting will remain a normal public meeting and fully open to everyone to attend – and the two parts of the meeting will be clearly identified on the published agenda for each meeting.

Following the January Area Board meeting we will review how the trial format has worked and will welcome feedback prior to then deciding whether to continue with this format.

*PETER DOYLE, Chairman
Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board*

Cricklade Campus Update

The "Campus" is just a way of describing the buildings where Leisure/Social, Local Government and Community Services and Space will be provided for the long term in the Cricklade Area along with an idea of sharing resources so that the right services can be available more of the time in good and convenient facilities.

First round of consultation is complete and results were communicated at the Wiltshire Council Area Board, on 12 October. The Area Board agreed that we can move on to a more detailed round of consultation.

The Proposal is that Cricklade has a split site Campus including the Leisure Centre and either the existing Ockwell's buildings (the current Cricklade Town Council Offices and Library) or Police Station building on the High Street.

The majority of responses were in favour of providing the services in a Campus type set up. The proposal to have a split site Campus, with one of the building being near the High Street, was driven by community feedback and preference. There was strong support for availability of Internet, Flexible Space for use by a variety of groups, access to Local Government services, Cafe, Library, Youth and Children's facilities along with Leisure and Sports provision.

This initial proposal was based on the questionnaires that were sent out by the Shadow Community Operation Board (SCOB) and completed by local residents in August/September. The SCOB is a group of local people who have been asked to work on a proposal for the future of local service provision for Cricklade and surrounding areas.

What we need to be sure of is:

- Does the campus proposal for services needed in the Cricklade area (outlined above) represent your views and requirements correctly?
- Does the proposal for a split site Campus with one building near the High Street and the existing Leisure Centre site meet the needs and views of the Cricklade Community?

The next stage is to get the above questions answered and make sure we really understand this service requirement in Cricklade, also to get some feedback on where and when the services should be available so that work can be done to plan the space in buildings. This can't be done without some real input from the Cricklade community – that's all of us! Give your responses to the questions above or your views on services within Cricklade by attending an Open Meeting, writing to the SCOB or emailing (details below).

There will be two open meetings where more information will be available and a chance to express your views, meet some of the group (Shadow Operations Board – SCOB) who are representing the Cricklade Community in this process, and by giving your input to help in planning the next stage which will be looking at the detail of facilities and services.

The two Open Session Meetings are:

7 December: 2 pm - 7.30 pm at Cricklade Leisure Centre

8 December: 2 pm - 7.30 pm at Cricklade Town Council Offices

Drop in to ask any questions or to find out more information.

Contact us:

EMAIL: Peter or Ruth at campusconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk

Written Feedback boxes: Cricklade Town Council Offices/Leisure Centre (bar area)

Or write to: Cricklade Shadow Community Operations Board, Campus and Operational Delivery Models Team, Wiltshire Council, Council Offices, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN

More information go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/crickladedcommunitycampus

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

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

Purton & District Age Concern



It is with great sadness that I write this piece about the late **Alice Matthews**. Alice was a true Purtonian through and through and you could say she was Purton's local historian. She knew more about local every day life in Purton's past than anyone I know. In fact, if I wanted to know any little snippets about anybody it would be to Alice I would go and she never failed me, so in future my tributes to people might not be so interesting (still you might think they are not anyway!) However, I shall miss her as will many more people, in fact her family and friends will perhaps miss her in two different ways, firstly missing Alice as a person and secondly they will miss doing the things they did to make her life a little easier. It will leave quite a gap in their lives especially time wise as they were all so kind.

Alice was born on 8 March 1920 at 6 Lower Pavenhill and lived all her life in the village as did her parents and grandparents. You can see where I came from in saying she was a true Purtonian. There are not many can say that – well, of course, Nesta her sister can. Alice was the oldest of eight children – Nesta, Harry, Jean and Peggy (twins), Elsie, Edna and Eric (triplets). Sadly Edna and Eric died when they were very young. Being the eldest, I wonder if Alice had some responsibility helping with the younger children, as she was very determined, firm but kind and said what she thought. She attended St Mary's School until she was 14 – my word what a way to walk to school from Lower Pavenhill in all weathers. We certainly had some hard winters in those days and they would not have had any electricity where she lived. Alice had many jobs before the war came when she was conscripted, along with sister Nesta, into the GWR. Alice was drafted into X shop where they made bombs but Nesta was not so lucky as she had to go into the boiler shop rivet hotting. If anybody has ever been in there the noise is terrific, with all the rivet guns going, pinning the heads of the rivets. As I have said earlier, they walked all the way to school but add another three quarters of a mile onto that to go to Purton station. It was certainly some walk for them to catch the 7.20 workmen's train – I think that was the time it went in those days. How about this then – because the track along to Lower Pavenhill was muddy most of the time, Alice and Nesta would call into their Auntie Fan in Pavenhill on their way to work, change their muddy shoes for clean ones and then change back again at night on the way home. I expect the dirty ones were cleaned up ready for them to wear home. Auntie Fan was the wife of Clarence Bunce who was a market gardener. I have often told you how we helped him thin his carrots when we were boys on the way over to Ringsbury Camp – thinning sounded better than pinching I thought. Sorry, I am digressing from Alice.

On leaving the Railway she went to the Dental Factory for a good number of years before going to work at St Mary's School. At St Mary's she was what I would term as a teaching assistant. Any children that came into contact with Alice would have benefited from the way she would have helped them to learn. One of her specialities that she thoroughly enjoyed was making costumes for school plays and pantomimes. Alice was one of those people who was good at anything she put her

hand to. Alice married Mervyn in 1958 – Merv was a widower with a son, John, and they all lived in the bungalow that Merv had built in his parents' garden – mind it was some garden. I would think that Merv and Alice were two of a kind, well suited. Merv's nickname was Blackie. I remember playing football when he was our trainer – and he was a lovely man.

Alice, when she was younger, was an active member of the local Red Cross – a contemporary of the late Jessie Newman. Another of Alice's loves was being a member of the WI and playing in their skittles and whist teams. In those days did they have their own leagues for whist and skittles? I know that Alice organised whist drives with money going to the Air Ambulance. Another of her loves was Gardeners' Guild but with her knowledge I expect she knew as much as the speakers. Merv loved gardening as well – is that where John gets his inspiration from? – although he has gone one better as he is able to give lectures on a wide range of subjects to do with gardening. She went on Age Concern's outings for as long as she could but, through her illness, she was unable to take an active part in village activities as she grew older, but she still maintained her interest in all that was going on around her.

As I said earlier, she was the type of person who was good at everything no matter what she did – embroidery, sewing, knitting, cooking – she always made cakes for our market stalls, not 1, not 2 but usually 3 big cakes, fruit and sponges. We shall certainly miss her input at our Christmas market stall. Another of Alice's qualities was patience – she loved jigsaws and the last time I saw her she had this jigsaw about 2ft x 3ft and she had got to the sky part. Well, to me every piece looked the same but I am sure she would have finished it. She also loved her TV, especially sport.

She was very much family orientated, very interested in the different generations and, my word, they were certainly interested in Alice for the love and care they all gave her. It was through this care and attention that she was able to stay in her bungalow. It was only a few days before the end that she was taken into hospital. Goodbye Alice, you will be sadly missed and thank you for our little talks about people in the past. It was greatly appreciated not only by me but the one or two who read my piece.

I do not want to frighten anyone with Christmas coming up but there are several different scams that are aimed at the elderly. One such scam is that you get a card through your letter box by PDS saying that they were unable to deliver your parcel so you will need to contact them on 0906 6611 911. **DO NOT RING THIS NUMBER** because, as soon as you do, you will hear a recorded message and it will already have cost you £315. If you do receive such a card let us know and we can contact the Fraud Office. Another scam is that they will ring you up and say that you have been lucky and won money. They will ask for your bank details so that they can put money you have won into your account. You know the answer to that – **DO NOT PASS ON ANY DETAILS**. Please be careful. We are always warning you about people knocking on your door and asking to do work or, worse still, saying they have done work and want paying. No reputable tradesman would do anything like this – it's a 'con' so don't let them do any work or give them any money.

We are all concerned about the possible closure of The Cedars. After the way we all fought to have it rebuilt, it looks as if we will have another fight on our hands to keep it open again. The proposal by Wilts Council is to close The Cedars and move the residents to either Cricklade or Wootton Bassett where supposedly they will move into Homes with en-suite facilities. It is not compulsory to have these facilities on old builds, only on new ones and we feel the love and attention the residents get at The Cedars far outweighs the en-suite facilities. Please write and object to the closure to Mr John Thompson, Deputy Leader – Wilts Council, Cabinet Office, County Hall, Bythesea Rd, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 8JN.

Christmas has started early for us in Age Concern or really should I say it is a continuation of the rest of the year because people are so kind to us – like the gentleman who always says he was taller than me once. He sent us a very generous cheque which, I might say, appears to be an annual kindness that we greatly appreciate although we don't take it for granted, so it is always a nice surprise. Another nice gesture was from the Associated Dental Products, who agreed to sponsor our Quiz Night. Sadly we didn't have enough entries to make it a viable evening so we had to cancel it. When we returned the cheque they sent it back to us, wishing us well, so our thanks to Associated Dental Products, especially in these hard times. In the same vein, could we offer belated 90th birthday greetings to Ted Wicks of Greenhill. Ted has always been a great supporter of Age Concern and has always been very generous to us. Another person who will be celebrating her 90th birthday is a lady who gives the village so much and expects so little. Best wishes and good luck to Pauline Ward from us all in Age Concern and, I am sure, the whole village of Purton.

Age UK Wiltshire have started T'ai Chi classes for you at the Millennium Hall on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm with tutor Steven Rouse. There is a small charge of £2 per session. You can just turn up for this steady, gentle exercise or, for further enquiries, ring the co-ordinator on 07983 629830.

You know the Big Knit that so many of you took part in, well the conditions of the money we received from this project were that it had to be used under the heading of 'Winter Warmth' so, in our wisdom we are going to give every person a tin of Heinz vegetable soup along with your Christmas voucher. Could I, in advance, thank the street wardens for delivering the soup for us. As you can imagine, this is quite a mammoth task, especially for some of them who have many elderly on their patch.

Our Antiques and Collectables Fayre went very well so our thanks to all who helped in any way to make it the success it was, especially Jenny Barnes for organising it all. This will definitely be on our fund raising programme for next year. The fund raising exercise we are on at the moment is our annual Christmas Raffle, cost £1 a book and, following on from this, we will be having our usual Christmas Market Stall at the Pavenhill shops on Saturday 10 December from 9 am to 12 noon. Anything for this stall would be greatly appreciated and, of course, the feature of the day will be the tasting of Andrew's world famous sausages. We shall also be selling the remainder of our draw tickets if we have any left. Perhaps I am being a little bit optimistic here but you never know – people are so kind – like the lady whose friend had died in Hooks Hill. She wanted to make a donation in his

memory to Age Concern. When she rang me I happened to mention that we had been out looking at gazebos and she said, 'Oh I could buy you one in memory of John?' She then said that she would like to buy the sides for us herself – we are so lucky although, in this case, it is someone else's sad loss that is our gain.

By the time you read this we will hopefully have the Christmas tree in place with the lights etc, thanks to our younger helpers, ready for the carols on Christmas Eve at 7 pm with hot punch and mince pies. After that we have what has become an annual event – our Burns Night at the Village Hall on Saturday 21 January. The cost for this is £17.50 and that includes the traditional haggis meal and, of course, a little nip to toast the haggis after having it played in by the piper. It is usually a sell-out as we limit the numbers to have room for dancing. For tickets ring Ron and Heather Harris on 770850.

We will already have enjoyed our first party for the less able elderly when this magazine is delivered so we hope that was enjoyed by all who came. You might still be in time for the party at the Village Hall on Saturday 3 December. If you are quick, give me a ring on 770696 to book in. The cost of this is £5 and, if possible, we would like you to make your own way there. If not, there will be limited transport – ring 770862.

It is amazing when we discover peoples' talents – we all know that Rick and all the Magazine team make an excellent job of putting this magazine together. Well, we went to Royal Wootton Bassett to hear the Wessex Male Voice Choir perform in the Church. Who was one of the performers? ... none other than Rick Dixon. Male Voice Choirs are one of my joys and they certainly did not disappoint – it was a brilliant concert and we are looking forward to hearing them again in the future. *[Rick: I'm not the only Purton member of the choir! There are 5 of us from Purton.]*

Everyone in Age Concern sends you our best wishes for Christmas and sincerely hope that you enjoy yourselves.

TONY PRICE

Sing 4/4

The Sing 4/4 Community Choir are now working on their Christmas/Winter programme. We have several engagements over this period and would welcome anyone who would like to sing with us. The first rehearsal will be on Thursday 3 November in St Sampson's Church and then weekly through-out November at the United Church Hall, all at 7.45 pm, in preparation for our Christmas Concert in Cricklade Town Hall on 11 December.

The choir has several members from Purton and welcomes newcomers!

We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and we wish you all a Very Happy Christmas.

MARY NEW

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 16 December 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).

Operation Christmas Child: 2011 Shoebox Appeal

I am pleased to tell you that 379 filled shoeboxes were collected from Purton and on Friday 11 November, they were put on a lorry and sent to Belarus in eastern Europe. Our liaison with OCC at Melksham has been much closer this year and I have been to the distribution centre twice during November. The coordination of this project is amazing, not to mention the logistics.

I understand that Purton sends the most boxes of any villages within the Melksham catchment area. My thanks go to so many people who made this possible. Those who have spent months knitting, providing boxes, covering boxes, looking for bargains in the shops and filling the boxes on the day. There have been donations



from many sources, both of items for the boxes and financial. Our Fund Raising Day in September raised £765. The sponsored walk that Louise Tidman very kindly undertook, raised £400. Individual donations were £139. So we have been able to donate all that was needed to cover the cost of all the boxes at £2.50 each. Finally, thank you all so much for the support that you gave me with this project. It has given me the opportunity to do something really worthwhile. I have already started making necklaces and bracelets for next year and some people are already knitting!!

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator

Above: children helping to load the van (picture by Bob Tinson)

Purton Helping Hand

We will be delivering our Christmas Vouchers from 1 December 2011 onwards. If you think you are entitled to a Voucher or have not received one, the following are the qualifications:

You must live in the Parish of Purton

Married Couples (male 65, female 60)

Single man (65) Single woman (60)

Widows (any age) Severely handicapped (any age)

Telephone Pauline (770251) or Audrey (771540)

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in many ways throughout the year; it is much appreciated and enables us to carry on. If anyone would like to join our committee we badly need people who have some spare time and are prepared to work. Telephone Pauline to find out more.

A very happy Christmas to all, and hopefully a peaceful New Year.

PAULINE WARD, Chairman

After 8-Treasure Trail

1. 'Before lunch 26 English characters on the river'
2. 'Die of cold' ...

...were the sort of brain-teasers included in our quiz on 18 October. While the clues would have been arduous (perhaps impossible!) to solve individually, it was amusing and enjoyable to unravel them as a group, the general theme of the answers turning out to be 'water'.

We all felt very grateful to Dave Ainscough for preparing the quiz, and to Avril for leading the evening.

One more clue;

3. 'Confused girl slakes her thirst'.

Answers are on [page 27](#).

BARBARA GOSDEN

Our December meeting is "Christmas is coming – sing-a-long" at Mary Smith's on Tuesday 13 December, where Santa will be dropping off a sackful of presents. Contact Avril for more details.

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

Quiz for Star Gazers: The Answers from last month's quiz

1. A nebula is **a) a young star**.
2. When a star becomes a **supernova** its brightness **a) increases**.
3. The Milky Way is **b) spiral galaxy**.
4. Scientists think that in the middle of the Milky Way is **c) a black hole**.
5. For an **eclipse** to occur, you need **c) Earth, moon and sun**.
6. A **lunar eclipse** lasts up to **b) 4 hours**.
7. **Mercury** has **a) 0** moons.
8. **Uranus** has **c) 11** rings.
9. **Galileo** improved **a) the telescope**.
10. The **expansion of the Universe** was discovered by **c) Edwin Hubble**.
11. The **brightest star** in the night sky is **a) Sirius** and **c) the Dog star**. (*Trick question Sirius IS the Dog Star!*)
12. The **Sun's** light takes **a) 8.3 minutes** to reach us.
13. There are **d) 8 planets** in our solar system. (*Pluto is no longer included.*)
14. The **hottest planet** is **a) Venus**.
15. The Hubble Space Telescope was launched in **b) 1990**.
16. The scientific announcement that was made to the public in October was **a) that sub atomic particles can travel faster than the speed of light**. (*The other statements were not 'announced'*)

What's the Church For?

Now that really is a BIG question! But the answer depends on what we mean by 'Church' – 'church' with a small 'c' usually means the building; and 'Church' with a capital 'C' means the people. Next month I want to discuss the purpose of the church building here in Purton; but this time my focus is on the people, the membership of the Christian family, and our responsibilities in the community.

Having taught them how to live lives of love, service and witness, Jesus gave 'the Great Commission' to his followers, to go out into the world and 'baptise people everywhere' – in other words, to demonstrate by their example the fulfillment and joy which comes only through faith in God, and by the sheer *attractiveness* of faith to open the eyes of other people to the reality of God within them and in the world around them. And that remains the primary task of the Church here in Purton – to bear living witness to the fullness of life as Christians, to encourage other people to share it, and to worship together. As the 'established' Church, the Parish Church also has a responsibility to all residents of the parish to provide ways to celebrate key events in their lives through the so-called 'Rites of Passage' – Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Of course, one of the common arguments one hears from sceptics and atheists is that the discoveries of modern science *disprove* religion; that religion and science are mutually exclusive. Well, as a trained scientist I've never had any problem in reconciling the discoveries of science with my faith as a Christian. What science does is not to disprove religion, but to advance human understanding of the wonders of God's creation. Surely we believe, don't we, that God is at work in the world around us? Let's not fall into the error of thinking that he *isn't* at work also through science and technology! Let's instead recognise and acknowledge that God himself is at the heart of every advance in scientific knowledge and understanding. Now here's a challenge – computers are a gift from God!

But what role does the Church have in relation to the life of the nation as a whole? In many ways, the Church has to be, not the conscience of the nation, but the agency which pricks the national conscience and reminds the people of their responsibility to each other as well as to God. Although the law of our country is founded in Christian standards, not everyone accepts those standards as the rule for their life, but since the beginning of time it has been the task of those who believe in God to remind society as a whole of the disastrous consequences of allowing moral standards to fall. Just as the prophets of old called their communities back to faith and obedience, there is an urgent need in our society for that same prophecy. The danger, of course, is of passing judgement without all the facts – as recent events concerning St Paul's Cathedral have shown.

And, of course, the trap it's all too easy to fall into is to think we puny human beings can solve all the problems of the world – and even to presume to tell God what he should be doing! You may have heard the story of the passionate missionary Priest who repeatedly prayed fervently for more time, more energy and more success in his work. On one occasion, as he knelt in prayer, he heard the gentle voice of God saying to him: "*I'm the Saviour of the world, not you!*" Let's

never forget that God is in charge and God knows what He's doing. If we believe that, then why do we worry so much? If we don't, then let's have the courage to stand up and admit that our faith isn't strong enough.

Revd Dr JOHN RAILTON – Vicar

An Evening with Henry Olonga

Holding the World Stage – Now Inviting an Audience Here.

Purton Cricket Club along with others in the area have been invited to nominate a young player for a Henry Olonga Bowling Award.

Olonga himself realised many achievements. If you follow cricket you'll know a few. If you never have – you may remember him for his bravery as a sportsman who impacted the world well beyond his chosen game. Being the first black Zimbabwean Test Cricketer, at only 18 the youngest, on debut a member of the first Zimbabwean team to win a Test Match, and holder of the best bowling figures to date in any international match staged in South Africa – these are just some of the cricketing feats.

The latter brought him well and truly to the notice of most England cricket supporters – taking 6 for 19 against Nasser Hussain's much touted team. But the citations for local cricketers' awards may well talk about attitude and approach on the field rather than just performance. Despite an array of cricketing records, Henry Olonga is probably best remembered for his concern over the treatment of his fellow countrymen and his stand against the powers that denied them their rights. Most news watchers in 2003 were aware of the clamour over whether international teams should play or boycott The Cricket World Cup to be played in Zimbabwe and South Africa. In the end most went. It seemed a coup for Robert Mugabe's regime – until Henry Olonga, helped by captain and now England Coach, Andy Flower, entered the field wearing black arm bands – releasing a press statement mourning the death of democracy in Zimbabwe. The crowd on the ground took up the theme in front of the cameras. The Mugabe government were infuriated by the unprecedented actions of their former sporting torch bearer.

Then news filtered down. This was only got way with as the world's press were watching. In a few days they would all be gone. The media show would have moved to the final stages of the competition in neighbouring South Africa. Olonga would be left behind at the mercy of embarrassed politicians in a totalitarian state set on revenge. His only means of escape seemed to be to make it with the World Cup entourage moving on to Johannesburg. But to do that humble Zimbabwe had to beat mighty Pakistan – then amongst the best one-day teams in the world, or so it seemed. In the event a slender nerve jangling opportunity arose.

But why, when the world still recoils from the horrors of 21st century Zimbabwe, fearing what, if anything, it can do, did this talented well educated sportsman with an international career stretching in front of him, sacrifice it all and put his life on the line to venture where angels have feared to tread? That question – we now have opportunity to put – in person, a ten minute drive out of Purton. And along with local sportspeople – to meet the man and hear the story first hand.

Swindon United Churches Cricket Club host an evening with Henry Olonga on

Friday 2 December at 7.45 pm. Henry Blofeld, Guardian Cricket Correspondent and Test Match Special Commentator writes on meeting him *'I immediately found that Olonga was not only a man of great and unwavering principle but also someone with a splendid sense of humour'* - bodes well for any evening speaker!

The venue is The Trinity Centre in Westlea, a modern 300 seat venue, facing Mead Way, given for the night by courtesy of Gateway Church (SN5 7AR). Tickets are pitched at a modest price for this type of event, £5.50 in advance, (£6.50 on the door) – available by phone and pickup in Purton on 770331, 700618, or 07788 437526.

So here - a rare opportunity here to meet the man who bravely stood on the world stage at a critical moment challenging a seemingly untouchable regime.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *The Fox, The Pry and Collins Lane*. If there is anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Rev John Railton, Rev Judith Wells or Rev David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

Magazine Contributions

We have recently received a heartfelt piece reflecting great sadness at the death of a wife or other very close friend, simply signed "Anon." It has long been the policy of Purton Magazine to withhold the name of the contributor or correspondent from publication only if the person's identity is made known to those who manage and produce the magazine. That policy, reproduced at the top of Purton Postbag every month, appears to be our best protection against printing any hoax messages.

Given the very personal and sad nature of the piece we have received, we do appreciate that "Anon" might not be comfortable making him or herself known to anyone – but we do need to make sure that the contribution is genuine. Therefore, if "Anon" would make contact with any member of the magazine committee (as listed on page 4) to verify the authenticity, we would be very pleased to publish the piece in the next issue.

Author Event at Purton Library

The recent media publicity promoting our community library at Purton has promoted a response from Wiltshire author John Doyle.

John is keen to support our library service and will be giving a free talk at Purton Library on **Thursday, 8 December 2011** at 2.30 pm.

He will be talking about how his own intriguing family history research inspired his first novel *'The Search for the Last Coachman'* and his personal journey to get the novel published. The book is an historical thriller set against the background of the 1st World War. *"Doyle has the both the gift of a talented storyteller and accomplished writer"* (Amazon review)

Free tickets available from Purton Library.

Please call 01793 853249 for more information.

Nomal Library Opening Hours are printed on the inside front cover of the Magazine.

Wessex Male Choir Brings Yuletide Cheer

With its Annual Christmas Concert and Christmas CD



Annual Christmas Concert 16 December

If you're looking to get into the Christmas spirit this year then Wessex Male Choir's annual Christmas concert is the perfect way to start your celebrations. The concert will take place on Friday 16 December at 7.30 pm at Holy Rood Church, Groundwell Road in Swindon. Tickets are now on sale and cost £10 (under 16s £5, under 12s are free but still require a ticket). They can be bought from Bob Clarke on 01793 852786, from In Touch Services (772954) or from the choir's website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk.

Wessex Male Choir will be joined by the fabulous Janice Thompson Ladies Ensemble and Pegasus Brass who will both add their own sparkle to the evening!

Musical director Rob Elliot said "We will be singing all the Christmas classics including *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year* which is guaranteed to set toes tapping! This is a light-hearted, fun concert which, with some audience participation, we hope will be an enjoyable night for all the family."

Christmas CD - 'It's Christmas!'

To keep the sounds of Christmas ringing throughout the festive season Wessex Male Choir has just released a CD - 'It's Christmas!' The CD features all the well-loved carols and songs for this magical time of year including, *Rockin' around the Christmas tree*, *White Christmas* and *Winter Wonderland*, and is certain to bring yuletide cheer all winter! The recording also features the fantastic Crystal Palace Band, one of the few traditional Brass Bands remaining in London.

The CD costs £9 (including p&p), with profits going to Parkinson's UK, and can be bought from the choir's website at www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk

About Wessex Male Choir

Wessex Male Choir was formed in 2001 and has grown to over 60 members and performing throughout the year all over the UK. The award-winning Swindon-based choir celebrated ten years of choral excellence this year. The choir was also crowned 'International Male Choir Champions' at the prestigious International Music Eisteddfod in Llangollen in June. This is a fantastic achievement for the choir and it saw off competition from choirs from around the world to take the acclaimed title.

The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 - 9.30 pm in Abbey Meads, Swindon. To find out more visit www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk, email membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk or call Robert Elliott on 07939 249021.

DISCLAIMER


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


Advertisements are accepted in good faith and their inclusion does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.


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


Top Tips for Recycling this Christmas


Christmas is a great time, but with all the mountains of presents, wrapping paper, cards and extra food, we can all do our bit for recycling. These Top Tips will help you recycle, reuse and reduce your waste this Christmas.


 Your waste recycling collection day will change over Christmas as no collections will take place on 26 December. See [page 40](#) or check the council's online collection calendar for details of your collections changes.


 You can make the most of your blue lidded recycling bin over the festive period by recycling many of your Christmas items at the kerbside, including: Christmas cards, cardboard boxes and cardboard packaging, cardboard tubes, wrapping paper (not foil or plastic paper), plastic fizzy drink bottles, plastic juice bottles, plastic cleaning product bottles.


 Don't forget your black box. There are lots of extra Christmas items that you can recycle in your black box, including: large chocolate tins, biscuit tins, drinks cans, mincemeat and jam jars, glass bottles, clean foil including cake cases and foil trays for the turkey, Christmas card envelopes.


 You can take your real Christmas trees to any of Wiltshire's 11 household recycling centres for recycling. If you currently have a garden waste bin you can also put your Christmas tree out by the side of your bin for collection on your normal scheduled garden waste collection day. Christmas trees will only be collected during January.


 Much of the waste left over after Christmas can be recycled at your nearest household recycling centre. You can even recycle your old Christmas trees and electrical items. Household recycling centres will be closed from 1 pm Christmas Eve, and all day on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years day.


 Instead of sending a conventional Christmas card, why not send a Recycling E-Card on www.recyclenow.com. You can decorate your own card electronically using decorations made out of recycled materials that are collected in Wiltshire.

 Look out for gifts made from recycled items or with packaging that can be reused or recycled easily. Gift bags and tins can be reused again and again.

 After your Christmas dinner remember that you can put food waste into your food waste digester. Check out www.recycleforwiltshire.com for details on food waste digesters and how to buy a discounted unit for your garden.

 Christmas and New Year are perfect times for dinner parties and you may need to cook for large number of people. Look at www.lovefoodhatwaste.com for a perfect portion planner to help with how much ingredients to use per person.

 If you make too much food over Christmas don't throw it away! Pop it in a container in the fridge or freezer and eat at a later date.

 Why not make your own Christmas presents, Get crafty in the kitchen, on the sewing machine or with the knitting needles. Your friends and family will love something you have made by hand and you can save money and reduce waste!

1. Meet the surgery staff – ‘Tea and Tinsel’, Friday 9 December 3-5 pm

We will be holding a ‘Tea and Tinsel’ afternoon in Purton surgery on Friday 9 December from 3-5pm. Teas, coffees and cakes will be available and there will be a raffle. This will be an opportunity to chat and to meet the staff and also G4P members.

The cost will be £1 (children under 10 free). Half the proceeds from this will be given to the Special Care Baby Unit at Great Western Hospital, the other half will go towards providing baby changing units at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Do come and support this event.

2. Health promotion events: Prostate Cancer Evening

We have had almost 30 replies to our Questionnaire and as a result of our feedback we are planning to hold an evening on the subject of Prostate Cancer. The date is still to be finalised, but we hope to hold it one evening in February. We hope to have two speakers, one a Macmillan Specialist Nurse and the other a speaker linked to The Prostate Cancer Charity.

We will be asking you to book for this event – more details to follow ...

3. Surgery Website

If you have visited the new Surgery website (www.purtonsurgery.co.uk) you may have noticed that there is an opportunity for you to be a ‘virtual patient’ member of G4P – i.e. a subsidiary member who can be involved without attending meetings. If you would like to be involved in this way then do sign up – on the website look under ‘Patient Participation Group – G4P’ then ‘Virtual PRG’.

4. Email contact

Please remember that if you would like Newsletters or other information by email then let us have your email address – either by handing it in to the surgery marked ‘for the attention of Kim’ or send it to us by emailing groupforpatients@gmail.com.
SHEILA FOWLER, secretary G4P

On The Lighter Side

Tale of Love

A woman was sipping a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband watching the sun go down. Suddenly she said, “I love you so much, I don’t know how I could ever live without you”.

Her husband asked, “Is that you, or the wine talking?” She replied, “It’s me. I’m talking to the wine.”

Zen Teachings

- Lady who goes camping must beware of evil intent.
- Man who eats many prunes get good run for money.
- Man who fight with wife all day get no piece at night.

Purton Diary - December 2011

1	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
2	F	7.30pm	Historical Society: Annual Christmas Social, Silver Threads Hall
3	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 2pm:</i> Jubilee Gardens Open Day, Church Bush Hall
		5.00pm	<i>to 8.30pm:</i> Age Concern Christmas party at Village Hall
4	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Parade & UJC Service at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	<i>to 4pm:</i> Under-5s Playgroup Christmas Bazaar at Village Hall
		6.00pm	Sung Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	M	8.00pm	Cricket Club AGM at the Red House
7	W	7.30pm	Christmas Whist Drive at Silver Threads Hall (Helping Hand)
8	Th	11.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		2.30pm	Author John Doyle at Purton Library
		3.30pm	St Mary's Christmas Fayre at Lower School Hall
9	F	9.30am	Minibus to Swindon for all areas of the village
		10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee Morning at 18 Church Path
		3.00pm	<i>to 5pm:</i> 'Tea and Tinsel' at Purton Surgery
		5.00pm	<i>to 7pm:</i> St Mary's School will be opened to allow people a final walk around the Victorian school
10	Sa	9.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Age Concern Christmas market stall outside the Pavenhill shops
		5.00pm	<i>to 9pm:</i> Baby & Toddler Group Family Christmas Party at Village Hall
11	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Sung Evensong at St Mary's Church
		8.00pm	Sing 4/4 Festival of Christmas Concert at Cricklade Town Hall
12	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
13	Tu	10.30am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.30pm	Songs of Praise at White Lodge
		12.00pm	<i>to 4.30pm</i> Silver Threads Christmas Party
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
		8.00pm	<i>After 8: Christmas is Coming</i> at Mary Smith's
14	W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Carols at "Coffee & Chat" at Silver Threads Hall
		2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship Christmas meeting, Hooks Hill
15	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
16	F	7.30pm	Annual Christmas Quiz at Silver Threads Hall (Twinning Assoc)
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Christmas Concert, Holy Rood Church
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI, Christmas Decoration demonstration and

			Share a Poem at Village hall
17	Sa	6.00pm	Pies and Punch with Carols at <i>The Live and Let Live</i>
18	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
19	M		Father Christmas coming to Purton! See page 35 for details
20	Tu		Father Christmas coming to Purton! See page 35 for details
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
21	W		Father Christmas coming to Purton! See page 35 for details
		2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall:
22	Th		Winter Solstice
24	Sa	4.00pm	Crib Service at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Carol singing under the Christmas tree at the Institute with hot punch and mince pies
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass at St Mary's Church
25	Su		Christmas Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Sung Evensong at St Mary's Church
26	M		Christmas Bank Holiday
27	Tu		Boxing Day Bank Holiday
28	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
31	Sa		New Year's Eve

Every week

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

Moon Phases

 2 December
  10 December
  18 December
  24 December

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.

Sing 4/4 Community Choir 'Festival of Christmas' Concert

Sunday 11 December at 8pm
Cricklade Town Hall

Supported by
"The After 8 Group"
and **The Carollers Brass"**

Admission £5

(Including pre-concert
wine and mince pies at 7.30)

Tickets available from:

DES (Wiltshire) Ltd
Electrical Shop, 49b High Street,
Wootton Bassett
or from choir members
(In aid of Local Charities)

St Mary's Christmas Fayre

Thursday 8 December

Lower School Hall at 3.30pm
Christmas Raffle, School Choir,
Refreshments, Holly & Mistletoe

Christmas Coffee Morning

at 18 Church Path
on Friday 9 December
10 am to noon

All proceeds to Silver Threads

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 Christmas Market Stall

outside the Pavenhill shops
on Saturday 10th December
9.0 am to 12 noon

Come along and taste Andrew's
famous sausages

Lots of bargains – home made
cakes, books, toys, bric a brac
and last chance to buy our
Christmas raffle tickets!

Pies & Punch with Carols

Saturday 17 December
at The Live & Let Live,
Upper Pavenhill

at 6pm

No tickets – donations on the
door

Tel 770157, 772896,
770970, 771201, 770375

Jubilee Gardens Open Day

Saturday 3 December
from 10am to 2pm

Church Bush Hall, Purton Stoke

Sale of hyacinths,
Christmas Wreaths,
bird boxes, pickles and much more.

Refreshments

Raffle and tombola

Free admission



Purton Twinning Association
Annual Christmas Quiz

Friday 16 December
at Silver Threads Hall
7.30 pm for 8 pm start
Prizes for winners and booby prize
£5 per person - teams of up to 6
Price to include ploughman's supper
Licensed Bar
Please book through
Sara Brown 01793 778362, or
Len Page 01793 770160

Carols at 'Coffee & Chat'

Wednesday 14 December
at the Silver Threads Hall
from 10 am to 12 noon

Come and join us
Sing your favourite carols
Enjoy some festive food
Everyone welcome

Swindon United Churches
Cricket Club

**An Evening
with Henry Olunga**

7.45 pm at
Trinity Centre, Westlea
Tickets £5.50 in advance
from 770331, 700618, or
07788 437526

**Purton Baby & Toddler Group
FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

At the Village Hall – All ages welcome
Saturday 10 December 2011 5-9 pm

Disco Raffle Tombola
Buffet – bring and share
Santa's grotto
Bring your own booze

Ticket prices: £2.50 per child, £3.50 per
adult or £10 for a family of 4
Please purchase your tickets in advance
from Sarah Grigg 07908 208141
or Helen Fudge 07786554127

Purton Helping Hand
Christmas Whist Drive

Wednesday 7 December
7.30pm at Silver Threads Hall
Minibus available – tel 770251



**Purton House Organics
FARM SHOP**



www.purtonhouseorganics.co.uk

Telephone - 01793 772287

Christmas Market & Crafts 17-18 December

10-4pm In the Farm Shop

mince pies, mulled wine, carol singing & live music

Christmas special hampers now on sale, ask for details

Simple.

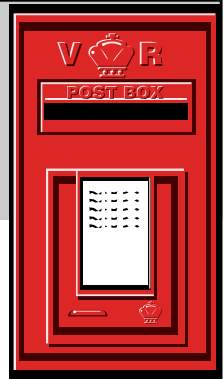


Bringing local food to local people

PURTON AGE CONCERN
proudly present their
BURNS NIGHT
on Saturday 21 January
at the Village Hall 6.30 pm for 7 pm
with three-course dinner and
dancing
Tickets £17.50 available from
Ron and Heather Harris on 770850
Come and join in the fun!

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.



■ FRAMING THE LETTERS PATENT FOR ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

It was my honour to be asked to frame the Letters Patent for what is now Royal Wootton Bassett. This is one of only 3 in history to be awarded and the first one for over a hundred years. It came with a huge responsibility to get it framed to the highest conservation specification and delivered on time.

The wording is written on vellum which is susceptible to humidity levels so that was my first consideration, that over the years the vellum has to be protected and preserved. Secondly, how was I going to mount it securely but within all the laws of conservation? I had to build a case around the Letters of Patent due to the depths of the seal and then frame the case. All museum quality materials and methods were used to ensure that the Letters Patent is protected for many years to come.

The Princess Royal unveiled the Letters Patent in a ceremony on Sunday 16 October and if you saw the television reports you will have seen how dramatic it looked and how the framing enhanced it perfectly.

Sue's Gallery & Framing

■ GOOD DEED

I would like to say a very big thank-you to the young gentleman and young lady who helped, and stayed with me until my husband arrived, when I took a fall by the War Memorial in the village.

Thank you, both.

Pat Manners

■ THANK YOU

I would like to thank my family, friends and neighbours who spared their time, to visit me, call me and give me lifts, following my recent knee surgery. Thank you also for the cards and flowers etc, including the ones from my friends at The Purton Helping Hand. It was lovely to know that I was being thought about by so many people.

Thanks again.

Pearl Lait

■ 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

With help from both the Purton and Lydiard Magazines, could I say a big Thank-You to my family and friends, who helped to celebrate my 90th birthday on 4 November.

Not only was I surprised by one, but two parties given by my family. Also myself, my friends from the Lydiard Luncheon Club, plus a few guests celebrated again on the Wednesday, with a lovely Roast Pork lunch followed with home made trifle. Thank you to those lovely ladies of the kitchen for all your hard work.

I was very pleased and grateful for all the cards and gifts that I received. Thank you all again for making my birthday so special.

Ted Wicks, Greenhill

Church Floodlighting

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



- 13 November St Mary's was floodlit for the Golden Wedding of **Roger and Pat Carpenter**, who were married in Purton Church on 11 November, 50 years ago. Tracey and Paul Rapson and family
- 19 November St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Duncan Bamford's** birthday. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey, Howard and family.
- 4 December St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Mabel Bunce** (Auntie Mabel) on the 7th anniversary of her death. From David, Davina and all her family and friends.
- 16 December St Mary's Church will be floodlit in memory of our son **Darren Perring** on his birthday. You are always in our hearts and thoughts, never to be forgotten. With all our love Mum and Dad, Julie, Ian and Paul and families.
- 19 December The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Elsie Goodings** on what would have been her birthday. Pete Goodings
- 24/25 December St Mary's will be floodlit on **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** to wish all Purtonians and visitors to the village A Very Happy Christmastide
- 26 December The Church will be floodlit in memory of **William (Bill) Fowler**. Remembering a dear father and Grandad on the 13th anniversary of his death. From his children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Floodlighting contact: Libbie, tel 771018



Christmas Concerts: Preparations are underway for our traditional Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 14 December. In addition, the Music Department is also running a Christmas Music Concert on Wednesday 7 December at the school.

Wow Show Extraordinaire for Visiting Primary Pupils

Recently we hosted three performances of our own Science Wow Show, developed especially for local primary school pupils. In 2008, our Science Department created this unique show for our Year 7 students to answer questions on why and how things work, using experiments too 'dangerous' for the classroom. This year the team decided to develop a new show for our Year 7s and they felt that the Wow Show could continue as a fantastic opportunity for Year 6 pupils at our partner primary schools

We were very excited to welcome almost 300 pupils from Catherine Wayte, Peatmoor, Oakhurst and St Mary's schools who came to watch our three special one hour primary performances.

The Wow Show was designed and written by two of our Science teachers, Mr Lemin and Mrs Chappell, and was 'performed' in our theatre with the technical assistance of our professional theatre staff. As well as 'explosive' experiments that explored how to generate energy using various gases and also icing sugar, volunteers were able to have a go at harnessing that energy using balloon rockets and air kazookas. The audiences were 'wowed' with Mr Lemin's giant air kazooka and seeing him lying on a bed of nails while a cement block was broken in half on his body.



This was followed by an experiment in which a jelly baby screamed!

"The children of St Mary's came back buzzing from the experience at Bradon! They clearly had a very worthwhile time and learnt a great deal. Many thanks for providing the opportunity for them." *Mr Tucker, Headteacher St Mary's*

All the pupils left with a programme/worksheet and WOW sticker produced in school by our Arts team. The pupils were invited to enter a special competition to design a poster detailing their favourite experiment from the show. Mrs Chappell and Mr Lemin will visit the schools to judge the competition and present the prizes.

I would like to thank the WOW team for all their hard work in putting on three shows in one day. The 'Wow Team' are now developing a brand new show/performance, The 'Who' Show, for our Year 7 students later this year. Watch this space!

Annual Lepra Charity Year 7 Assembly and Line Dance

We were pleased to welcome back Isobel Thompson from LEPRa Health Action as part of our annual support through Year 7 charity work. Each year a representative



from the charitable organisation comes in to school to share key facts and understanding of how society through the ages has misinterpreted the treatment of Leprosy. After a formal introduction, students were given envelopes to go away and collect funds as part of their PSHE lesson, which will be given over to line dancing! This is a fun way for students to participate in physical activity whilst raising

money for those in need. Over recent years the Year 7 Lepra appeal has raised nearly £10,000.

Coffee Morning in Aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

A group of committed Year 11 students hosted a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The Year 11 ASDAN students spent a number of weeks preparing for the event including creating the publicity and promoting it around school, raising awareness of the charity, taste testing a variety of hot drink options, baking cakes and encouraging donations. During the event we had staff and students alike queuing out of the door and are very proud to announce that the group raised over £120 for the charity.

On behalf of the Bradon Forest School community I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

L SPIERS, Headteacher



Purton Silver Threads

Another year is nearly over and we are still going! Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us during the year. Our thanks also go to the Minibus Team who are always available to transport people to events and outings organized (all VOLUNTEERS, I might add). We could not manage without them. Thank you!

Our Christmas party is on Tuesday 13 December and we will then have a break until we return on Tuesday 3 January.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all.

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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

For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £15 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

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

Exhibit of the Month: Upper Square Methodist Church

In 1956, the Methodist Church in Hoggs Lane produced a booklet in celebration of its Centenary Year, 1856-1956. It gives a history of the Church and its foundation. The earliest history begins in 1843 when a house in the High Street was used as temporary chapel: the "Chapel in the Row". By the 1850s, the old chapel was in a poor state and undersized. A new chapel was needed and a cottage and garden were purchased by the Trustees, "in a very eligible part of the village called Mount Pleasant", where they built "a good substantial chapel 26ft by 40ft, sufficiently high to admit of a gallery when needed." It was opened for Divine service on Sunday 14 September 1856.

This is not the chapel that we see as a private house in Hoggs Lane today. The 1856 chapel was arranged from south to north not east to west as it became. The Trust Account Book for 1876 records that a sum of £82 was paid for the purchase of a schoolroom, but "the question at once arises, where was this schoolroom? [It was not] a room built onto the chapel; no more building was done there until 1893. The most likely place seems to be the cottage opposite the chapel, and there is a tradition that this was used for some time at the schoolroom", though no written record of this was found.

The history of the church has its next important milestone in 1893 when the building was enlarged, the foundation stone being laid on 7 August 1893 and the opening of the enlarged chapel and schoolroom being on 14 September of that year. A description of the time says that ventilation "which is too often overlooked ... was very satisfactory" and lighting of the chapel was by "four large hanging oil lamps giving an excellent light for evening services ... The cost of the whole work was £400." Subscribers names are recorded and include Mr Hartley, Mr Kiblewhite, Mr C.W. Wykeham-Martin and Mr Maskelyne, Rev G Warner, and other well known village names like Parsons, Iles, Woolford, Garlick, Wheeler, Riddick and Barnes.

Following the opening service, tea was provided in a marquee lent by Mr Lewis, who at that time owned Blacklands Farm, Pavenhill, and "it was one of his barns which the Society had permission to use during the period of re-building. 200 people sat down to tea ..." During the teatime Mr and Mrs Lewis were thanked by Rev J Neville, "and they were presented with a teapot."

In 1895, the building was licensed for marriages. In 1919 the Trustees decided to purchase a safe for the custody of a register and documents concerned with the appointment of a Minister as "Authorised person" for marriages at the church, thus dispensing with the need for the presence of a Registrar at such services. The first person "Authorised" was the Revd R Cowie.

The church was closed in 1972 and its members merged with that at Playclose where the present Methodist Church stands. The Hoggs Lane chapel was sold for the function of a furniture warehouse, but Planning Permission was refused and it became a private house called *Hafaway House*. The house's outlook demonstrates the older name of Mount Pleasant as the views over the valley are wonderful.

There is much else of interest in the Centenary booklet and I will publish a PDF copy of it on the Museum's website www.purtonmuseum.com.

RICK DIXON, *Outreach Officer*

A to Z OF PURTON

S is for ... Salt's Hole

Salts Hole in Purton Stoke is the only traditional healing well in Wiltshire to have been converted into a Spa. For centuries, locals used the waters to treat illnesses. In the 1850s, the landowner, Dr Sadler, filled the spring to prevent flooding. Such was the outcry from locals, he re-opened the spring, and had the water tested. The composition turned out to be unique, rich in phosphate of lime, with no irritant properties.

A pump and pump room were then erected, and "Purton Spa" became well known. The water was commercially available during the latter half of the 19th Century, and again from the 1920s until around the time of the Second World War.

Purton Museum has various letters containing testimonials to the beneficial effects of the saline waters.



S is for ... Season's Greetings

The Purton Magazine committee would like to pass on our happiest and healthiest greetings for a wonderful Christmas time to every reader. At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to thank publicly, each of our faithful and friendly group of magazine distributors who every month, make sure that every subscriber receives their copy of our magazine, whatever the weather.

S is for ... Star Gazing Quiz Answers

Last month we printed the quiz created for those who attended the Christian Aid Star Gazing evening in September and promised to include the answers in the December issue – and they are on [page 15](#)!

S is for... Sailors

For a landlocked village, Purton is surprisingly full of sailors. Whether they be dinghy sailors at one of the local clubs in the Cotswold Water Park, or yacht sailors travelling to the coast, they have found a way of getting on the water in spite of geography!

A to Z of Purton: *The purpose of this section is to publish contributions about the culture and content of our community such as any unusual facts about local historical events, places or organisations in a few descriptive sentences, perhaps with a photograph. Please send your contributions for "T is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 December, via the addresses shown on [page 4](#).*

St Mary's Primary School

The countdown to Christmas has well and truly begun here at St. Mary's, with many festivities planned over the next few weeks. The children at the lower school are starting to rehearse their nativity performance 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem' and the Key Stage Two children have been learning carols in preparation for their Carol Concert to be held at St Mary's church. Other exciting festive activities planned for the children this year include our Christmas lunch, class parties and the PTA's fantastic 'Secret Shopping' afternoon.

Of course, for the school the biggest Christmas present we could have ever wished for is nearing at its' completion – our fantastic new school build! The staff and children are all eagerly awaiting their first day in the new school building, which will be Friday 6 January. However, before our state of the art facility officially opens its doors for the first time a lot of hard work and final preparation still lies ahead of us, we will be keeping our fingers firmly crossed for mild weather during the move.

As advertised in November's issue we will be holding 'A Walk down Memory Lane' evening on Friday 9 December 5-7 pm in the Lower School (Victorian) building. This evening is open to anyone who has attended St Mary's, had children who have attended, taught here or worked here in any capacity. We very much look forward to seeing you on this evening and reliving all those happy (hopefully) school day memories with you.

St Mary's choir took part in a brilliant evening of song held in the Oasis Leisure Centre's Great Hall on Thursday 24 November. The choir sang alongside other school choirs from the local cluster, in the annual North Wilts Primary School Music Festival Concert. The evening's theme was 'Steam' paying tribute to Swindon's railway heritage. The event was a memorable occasion for all and Mrs Fudge and her team of enthusiastic staff members and helpers should be congratulated for the organisation of this event.

During November we carried out our first Parents and Carers' evenings of the year and as always this event was well supported. If you want to keep updated regularly with what's happening at St Mary's why not visit our school website. By logging on you can find out about each year group's topic and also read our latest school newsletter.

We have carried out several fundraising events this term including selling poppies for the British Legion's appeal, raising money for Children in Need by collecting 'Pennies for Pudsey' and many children and parents kindly donated items for Purton's shoebox appeal. We would like to thank all of you who have given so generously and supported these appeals. We also held our annual 'Travelling Books' Book Fayre' with many exciting children's book titles on sale. The event was a great success and enabled many to get their Christmas shopping underway. The school receives commission for every book sold, and we will be using the proceeds to help to equip our new library areas.

I look forward to updating you in the New Year with news and photographs of the move and our first day in the new school build. We will be welcoming the wider community through our doors once we are well settled into our new routines and

most likely when the lighter evenings are with us, so that the fantastic views can be fully appreciated by all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone – St Mary's talented, dedicated staff, governors, parents/carers and the fantastic children for all your continued support throughout a very busy 2011.

Merry Christmas and very best wishes for a happy, peaceful 2012, from all the staff and pupils at St Mary's.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher

Happy 90th Birthday Pauline

On behalf of the village of Purton and surrounding area, I would like to wish a very special lady Happy 90th Birthday. Pauline Ward is 90 on 7 December. I am sure that most households have been touched in some way by Pauline's generosity, either directly or through The Purton Helping Hand.

Pauline's life is helping others and at this wonderful age, she can still run rings around half the population of Purton. Having served on the committee of The Purton Helping Hand for a number of years, I saw the determination Pauline has. She is also an active part of Purton Silver Threads. where she works equally hard.

Where she gets her energy from I don't know. It would be nice for Pauline to know that all her hard work will carry on in many years to come, the most precious gift to her would surely be to be joined in her quest to make all our lives that little bit special. SPECIAL – yes that's the word! It is the perfect word for you Pauline. Pauline, put your feet up and take it easy on your 90th Birthday.

PEARL LAIT



Swindon & Cricklade Railway

Santa Specials: Saturday 3, 10, 17 December and Sundays 4, 11 and 18 December from 11 am to 4 pm, also evening trains on Saturday 10 December only from 6 pm to 8pm. These ever popular events always have the personal touch in keeping with our friendly railway. Presents chosen to suit different age groups are given by Santa in his grotto at the end of a festive steam train ride. Tickets cost £7 for adults, £6 for seniors and £10 for children to include present. Family tickets, for two adults and two children, cost £32. Cafeteria. shop and museum plus free parking.

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

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



Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Rainbows and both Brownie units have held promise ceremonies this month. Rainbows making their promise were Ciara, Zerena, Esme, Isabelle, Evie and Rowen, whilst the Brownie promises were made by Kelly, Holly, Katy and Katy-Erin in 2nd Purton. The 1st Purton promise ceremony was for Jo Cook, who made her promise as a Young Leader with friends and family there to share in the evening.

We had more seasonal activities this month: the Rainbows celebrated Apple Day by tasting two varieties of apple and voting on which tasted best. As 2nd Purton Brownies met on Halloween itself, they had an evening making pompom spiders, black cats, spider biscuits and apple bobbing. Both Brownie units held firework themed evenings; activities included bonfire pictures using wax crayons and black paint, bonfire biscuits, a glow stick trail, a torch trail, sparklers and hot chocolate.

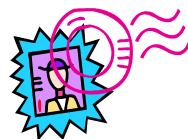
Purton Rainbows welcomed Millie, her Mum and another prospective leader to one of their meetings as they wanted to find out about Rainbows so that they can start a Rainbow unit in Oakhurst. The Purton Rainbows enjoyed looking after Millie who now wants to be a Rainbow even more. The Purton Rainbows are making a game to send to the new unit when they start to meet in the New Year.

Guides had visitors from a Swindon knitting group for a couple of weeks who helped them learn to knit and make little hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles. Money raised from sales goes to Age UK to help keep older people warm this winter. Another meeting was 'Guides Have Got Talent' with solo or small group performances which included baking, jokes, magic and music. What a talented bunch of Guides they are! Their talent also shone through at the Division Guide Challenge. The team of five ("The Smurfettes" as they dubbed themselves) came a very close second to a team from Wootton Bassett after completing several challenges through the day, including a trail through Wootton Bassett, baking cakes in cardboard ovens and pitching a tent blindfolded by following instructions from a sighted team leader. If you ever need a tent put up by this method, then The Smurfettes are the people for you as this is where they really excelled. Congratulations to Kirsty, Isobel, Rosie, Georgia and Sarah.

For more information about guiding in Purton please contact Jo Begg on 874066.

Swindon Scouts Christmas Post

As usual, 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group will be participating in Swindon Scout Christmas Post!



We will be selling stamps from 1 November at our usual locations: In Touch Services, Best One and Shear Success in Purton and at Toomers Garden Centre, in Lydiard Millicent.

All profits go to run Scouting in the Swindon, Purton, Highworth and Wootton Bassett areas.

Christmas cards must be properly addressed including postcode and only posted in the Special Scout Post Boxes. Stamps are 20p each, a real saving! Please **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through Royal Mail post boxes. They

are not valid and the receiver of the card will have to pay a £1 surcharge!

**Posting is between: 1 December and
4.00pm on Tuesday 13 December 2011**

The cards will be delivered between 16 and 18 December 2011

The delivery area for the Swindon Scout Christmas Post is Swindon Borough and some of the surrounding towns and villages as follows:

Swindon Borough: This includes all areas of Swindon, Badbury, Bishopstone, Blunsdon, Burderop, Chiseldon, Draycott Foliat, Elcombe, Hannington, Highworth, Hinton Parva, Hodson, Inglesham, Langton Park, Liddington, Overtown, Red Barn, South Leaze, South Marston, Stanton Fitzwarren, Stratton St Margaret, Thorney Park, Wanborough, West Leaze, Wroughton.

Other Towns and Villages: We deliver to Wootton Bassett, Purton, Lydiard Millicent, Bushton, Clyffe Pypard, Tockenham, Broad Town, Cricklade, Latton, Ashton Keynes, Shrivenham, Watchfield, Bourton, Idstone, Ashbury and Kingston Winslow.

We DO NOT deliver to any other location.

Thank you everyone for supporting us; especially the local businesses for housing our boxes and selling stamps! A wonderful contribution.



Father Christmas is coming to town!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Father Christmas is coming to Purton. Write out your list and bring it to Santa!

19 December	6.00pm	Upper Pavenhill	
	6.20pm	Ringsbury Close	
	6.40pm	Restrop View	
	7.20pm	Orchard Close and Battlewell	
7.40pm		Top Parade	
	20 December	6.30pm	Willis Way
		6.50pm	Kibblewhite and Proud Close
7.20pm		Reids Piece	
21 December	6.00pm	Village Hall Car Park	
	6.20pm	Peartree Close	
	6.40pm	Waitemead Close	
	7.00pm	Vasterne Close	
	7.20pm	Glevum Close	
	7.40pm	Locks Lane	

A very Happy Christmas to everyone!

PAULINE WARD, Secretary

Good News on the Roads!

The Department Of Transport issued the statistics for road accidents for Great Britain this summer for the previous year. They confirmed the continuing trend downwards from an average 319,928 in the late 90s to 222,146 in 2009 to 208,628 2010. This is undoubtedly good news! To put things further into perspective in 2010 there were only 677 casualties per 1,000,000,000 vehicle miles of motor vehicle traffic. So, if you drive – or are driven – 10,000 miles per year then your chances of being a casualty would have been only 1 in 140 in that year.

Not too bad you might think, but to look a little closer, these are statistics of incidents that are **reported** to the police, the number of embarrassing, expensive and time consuming bumps and scrapes will be far higher than that. If you could do something to lessen your chances of an unhappy experience on the road why wouldn't you do that? In most walks of life, training, and re-training, are common occurrences. Driving is one area where most of us don't get that extra training. After passing the driving test the rest of our driving lives are spent learning by experience. Bearing in mind that we are in control of a potentially lethal piece of machinery, is this a good idea?

When driving, do you ever find yourself:

- Having to brake sharply?
- Creeping above the speed limit?
- Driving too close to the car ahead?
- Feeling anxious, tense or intimidated?
- Regretting what you've just done? (e.g. accelerated through an amber light)

If so maybe you too could benefit from advanced training

Another piece of Good News is that you can do something about it for a modest amount of your money and your time. There is a local group of volunteer tutors who will spend the time to assess your skills on the road on a one to one basis and suggest ways to make you safer.

The Group is the North Wiltshire RoSPA Advanced Drivers And Riders

The training is based on the Police Driving and Riding manuals and is given by tutors who are regularly tested by examiners qualified to Police Class 1 standard. If this all sound a bit stuffy – it isn't. Most people really actually enjoy their training and there is an active social side if you want to get involved with regular monthly meetings with talks on various motoring related topics.

The cost of one year's membership is only £25 (or £19 if under 21) and this includes a copy of the Police driving manual Roadcraft or Motorcycle Roadcraft.

Want to know more: -

Our website is www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk

Or you can phone or e-mail our Secretary, Monica, or Chairman, Nick for a chat: -

Secretary 01367 242377 email: secretary@northwiltsroadar.co.uk

Chairman 01793 636630 email: chairman@northwiltsroadar.co.uk

All ages welcome as long as you have passed your Driving Test or Riding Test. Motorcyclists as well as car drivers welcome – we have tutors for both.

Purton Tennis Club Already the Christmas lights have been switched on in many of the towns and villages in the West and we are being enticed into the shops to spend possibly more money than we should. And what shall we spend it all on? Here at the tennis club we would rather it was used to encourage all ages to get out on the courts, to have fun in the company of like minded friends and colleagues and enjoy a sport that can take you almost from birth to old age. Jean Borotra was apparently still a formidable player well into his 90s and you have only to watch some of the stars of 'veteran' tennis to see what fun they have – its real 'cat and mouse' stuff. Next year is our centenary year and we aim to encourage as many as possible of the youngsters in our village to join in and take part in what is on offer. We plan an Open day for young players on Sunday 3 June in honour of Harry Bunce who spent so much of his time coaching and bringing on young talent. And for us of the older generation we shall look back to the early years of tennis with a 'Wooden Racquet' tournament. That should be interesting!

Coming down to earth a bit we had our Annual General meeting early in November when all our members had a chance to air their views with the committee on tennis matters. Every year the selection process seems to cause a few upsets among the membership and this year has been no exception. We plan to change the process next year and hope that it will be fairer and that it will be seen as such to all involved.

Mary Turner was warmly thanked for the amount of work and energy she has brought to the post of Social Secretary over the past few years. She planned and co-ordinated many of the tournaments and social events that we have very much enjoyed. The ladies had a memorable long weekend at the Manor House Hotel in Devon a few years back. Mary was injured and could not take part in many of the activities she had planned for but continued to be a cheerful and enthusiastic member of the group. She has been a reliable e-mail communicator keeping us all informed of everything that we need to know about and we'll just have to see whether Bob and CJ can keep up to her standard.

We are pressing on with our plans to get floodlighting on the two courts next to the Tennis Clubhouse and to that end are getting updates on quotations for the installations and negotiating with the LTA who have been encouraging us and whose grant will challenge us to grow the tennis membership and activities. We'll let you know how we get on.

I'll report on the Swindon and District League AGM next month if there's anything of significance to emerge from that meeting. In the meanwhile we all wish our readers a Very Happy Christmas and hope it brings you all you wish for!

CAROLINE McLEAN, tel 01793 770525

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year

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



Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

The AGM will be held on Monday, 5 December, at the Red House starting at 8 pm.



Please remember that the Purton Cricket Club has mounted a small exhibition in the museum as a tribute to James Henry Sadler who did so much for the cricket club, in particular, and for the village in general. This year marks the one hundredth Anniversary of his gift of the cricket field to the village and its cricketers. The exhibition will be on display until the end of December. Visiting times are the same as the library – Mondays 2-5 pm, Tuesdays 2-7 pm, Wednesdays 10 am to 5 pm and Fridays 2-7 pm.

JOE GARDNER

Purton F.C.

I start my notes this month on a sad note with the death of Ray Miller, father of Justin, one of our Purton players, on 21 October. Ray was a well respected and talented former footballer himself, representing many sides in Wiltshire and the County side and will be sadly missed.



On the team front the Hellenic side despite some recent in and out performances occupy 3rd place in the table, with team skipper Marcus Hall the leading goal-scorer with 9 goals to his credit.

The Reserves in the Wilts League currently are lying 7th, with Reece Gilliver their leading scorer on 6 goals.

At Youth level our under 14s are the highest placed team, with the under 12s' two sides competing well. Sadly our under 16s and under 15s are not faring so well but it's a long season so they can improve in leagues that are both difficult with many good teams in them.

It's nice to see that our Hellenic side top the table in home attendances in the Hellenic league Div 1 West and are also ahead of over half of the teams competing in the Hellenic Premier league. Sincere thanks to all those of you who support the teams; its second to none and really appreciated by the club.

ALAN EASTWOOD, *President/Chairman*

Purton Guide Dogs

We made £13 on our stall at the Helping Hand Table Top Sale on 29 October, and a £116.39 at our Jumble Sale, on 5 November. Our thanks to the two residents of Purton who gave us donations for the Jumble Sale, which together paid the Hire fee for the hall. We also received a very generous donation, from Mr and Mrs Charlesworth, collected in lieu of presents on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Our congratulations, and our sincere thanks to them.



All of us on the committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Many thanks for all your support.

BRIAN DAVIES, *for the Purton Support Group*

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

I realise that, at this time of year, the last thing you want to do is think about next summer. But I just want to make sure that everybody knows about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the village. We are organising these celebrations with the Parish Council. They will take place at the village centre on Sunday 3 June. This is the official date so we can't change it.

For those of you who remember the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, we are going to do more or less the same thing. It worked well then so there's no reason to change it. If you weren't in the village back then, ask someone who was, it was a fantastic day and we're sure the next one will be equally as good.

So far we have archery, tennis, face painting, nail painting, hair braiding, a story corner, sword fighting, cup cake icing, an art project, a display on the skate park and quite a few more things in the pipeline. All these things will be free and there's no entry fee so you can bring your picnic and the afternoon needn't cost you a penny. We've also got a few entertainers lined up but we could still use some more, so if you play an instrument, sing, dance, recite, act or whatever, we could use you. It doesn't matter if you don't think you're any good, have a go. All you need to do is contact Sue on 772581. We really fancy getting some street dancers so if any of you are into that please contact us.

We do have a few expenses for this event so we're having a band night to raise some money. This will take place on 10 March in the Village Hall. We have three bands, there will also be a bar and some food available so please come and support us and help raise some money for the celebrations.

TONY RICHARDSON

Green Tips - Ethical Christmas Present Shopping

In 2009 I had an interesting trawl through some catalogues (for this column) claiming that they sold ethical Christmas presents. This year such catalogues have not fallen through my letter box but I have enjoyed doing research on the Internet and hope some of my findings will strike a chord and you will look at the web sites I mention.

I have looked at sites which sell ethical gifts which have the Fairtrade logo, are organic and/or "eco-friendly". The most reasonably priced and useful gifts came from www.wearewhatwedo.org/shop. This site sells stationery, books and bags which cost between £5 and £7.50 and is definitely worth a look.

Another site worth looking at is www.florisbooks.co.uk. Floris Books is an Edinburgh-based publisher and prides itself on selling books about "all aspects of holistic and alternative living". The subjects of their books include organics and the environment, self- help and spirituality.

Traidcraft is a well known firm producing goods with the Fairtrade logo on them. If you want to browse their jewellery, clothing, toys and games, chocolates and cards then log on to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Many people prefer to buy and use goods made of natural products. If you are one such person then I recommend you look at www.naturalcollection.com. The



shop sells gifts that are Fairtrade, organic and “eco-friendly”. These goods include ethical jewellery, organic toiletries and stationery. I forgot to mention that this firm also sell chocolates and clothing.

Homemade gifts make lovely presents and bring both receiver and maker a lot of pleasure. Gifts made from recycled goods can also be included as being ethical, so too toiletries made without testing on animals, and let’s not forget hampers of local produce. Wiltshire is full of companies manufacturing excellent food products and gifts, from major companies selling in supermarkets to local shops and farmers markets, including companies relatively close to Purton; cheeses, jams, pickles, cakes, cordials, wine, syrups, soaps, jigsaws etc to name just a few items.

Of course, a lovely present would be being taken out for a meal in one of the Purton restaurants. As an update on success in Purton’s business community I encourage you to look in the window of *The Maharajah*. Khalique Ali, the manager, has received a special award from Bradon Forest School. In the window you will see a shield for the Upper School Service to the Community Award. Khalique has been involved in the India Link Project. He has provided Business Studies students with information about Indian food, his marketing strategies and about India in general. These lucky students have been to The Maharajah to taste the food and look around the premises. Also they have seen how the promotion of businesses via word of mouth, advertising and articles (like the one earlier this year from Ps and Qs) is so important to Khalique’s restaurant.

Ps and Qs is organising a “Green” Day on Saturday 17 March 2012 at the Silver Threads and invites any Purton businesses to express an interest in having a stall there to display their products and services.

Please contact Jacqui Lay on 770704 or jacquilay@yahoo.co.uk

Compiled by Jane Smith for Ps & Qs

Ps and Qs stands for Purton’s Qualities

Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities

New members are always welcome

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

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

Christmas & New Year waste and recycling collection changes

Your scheduled waste and recycling collection day may change as there will be no collections taking place on Monday December.

Please check below or online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk to see how this affects your collections.

All services – household waste, black box, garden waste, plastic bottles and cardboard:

Normal collection day:

Monday 26 December

Tuesday 27 December

Wednesday 28 December

Thursday 29 December

Friday 30 December

Revised collection day:

Tuesday 27 December

Wednesday 28 December

Thursday 29 December

Friday 30 December

Saturday 31 December

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



We were both entertained and instructed by Fred Swift, the Wiltshire beekeeper, who gave us a riveting account of the life of the honey bee and the practices of beekeeping. Fred maintains between 500 and 700 hives, stationing them in a wide area surrounding his home near Devizes. He is clearly a honeybee evangelist, focusing in his talk on the correct and humane methods of beekeeping while strongly deprecating what might be called the “slash and burn” tendencies of those beekeepers who pursue this ancient skill only for profit, with little regard for the wellbeing of their hives. He was particularly critical of the use of smoke to calm bees, saying that on the contrary its smell merely stimulated bees to eat as much honey as they could to energise them to flight to escape a forest fire. He also criticised greedy commercial beekeepers who would remove too much honey on the approach of winter, leaving their bees with insufficient for survival.

Humans have practised beekeeping for at least 7000 years, as is demonstrated by cave paintings in Spain dating from the Paleolithic Age. Later Egyptian tomb paintings of 2500BC show recognisable skeps, one of the earliest forms of manmade beehive. Since men began to practise farming, the value of honeybees as pollinators of crops increased their importance to us. Today there is great concern over the dwindling swarms of feral bees as we now know that honeybees pollinate about 80% of all crops. We can produce sweetness by other means, but without these hard-working pollinators we would face famine.

A hive of bees in late spring would usually contain between 80,000 and 100,000 bees, consisting of one queen, the female workers and the male drones. During winter the numbers would drop to about 35,000, enough to keep the hive ticking over safely until warmer weather returns. A larval female worker bee becomes the queen after being fed royal jelly, which is secreted in the glands of the worker bees, in sufficient quantities to promote the necessary development. She will then leave the hive for her mating flights, during which she will mate with up to 17 of the male drones, returning to lay her eggs, one in each of the honeycomb cells of the hive. The larvae hatch within 3-4 days and are fed by the workers with royal jelly at first, then a mixture of honey and pollen. When the larvae pupate, their individual cells are capped with a layer of beeswax for protection until they emerge the following spring. Each worker bee lives for 6-8 weeks and will produce about half a teaspoon only of honey throughout her hard-working life. A bee will visit about 100 flowers during one collection trip, to obtain nectar which, mixed with secretions from the bee's mouth glands, will be stored in the honeycomb cells of the hive then fanned by bees' wings to reduce the water content through evaporation. The resulting honey is capped with beeswax and can then last indefinitely, until eaten by bees or by us.

As well as honey, valued not merely as a food but also in alternative treatments when used in its pure state, bees provide us with pollen, useful in the treatment of hay fever, royal jelly, an ingredient in many beauty treatments, propolis, which bees make from a mixture of resins, balsams and tree saps, which is valued for its antibacterial properties and beeswax, which every dressmaker and needlewoman

appreciates. Finally, the one part of a bee which most of us would not like, the sting, we will learn to love as we age, for bee venom has been found to be most useful in the treatment of arthritis!

This talk left the writer determined to grow more bee-friendly plants next year, particularly borage. Yet one fact continues to haunt me: if you see a bee very early in the spring, foraging among the snowdrops and crocuses on a warm, sunny day, remember that unless the bee is very near its hive, all that is needed to kill it is for a cloud to pass over the sun and reduce the temperature.

A reminder to everyone that there is no meeting during December, but our A.G.M. will be held as usual at The Silver Threads Hall on 24 January at 7.30pm. This will be followed by our speaker, Alan Christopher, on the subject 'Gardening made easy'.

Whether you have a pot on a patio or a one acre plot, if you enjoy gardening and would like to learn more, why not join us? We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month with a guest speaker followed by refreshments. We are very friendly and welcome visitors and new members.

DIANA THOMBS (Chair), MOIRA WHITE (Secretary)

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.org.uk



Purton Village Hall was abuzz on 19 October, and full of everything beautiful - not only the WI members, of course, but stalls of Christmas gifts. From jewellery, toys, chocolates, to wrapping paper, we could have completed our Christmas shopping list entirely at that meeting. It was yet again a most enjoyable evening, with appropriate refreshments and a quiz. Which is why many members are not even local residents but face the drive to Purton Village Hall on a winter evening, wet and foggy as it may be, because at the end there is always a friendly, joyful time to be had.

President Trisha Baker called us back to normal with the necessary business matters, but even that was cheery as she pointed out that in there was a report – and photograph – of the recent Whist finals in the WI's Wiltshire News. Fourteen teams – and ours was the winner! Which accounted for the various trophies on proud view as we walked into the Hall. Hearty congratulations to our remarkable team.

Have you paid for your Christmas meal (£15)? The list closed on 16 November, so I trust you will not be out in the cold, peering at the rest of us enjoying the party on 21 December – and you would miss all those lovely men in the Wessex Male Choir who will be there to entertain us.

The 18 January meeting has Jackie Morris talking to us about Lundy Island and the competition is for the Worst Christmas Present!

Don't forget to use the website - purtonevewi.org.uk; and you could always email our jolliest member on sylviekimber@hotmail.com in the vain hope that she has nothing else to do!

CONSTANCE REED (tel: 771571)

Activity Week 2012

Yes, I know you're all thinking about Christmas not next summer, but some people have asked me to publish the date so that holidays can be arranged around it! It will be between 13-17 August 2012. Any questions please contact Mary on 772298.

Purton Historical Society



Remember to get your tickets for our Christmas Social on Friday 2 December in the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm. Our entertainment this year is by "The Melksham Pearlies". We have managed to keep the price at £10 and for that you get the entertainment, a lucky ticket draw, raffle, a glass of wine or fruit juice and the usual great buffet supper. Tickets are available from David Sweet on 770491 or myself on 770755. All friends are welcome not just members.

Cricklade Historical Society will have their Christmas draw on Saturday 18 December in their museum at 11 am. So a good time to pop in to see the museum.

Royal Wootton Bassett Historical Society are the only Society to have a meeting this month. It is on Thursday 8 December in the Civic Centre at 7.30 pm. Ray Rumming will give an illustrated talk on wandering through Royal Wootton Bassett and surrounding villages. I wonder how long it will be before I automatically type 'Royal' in, instead of having to go back and start again.

By the time you read this we will have left our temporary home at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall, where we were very happy, but it will be lovely to come back to St Mary's Primary school in the New Year. It is very apt that we leave Lydiard Millicent with part one of John Clark's talk on the Massacre at Ordour-Sur-Glane and start in the New Year with part two at St Mary's on Thursday 19 January.

The Autumn course was very well attended by about 60 people who enjoyed a trip around the Mediterranean Sea, at least in their imagination.

All the Committee and I hope that you have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Social and at our January talk in the new St Mary's Primary School.

EVE BOOY, Secretary (770755)

The Nevil Maskelyne Bicentenary Year comes to an end

In last month's magazine Brian Freegard thanked a large number of people who have been involved in the project. I cannot let the year end without recording the deep gratitude of all the members of Purton Historical Society, and especially the committee, to Brian himself for the whole idea was his and he has led the enterprise from the start. Had it not been for Brian, assisted by Tim Burge and Helen Williams from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, our application for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant would never have been successful. Much investigating, planning and costing had to be undertaken before the forms could be completed. Such a task is not for the faint hearted but those with considerable patience and perseverance, qualities Brian seems to possess in abundance. He is an unassuming man with a wry sense of humour, a number of specialist interests and enviable skills.

After the special Exhibition closed on 21 November the three early navigational instruments were returned safely to the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford University. During the ten weeks four hundred and twenty-seven visits were recorded by adults and children to our Museum. Several people came from abroad, including an Australian professor who claimed to be a direct descendent of Nevil Maskelyne! Instead of relaxing at the end of a job well done Brian is now writing a

book to conclude the commemoration. The HLF requires award winners to produce a record of their projects in book form as a lasting legacy and to provide evidence that public money has been wisely spent as originally specified. Our Curator has become an expert on the fifth Astronomer Royal and he is preparing to publish the research into Maskelyne and the Purton area that he has undertaken during the year.

The educational resource packs have been presented to the local schools and youth groups. I should like to mention the enormous contribution the staff and pupils of St Mary's School made to the project. Brian and I attended an assembly recently and we were impressed by how much the children had remembered. Some of their art and craft work displayed in the church porch moved to the Museum and six children received prizes for completing the Maskelyne Quiz correctly. The obvious excitement and enthusiasm shown by all the classes when they visited the planetarium on 20 May remains a highlight of the year for me.

All that remains is for me to add my hearty thanks to everyone who volunteered to assist in any way at the numerous events during 2011. It was a privilege and a revelation to work with the professionals who were involved but the dedication of the local volunteer force, numbering about fifty people, especially the group leaders who gave hundreds of hours to the cause, was awe-inspiring. I wouldn't have missed the opportunity to take part for the world!

A very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all. The committee looks forward to your support in 2012 when we return to Purton for our meetings in the new St Mary's School.

JEAN BELT

Purton Magazine

**The Magazine Committee
wishes all our readers a very
Merry Christmas**