

Purton *Magazine*



*Ringsbury Camp
Photograph by Chris Pocock, Purton Artists*

January 2012

50p

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

Our front cover illustration this month is a very atmospheric photograph of Ringsbury Camp by Chris Pocock and supplied as another in our wonderful series of original and high quality artworks being provided by Purton Artists.

However, that photograph reminds us that Ringsbury Camp is surrounded by farmland. On [page 9](#), there is an appeal to dog owners because, yet again, several sheep have been found with savage bite marks at Restrop Farm, in a paddock at the back of Ringsbury Camp. Sadly police around the country report that attacks are on the increase and, under the Animals Act of 1971, stock owners may shoot dogs observed in the act of worrying livestock.

In complete contrast, there is report on [page 35](#) about lots of money raised locally for the Nowzad animal charity and specifically about Brin, a Nowzad Rescue dog. Brin made national television news for leading many soldiers to safety while working in Afghanistan and he will be coming all the way from East Sussex for a special afternoon on 21 January.

Whilst on the subject of dogs, Purton Parish Council says that there has been an increase in complaints about dog mess. Children with dog mess on their shoes are not allowed into any classroom for the health of all the other children. Recently a mother was called back to school to bring another pair of shoes and clean tights for her child because of the amount of dog mess on the original clothing.

Perhaps a city in Taiwan has the answer. More than 1,400 bags of dog faeces have been handed in to the council in New Taipei City in return for lottery tickets. Each bag is worth one ticket in a draw for the top prize – a gold ingot worth about £1,300 – and the success of the campaign has exceeded all expectations.

We all know that a dog is not just for Christmas and that the great majority of owners in Purton do clear up the mess – yet the evidence of the few remains horribly visible. In this issue there are more contributions confirming that Purton is a caring community and offending owners are reminded of their legal duty to clear up after their dogs for the benefit of everyone else.

Then everyone's New Year will be cleaner, safer and more enjoyable – sentiments that we wish for all our readers.

3

shillings (£0.15p) was the first Tennis Club subscription in 1912
– see [page 32](#)

860

tins of soup distributed by Age Concern street wardens
– see [page 10](#).

£7,087

raised by Purton and Braydon for the 2011 Poppy Appeal
– see [page 30](#).

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Purton
Magazine

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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

PURTON PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Grit Bins – We have asked Wiltshire Council to ensure that the grit bins in the village are all full in case of bad weather. The grit in the bins is for communal use in clearing footpaths and roads and ***not for domestic personal use***. Householders are urged to buy their own supply of grit to treat private drives.

Please take extra care when driving in poor weather conditions and heed the advice below which has been issued by Wiltshire Council.

Adverse weather and road conditions bring an increased risk of skidding. A skid does not just happen – it is almost always caused by the driver's actions.

Keep your speed down and increase your safety gaps when the road is wet or icy.

Braking, steering, accelerating, decelerating and gear changing must be done gently and gradually.

Church Street Junction – A new stop sign has been put up in Church Street to help remind motorists that they should stop at the end of Church Street before joining the High Street/ Station Road. Many motorists seem to ignore the Stop Sign at the junction hence the additional sign has been installed. Please stop at the junction as requested in the interest of highway safety.

Parking on pavements and double yellow lines is an ongoing problem in the village. Please think about others before you park, and consider the consequences for pedestrians and other motorists, and the dangers you are creating by parking where you should not. You may only be parking for a short time but you could still cause an obstruction or worse still an accident. So think before you park in 2012, perhaps this could be a New Year's resolution.

Bus Service 53 – The Parish Council is aware that the 53 bus from Purton no longer stops at Farnsby Street in Swindon but goes straight to the bus station, and that this has caused inconvenience to some parishioners. This has been taken up with Thamesdown Transport and it seems they have made this change to enable the current timetable frequency to be maintained within reasonable cost bounds. Wiltshire Council's Passenger Transport Unit will shortly be reviewing the whole bus network across the Purton area, and out into the more rural areas to the west/north west, and will bear in mind the request to return to Farnsby Street, but they can make no promises at this time as it will depend on the willingness of Thamesdown to accommodate this. The bus does stop at Emlyn Square which is closer to Farnsby Street than the bus station hence it is suggested that this might be a more convenient stop. If you have any suggestions or issues relating to the bus service then please pass them to the Parish Council Office and we will ensure that they are forwarded to Wiltshire Council, or contact Adrian Full the Area Co-ordinator (North), Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 8JN or email adrian.full@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel 01225 713354.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following planning applications:

- N11/03115/S73A** *Purdy's Farm, Wood Lane, Brinkworth, Removal of Condition 1 of 08/02352/S73A to continue use of land as a two-pitch gypsy caravan site with ancillary hardstanding, settlement tank and wildlife pond (resubmission of 11/01695/S73A).*
- N11/03055/FUL** *Woodlands Farm, Wood Lane, Braydon, Construction of menage.*
- N11/03413/TPO** *Red Gables Close, Tree work on one beech tree.*
- N11/03302/FUL** *Orchard House, Bagbury Lane, Rear single and two-storey extensions & enclosure of porch.*

Update on the Proposed Developments for Ridgeway Farm and Widham Farm – both of these applications are now being taken, by their respective applicants, to the Secretary of State for determination on the grounds of non-determination on the part of Wiltshire Council. We are seeking advice on what the implications are regarding this and how we can best present our objections and comments on the developments to the Secretary of State.

Another proposed development across our border in Swindon Borough is likely to have a significant impact on Purton if it is granted planning permission and that is the **Tadpole Farm Development**. The application number is S/11/1588 and can be viewed on Swindon Borough Council's web site www.swindon.gov.uk/planning further details can be obtained from Mr Ian Halsall on 01793 466156. There is a huge amount of information to read through. The Parish Council is preparing its letter of objection to the development, in the main, based on traffic, flooding, water and sewerage implications. The application is an outline application for mixed use urban extension comprising residential, employment, local centre, public house, community uses including possible dentists, doctors surgery, vets, community hall, primary school, public open space, landscaping, three new vehicular accesses, site roads and associated infrastructure.

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 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.

OFFERED: Black and Decker electric strimmer (given to me second hand but I've never had need to use it) in original box. Contact Katy, 771438.

OFFERED: An overhead projector. 20 Hogs Lane: Tel: 771018.

News from the Trustees

Village Hall: As I have said previously, the Trustees are very pleased with the refurbished kitchen and we had an afternoon when we asked the people who had supported this project to come along and have a cup of tea and a piece of cake and view what we had achieved with their money. By their reaction I feel they were as pleased as we were. Unfortunately, there were one or two who could not make it but they were given the chance to come at another time. These people were thanked for their generosity and kindness – it was greatly appreciated.



On a downward note, we are missing two serving ladles and a serving spoon with holes in. I would assume that they have got mixed up with people's own utensils so whoever has them would you kindly return them.

The Trustees were very disappointed to find that users of the hall had been sticking Sellotape on the walls to hold posters etc. up. This has got to stop because we do not want walls full of Sellotape and when it is pulled off the paint comes off with it, so please do not use Sellotape in the hall. We are gradually getting the hall to the standard the Trustees want and we certainly do not want it spoilt by such actions. I have just said 'trying to get it up to a standard we would like' well our next major project is the gents' toilet. Us poor men have had to wait till last. We are very patient you know. I will let you know all about this in the near future. I must say with the kitchen all the design was done in-house so to speak so the gents' toilet will be the same. We know what we want, don't we men?

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre: We are still experiencing plenty of litter here – the sad thing is it is not the people who use the skateboard park or play areas, it is what I term 'hangers on'. The police are keeping an eye on the situation and have already spoken to some of these people who are a bad influence on others.

On a bright note, could I thank the Bowls Club for all the tree work they have done at the Centre. It has meant a lot of work for them but they enjoy one another's company and certainly get on with the work, so many thanks for that.

We had some disappointing news that two of the beech trees in front of the Red House Club have got that dreaded disease *ganaderma* and *kredamaria*. We are waiting to see what steps to take – they are such beautiful trees.

We are disappointed that the public tennis court is not used more after we had it resurfaced and tidied up. To hire the court you call in at 'Best One' in the Lower Square. It is as simple as that and the cost is £4.50 an hour.

From the Trustees, we wish you a very happy new year.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Purton United Charities

The distribution of the charity funds will be made on
Saturday 28 January 2011 at Purton Village Hall
Between 2 pm and 3 pm

Qualification to receive the Charity are:

1. Only one payment per household.
2. In the case of a married couple this will be paid to the husband providing he is of retirement age.
3. Widows and single women providing they are of retirement age and are unable to work. (Evidence of inability to work must be supplied)
4. Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year to qualify.

If you are unable to attend on the day due to **illness or disability only**, you may apply in writing by no later than 20 January 2012 to:

- Christopher New, 52 Byron Avenue, Wootton Bassett SN4 8HA or
- Roger Lawrence, 30 Waite Meads Close, Purton SN5 4ET
- or any other Trustee.

CHRISTOPHER NEW
Secretary: Purton United Charities

Memories of Purton School

I attended Purton school in 1937 – but only for a month. When our mother became ill, my sister and I were sent from our home in Wootton Bassett to stay with an aunt living in Hoggs Lane. Each day I was taken to school in the village except for one occasion when I went to ‘the pictures.’ This was the year that the first full length cartoon film came to Swindon, the famous Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Another aunt called to take us to the cinema on a Friday and on the Monday following I was quizzed by my teacher as to why I had been absent on Friday afternoon and duly reprimanded.

The only other recollection of that time long ago in Purton was a happening more to my credit. When the class was being tested during a Scripture lesson, it emerged that I was the only pupil able to recite The Lord’s Prayer faultlessly.

When Mother recovered I was able to resume attendance at Wootton Bassett Cof E school and I later went on to Headlands in Swindon. I took up a career in nursing and served with the British Red Cross in Malaya during the Communist uprising. In Malaya, I met the man who would become my husband. His vocation in banking caused him to serve in several different countries with the consequence that, until my retirement, I spent more time out of England than in it. I now live in Somerset but enjoy my visits a couple of times in the year to stay with my sister, Joyce Ball, in the pleasant and friendly village of Purton.

MARGARET MACDONALD

Dogs attack Sheep at Restrop Farm

Appeal to dog owners

Yet again sheep have been found with savage bite marks at Restrop Farm. This time they were in a paddock at the back of Ringsbury Camp adjoining Bridleway 103. Some are so severe they may not survive. The stress of these attacks to the general flock often causes miscarriage. The trauma for those bitten is appalling.

There have been similar problems over the past years. But this year with more frequent attacks and more open wounds. Each year multiple signs along the paths are put up reminding walkers to keep dogs on leads at all times, and the vulnerability of the ewes. Often dog owners claim that their dogs don't chase sheep, and are reluctant to have them on a lead. What many owners don't appreciate is that the chasing and attacks often happen when the dog is temporarily out of sight or that the mere presence of a loose dog is very frightening for sheep. They race away in fright and in doing so sometimes get themselves caught in wire gateways and fencing. Several sheep have been found dead caught in wire, having suffered a slow death.

The distress caused is clearly unacceptable, and we appeal to all dog owners to ensure that dogs are always on a lead whilst walking on Farmland at Restrop. The Council notice below reminds us of the action that can be taken in extreme situations, such action should never be necessary, please help to ensure we keep our local walks and farmland safe. If you spot any loose dogs or distressed livestock please contact Richard Moseley at Restrop Farm; 07767 44 3939.

Sadly, the incident at Restrop Farm is not isolated, and police around the country report that attacks are on the increase. The following quote is from Farmer's Weekly Interactive:

The deaths have prompted a warning to pet owners from local police wildlife officers who said that such incidents were becoming more common. Wildlife crime officer PC Timmins told the BBC that dog owners were committing a crime if they allowed their animals to "worry" livestock. He added farm owners had the right to shoot dogs caught worrying sheep.

"Walkers need to be aware of the risk unleashed dogs pose to sheep and lambs as they can chase, attack, maim or even kill.

"Sadly, such incidents are on the increase. It's a situation which cannot be allowed to continue."

PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON A LEAD

Dog owners are reminded that stock owners may shoot dogs observed in the act of worrying livestock. Animals Act 1971 s9.

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Purton & District Age Concern



You will all have noticed that we put our usual Christmas tree up on the wall of the Institute – we must have been doing this for a good number of years now as I made the fittings when I was at work. Well now we have all got a bit older and stand around and watch as Nick Webb, Mick Looker, Ian and Adam Humphries do the work. I suppose we used to be as quick as them in days gone by – all we do now is reminisce – so, many thanks gentlemen – we will be in touch when it has to be taken down! The Christmas tree this year was provided by Richard Park from his garden. I must say it is a nice tree but, on top of that, we had another gentleman standing by ready to give us one, so our thanks here go to Robin Gough. On top of that, Mr and Mrs Orr Ewing, who usually sponsor our tree, insisted on giving us their usual donation, so very many thanks to them - it is very kind and I would think they have been involved since our first tree. Could we also thank John Butcher for PAT testing all our lights for us. It is quite a mammoth job and all done free of charge – thanks John. While we were putting the tree up there was a bumble bee on the winter flowering cherry – this was on 26 November!

We have had our two parties which, according to reports, went very well and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. We had more at the less-able party and less at the able party but it was really nice that so many of our minibus personnel and their partners came along – we always invite them as a thank-you for all the hard work they do – and, of course, many of the partners are part of the team as well.

Could I continue on the subject of people's kindness. There are four young ladies who make a habit of coming to the party at the Village Hall and doing the washing up. It is so nice for all our people to be able to sit down and enjoy the entertainment. These young ladies even make the tea and coffee that we give out during the interval with mince pies and then stay to wash up those cups as well. So, many thanks here to Jane Farr, Julie Clifford, Suzanne Taylor and Alison Mainstone. It does make a big difference as all our people have been on their feet most of the day.

People have been so kind to us with raffle prizes and also buying our raffle tickets – we have sold out completely, £800 worth of tickets. This is the first time this has happened before we have even had the market stall, when we usually sell the last ones. It is not only the raffle – a man puts a note in your hand and says 'You know what to do with that' and there is that usual gentleman who says to Sheila 'Give it to him indoors and tell him it isn't a Christmas present!' Then our new treasurer gets a boost with a large cheque through his letter box and Sheila and I receive a Christmas card from a gentleman and his wife telling us his company has struggled over the last few years but now business is beginning to pick up and enclosed we find a very generous cheque. It is not only the big sums but the pounds, shillings and pence – sorry I am a bit old fashioned there – but all your kindness is so much appreciated.

We had a big operation distributing 860 tins of soup which was the result of the Big Knit back last year and one of the conditions with the sponsor money received

was that it had to go on winter warmth, so we thought there is nothing better to warm you up than a tin of soup. Hence the 860 tins of soup, so many thanks to our street wardens for delivering it along with your Christmas voucher. I know some of them delivered theirs in a wheel barrow – you are all great – you got on and did it and we had no complaints, so very many thanks to all of you. As I often say and I am going to say it again, you are the backbone of Purton and District Age Concern.

We would like to thank Eve Booy who was our street warden in Dogridge. Eve took the job on originally as a stop-gap when we needed a new warden and she has been doing it for quite a few years. She felt she would like to hand over to someone younger and Pauline Garside, who was our street warden in The Peak, has kindly offered to take it on as she now lives in the area – our thanks here to Pauline. Eve was a very good street warden and we greatly appreciate all the time and effort that she put in – many thanks Eve. Well the next question at the moment is would anyone like to take on the job of street warden in The Peak. I am sure you would find it rewarding. You would be basically the go between for the elderly in your area and ourselves. If you would like to know more, give me a ring on 770696. Any help would be greatly appreciated or if anyone knows of someone I could ask in that area, let me know.

What a lovely idea it was to open up the old St Mary's School for people to have a last look around, especially old pupils. I do not think that I have ever been to such a Purton occasion – a real social affair with a lot of reminiscing about our school days. Whilst it was a sad occasion in that the building will no longer be a school, it was also very enjoyable and I would like to thank the staff for giving us that last opportunity to have a look around. It was quite easy to see why a new school was needed.

Well, it is the tenth and I am still writing this but you can rest assured my piece will be in on time. I have just come back from our market stall and I am pleased to report another success story. The kindness of people is unbelievable – all of you who made cakes and delivered them. This is always a popular stall and this year was no exception – a complete sell out. Then, as I said previously, our main Christmas raffle was a sell out as well so we ran an extra one at the market stall and you were very generous and bought more tickets so it was sure to be successful. Let's not forget Andrew's famous sausages of varying flavours. Let's hope all the tasters went into the shop and bought what they had tasted. We would like to thank Andrew and his staff for providing the sausages for Richard to cook and their overall hospitality and Robert Collis for lending us his equipment to do the cooking. It all made for an enjoyable morning and the weather was the icing on the cake.

I would like to close by wishing everyone a peaceful and happy new year from Purton and District Age Concern.

TONY PRICE

Food Hygiene Course

A food hygiene course will be held in Cricklade on 13 February. The cost will be no more than £25 for the all-day course plus £2.50 for a drink. A considerable saving on the £80+ charged by our local authority.

NOW FULLY BOOKED

It's Panto Time Again ... Oh Yes it is!

The pantomime this year is "Way Out Western 2" – the sequel to "Way Out Western" performed about ten years ago. The "Boot" Family are out of jail and are looking to steal the sweeties belonging to a nice Young English Lady out in Arizona to open a sweet shop. The Sheriff and his Deputy, with the help of The Bisto Kid, are out to stop them, helped by various Pantomime characters and a tribe of "Scrawnee" Indians. Watch out for plenty of action and gun-fights with the usual terrible jokes!



Performances are Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9, 10, 11 February at the Village Hall. Prices £6 Adults, £4 Concessions.

Tickets will be available towards the end of January from Best One and In Touch Services or Sue 772581/Lindsey 771890. Book your tickets to avoid disappointment!

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

The November meeting, the last of a busy and interesting year, saw the Silver Threads Hall transformed into a self-service restaurant for the popular American Supper, before which we were wonderfully entertained by Paul Evans, with a selection of wickedly funny poems and anecdotes, mostly written by himself. His relaxed attitude, wry observations and deft handling of rhyme, pause and inflection proved a perfect prelude to Christmas.



He dealt with the sometimes painful differences between the relaxed, free-wheeling childhood he and his audience experienced and the one today's over-protected regimented children endure, limited by Stalinesque 'Elf & Safety' rules, too many possessions and no freedom. Another gem was a boy's letter to his parents suggesting he had run off with a much older woman with a bad drug habit whom he'd impregnated, the punch line being that he had in fact had a very bad school report but hey, things could have been much worse so his parents shouldn't be too cross.

The audience's delighted response showed Paul how much his performance was appreciated and we were pleased that he was able to join us for supper for a short time afterwards.

The American Supper was an enjoyable mix of old time favourites and new appetising creations. It is always amazing how quickly the serving tables get loaded with inviting goodies at the beginning of the evening and then, how equally quickly the few remains are packed away again afterwards.

The AGM is on 24 January after which Alan Christopher will be addressing us on the very useful subject of *Gardening Made Easy*.

DIANA THOMBS (Chair)

Cricklade Country Market

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

After 8

Our November meeting titled *La Belle France* saw 14 gathered to hear Janet's experiences of living in France.

Janet and Ian's journey started in 2004 when, after spending many family holidays in France, they decided to look for a property of their own which they could retire to. After looking at 30+ houses in three different regions they found their ideal property in Dept.47, Lot et Garonne in Aquitaine.

The area is renowned for its Bastide Towns – the new towns of the Middle Ages – Janet and Ian had put together a series of photographs showing these very pretty towns and other features of the area including windmills, tobacco drying barns – once a main crop of this area – and Pegionners or dovecotts. The chateaux looked remarkably well preserved considering the skirmishes that Aquitaine has seen over the last 600 years including the 100-Years'-War which was fought around here.

The tiny hamlet of Villebramar has about 100 residents who are very friendly and welcoming and Janet and Ian had no difficulty joining in with village activities such as the annual picnic, village supper evenings and organised walks. Buying eggs from a local farmer's wife has hidden benefits including fresh salad veg in the season and a free French lesson for Janet every week as she is invited to sit and chat – it can take a long time to get the eggs!

The summer months see the French at play with regular concerts, music festivals, night markets where you buy your supper from local producers, have your meat cooked on a giant barbeque and sit and eat all together while enjoying some entertainment. Medieval festivals take place in towns along the river Dropt where historic scenes are re-enacted and of course fireworks at every opportunity. As Janet and Ian are hoping to retire to their home in France in the near future, she will be able to tell us about the winter activities.

While looking at the photographs and hearing of Janet's experience of French life in the Lot et Garonne we enjoyed sampling some local produce – wine, foie gras, prunes from Agen and walnuts.

DIANNE WILLIAMS

Our next meeting is Jan's New Year Quiz on 10 January at Jan's. Why not come and join us – for more details contact Avril or Janet.

DISCLAIMER

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

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PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton & District Age Concern
offer you a warm welcome to our
**BURNS NIGHT SUPPER
AND CEILIDH**

on Saturday 21 January
at Purton Village Hall
6.30 pm for 7 pm
Tickets £17.50 each
available from
Ron and Heather Harris

Purton Helping Hand
Jumble Sale

Saturday 28 January
2 pm at Village Hall

Purton & District Age Concern
JUMBLE SALE
at the Village Hall
on Saturday 18 February
at 2 pm

Raffle, bric a brac, nearly new,
toys, books and lots of bargains
Jumble can be left at the Hall
from noon to 1 pm

Group for Patients



Group for Patients - Purton and
Green Gable Surgery

Prostate Cancer Evening
to be held in Purton Surgery
Thursday 9 February 2012
7.30 - 9 pm

Two speakers have been arranged
for this evening, one is a Macmillan
Nurse and one from the Prostate
Cancer Charity.

As we need to know numbers we do
ask you to book to attend this event
– tickets will be available in Purton
Surgery and from Committee
members.

There is no charge.

Purton Guide Dogs
will be having a
JUMBLE SALE

In the Silver Threads Hall
on Saturday 7 January
starting at 2pm.
Everyone Welcome

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Pavenhill, Upper/ Lower Pavenhill, Paven Close*. 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.

Thoughts

She has gone, she has died, gone. How do I cope? What shall I do?

Her body is cold, inert, unmoving, still.

What a void there is, what a hole, a huge gap now she is gone. No more shall we share our lives together, no more to enjoy each other's company, to sit by the fire on cold winter evenings, together. Visit family, together.

Walk through the woods with the dogs, or enjoy anymore the places we both liked, like Cornwall north Wales and Scotland. The odd trip to the seaside, or the theatre, even the everyday things like a trip to the shops.

The very thought of these simple little things gone for ever make me cry.

But wait a moment, could it be she is still here?

I see her slippers warming by the fireside, the dogs looking for her through the window. The pictures on the walls she liked so much, chosen from the places we used to visit together, her pot plants she loved, still blooming, the garden in full bloom, reminding me of her.

The coat she wore hanging by the door. I feel she is still here in some form.

There is a wood nearby, and a spot where her remains are at rest for ever. Perhaps she is not gone entirely, I feel her presence all the time in one way or another.

I will not forget her. I will try not to cry.

Miss you. Love you.

Name and Address supplied

Purton Historical Society

Another year gone and it's time to wish you all A Happy New Year again. It was lovely to end the year on such a happy evening. I'm talking about the Christmas Social; the Melksham Pearlies did us proud. Our table were surprised to find that our memories knew all the words to the old songs. I looked around and could see everyone having a jolly good sing. Our thanks to the Committee for all their hard work in arranging it and also to the members that helped either at the beginning or at the end with the clearing up.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 19 January when John Clark will continue the events of The Massacre of Oradour-sur-Glane. REMEMBER we will be meeting in the new St Mary's Primary School Hall at 7.30 pm.

Cricklade Historical Society will be meeting on Wednesday 18 January in the Town Hall annexe at 7.30 pm. Alan Kirton will be giving his talk on Posters in Time of Crisis.

Royal Wootton Bassett Historical Society will be meeting on 12 January at 7.30 pm in the Civic Centre. Chris Scott will be talking about Charles II – The Merry Monarch, which appears to concentrate on his many mistresses.

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 12 January at 7.30 pm in the Broadgreen Centre. Mark Sutton will be Remembering Swindon Sons and Daughters.

Visitors are always welcome at our events, so come and join us now that we are back at St Mary's, for a small charge of £2.50.

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Church Floodlighting

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



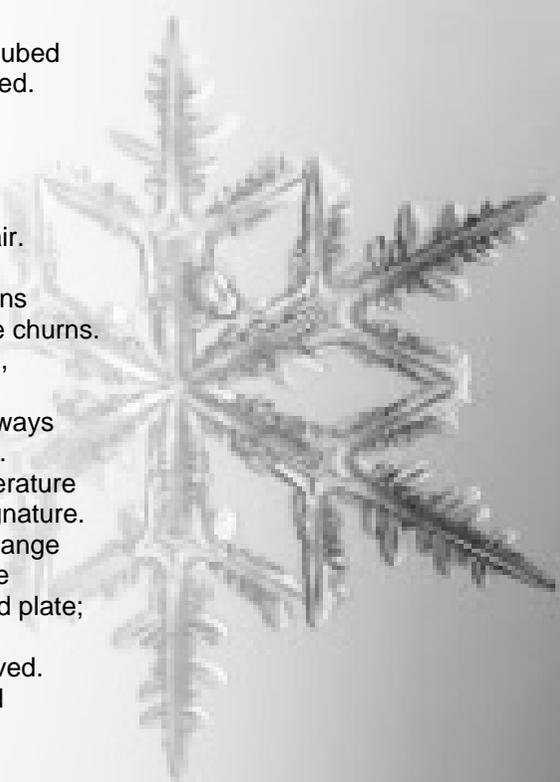
- 1 December St Mary's was floodlit in loving remembrance of **Janine Karet-Schneider**, who passed away one year ago. Greatly missed and loved by her family and friends around the world.
- 3 December St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith**, on the anniversary of his 21st birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- 9 December **Elsa Trotter's** family requested the Church to be floodlit to celebrate her birthday, with all their love.
- 18 December For wonderful friends in Waitemeads, St Mary's was floodlit for all my wonderful friends and neighbours at Waitemeads Close. Thinking of you and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Love, Carol Boast
- 28 December St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Nelson Woolford** on the 11th anniversary of his death.
Loved and remembered always.
Barbara, Martin, Alan and families
- 4 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Mike Gale** on his 80th birthday.
A special husband, Dad and Grandad.
Loved and sadly missed by Inez and all the family
- 7 January St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**.
Sadly missed by Dad, Mum and the family
- 8 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Bob Wightman MBE**, in celebration of what would have been his 100th birthday.
Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family
- 14 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Val Davies** on the third anniversary of her death.
Forever in our hearts.
Brian, Rebecca and family.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

A Mathematical Nativity

A particle of dust in the air bedaubed
With molecules of water absorbed.
Thus the nucleus is created,
The snow crystal radiated.
Miniscule hexagonal prism,
Corners creating a schism,
Extending into supersaturated air.
Watch as without a care,
Six tiny arms reaching out in turns
Growing faster as the snowflake churns.
Each develops at the same rate,
In lower heat, sectored plates
Gently stretching out in unique ways
Testing the air in the chilly haze.
Working with the ambient temperature
To leave their own exclusive signature.
With each slight temperature change
Dendritic extensions will arrange
Themselves upon each sectored plate;
These, quietly, softly, will await,
As, six-fold symmetry is conserved.
Snow's magic beauty preserved
In its godlike majesty.

By Wendy Beere of Witts Lane



Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund

... would like to thank all those kind people who have supported our fund raising activities in 2011. This has been through providing venues, helping out at events, and turning up and spending money! We really couldn't have done it without you. If you would like to help us plan and provide future events, or want to find out more please contact Lynda on 01793 771453 or email lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk. Let's hope we all have a fabulous 2012 and survive the recession.



News from Purton & Green Gable Surgery - G4P

We held a 'Tea and Tinsel' afternoon in Purton surgery on Friday 9 December with teas, coffees and cakes and a raffle. There was the opportunity to chat and to meet the staff and also G4P members.

We are pleased to tell you that we raised £101.80. 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.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary

Group for Patients



Purton Diary - January 2012

1	Su		New Year's Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service with Baptism at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's Church
2	M		New Year Bank Holiday
3	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
5	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
7	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (Guide Dogs)
8	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
9	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.30pm	Holy Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
		8.00pm	After 8: <i>Jan's New Year Quiz</i> led by Jan at her house
11	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
13	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
15	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion with Baptism at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	M		
17	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Jackie Morris - <i>Lundy Island</i>
19	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: John Clark: <i>The Massacre of Oradour-sur-Glane (Part 2)</i>
21	Sa	6.30pm	<i>for 7pm: Age Concern Burns Night at the Village Hall</i>
22	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
24	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild AGM at Silver Threads Hall: followed by Alan Christopher - <i>Gardening Made Easy</i>
25	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars

27	F		Holocaust Memorial Day
28	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Village Hall (Helping Hand)
		2.00pm	to 3pm: Purton United Charities distribution at Village Hall
		8.00pm	Purton FC Race Night at Red House
29	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
31	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Films by Dave Seviour

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

- 1 January
 9 January
 16 January
 23 January
 31 January

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

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

We Record ...

Baptisms

20 November Logan Henry Parsons
 Charlie Ringo Roberts
 Neave Bridget Gardiner



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 ...

To advertise in Purton Magazine telephone 01793 770648
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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PURTON POSTBAG

The Editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However those details may be withheld from being published if so requested.



■ THANK YOU TO PURTON VETS

How often do we take our local services for granted – doctors, local shops, vets? Well we would like to publicly thank Graeme and Joc of Purton Veterinary Group and all their staff for their wonderful care, dedication and compassion!

We moved to Purton in 2006 and quickly acquired two Golden Retriever puppies – Skye and Jessie. Many of you may remember Skye – very striking and almost white, unlike Jess – who is a handsome golden colour. Soon, however, we sadly came to learn that Skye had a congenital disorder and she had a very short life of less than one year. During this time and in subsequent years, the relationship between ourselves and Purton Vets has thus grown. Jessie hasn't always had the best of health either, suffering with 2 mast cell tumours, and sadly we lost our lovely cat Holly in February. We have always found the staff to be very professional, kind beyond words and Graeme tells us 'how it is' – no 'pussy footing' around for want of better words!

In the past the Practice has also hosted a visit for our Cub Pack, and more recently joined our Scout Group in raising money for the animal charity Nowzad. It was during this time that we saw yet another side to the Vets when we became involved with rescuing a beautiful black cat that had been rescued by the RSPCA and taken in by the Vets for emergency treatment.

During this time we got to see behind the scenes at the Vets for real and saw even more of the fantastic work our local Practice undertakes!

To sum it all up – Thank you all – you get our vote for BEST Veterinary Practice ever, and thank you also for our gorgeous new cat Phoebe! (Better known as Liquorice to you.)

Mr and Mrs T. Fisher

■ UPPER SQUARE METHODIST CHAPEL

Thank you Rick for the Upper Square Methodist Church Exhibit of the Month in the December magazine. When in 1977, Libbie and I took out a mortgage on the house opposite the Chapel in Hoggs Lane, our solicitor found an old conveyance document dated 28th November 1871, just a few days more than 140 years old. We had the double-sided document "double glazed" as a two sided picture frame by Libbie's father.

Your piece refers to the purchase of a schoolroom for £82 in the Trust Account Book for 1876. Our document refers to "... upon trust to permit the said premises and all buildings therein erected or to be erected to be appropriated and used as and for a school for the education

of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the Parish of Purton aforesaid and the Hamlet of Braydon in the said County of Wilts And Whereas by an indenture dated the Twenty sixth day of February One Thousand eight hundred and sixty four and made between the said Thomas Sheppard Francis Barnes Richard Grimes Richard Embury Thomas Yarnton Solomon Comley James Haskins and John Bunce of the first part the said Abraham Woodward of the second part and the said William Miles and James Matthews of the third part in consideration of the sum of One Hundred pounds paid to the said parties thereto of the first part paid by the said William Miles and James Matthews ...” from which we have always assumed it was indeed the school for the “Primitive Methodist” Chapel opposite that your article mentions. The entire legal statement in the document comprises of a single sentence (of 1,152 words) as was normal in those days.

From the same document we have also been able to establish that we have acquired “... a piece of land there called Constables ...” and I was delighted to be able to have that name chiselled out of an existing bare plaque on the front of the house as a birthday present from our children just a couple of years ago.

Finally, we have always taken it as a wonderful omen that the correct spelling of both my names appear in this document, albeit in reverse order and referring to two different people!

Francis Sheppard

■ RED HOUSE DISCUSSIONS

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the Red House committee and members to Tony Price for the correction in the purchase of the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre. It has been the subject of much discussion in the Red House as you would appreciate, especially from the more senior members, who like Tony remembers the lead up to the purchase well!

Although I have copies of the deeds and paper cutting regarding the purchase it is nice to know the more detailed story Tony gave. Many thanks yet again!

Terry Crumbie

■ A BIG THANK-YOU

I would like to take this moment to say a huge thank-you to my husband, sons, family and friends for the care they gave me while I was in hospital ... and still on-going. I know it wasn't easy on my family as there was a lot of travelling involved when I was transferred to London. But they were amazing and visited all the time.

I must say that Purton is still a very caring village: I received so many cards of 'Get Well' messages and so many bouquets of lovely flowers, I was overwhelmed.

Thanks to everyone for caring.

My family and myself wish you all a Happy New Year.

Ann Ritchings



Exhibit of the Month: A Cigarette Card

As I write this article on 10 December 2011, I am aware that 11 December is the 75th anniversary of the Abdication of the King-Emperor Edward VIII. In 1936, Edward VIII had declared his intention to marry Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American socialite. This created a constitutional crisis in the Empire as the marriage was opposed by the governments of the United Kingdom and the autonomous Dominions of the British Commonwealth.

As King, Edward was the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, which did not allow divorced people to remarry if their ex-spouses were still alive. On that basis, Edward could not marry Mrs Simpson and remain on the throne. In the eyes of the country, Mrs Simpson's two failed marriages made her unsuitable as a consort, both for political and social reasons, and it was assumed by the Church and the government that her motives were for love of money and position rather than love for the king. However, Edward declared he would marry her despite government's disapproval. This led to his abdication in December 1936. No other British monarch has voluntarily left the throne since the Norman conquest.

Edward was succeeded by his brother, Prince Albert, who took the regnal name George VI. (Edward was given the title of *Duke of Windsor* and he married Mrs Simpson in 1937.)

The picture I have used of George VI shows him in a Royal series of 50 cigarette cards produced by WD&HO Wills, produced in 1937 to celebrate the Coronation on 12 May 1937.

The reverse of the card gives brief information: The King was born at York cottage, Sandringham, on 14 December 1895, the second son of the late King George V and Queen Mary. He was christened Albert Frederick Arthur George, and was known as Prince Albert until he was created a Peer in 1920 by the titles of Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Killarney. On 26 April 1923, he married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl of Strathmore.

On the death of his father and the accession of the Prince of Wales as King Edward VIII, the Duke of York had become heir-presumptive. Our present Queen was born on 21 April 1926, and was therefore aged 11 at the time of her father's coronation.

It is somewhat ironic to be using a picture from cigarette cards, as George VI was a heavy smoker and died of lung cancer in 1952, aged 56.

There will be a better quality picture on the web site: www.purtonmuseum.com.

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer



Purton Museum is located above the Library, 1 Station Road
and is open during Library hours:

Mon 2 - 5pm; Tues 2 - 7pm; Wed 10am - 5pm; Fri 2 - 7pm

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Lots of Christmas preparations and activities to report on this month. The Rainbows made cards, baubles from foam for the Christmas tree, and painted salt dough tree decorations. 1st Purton Brownies decorated enough small conifers with glitter paint, snow spray, tinsel and decorations to be able to take one home each and also give them to the residents of Hooks Hill. 2nd Purton Brownies made lots of Christmas cards – both for Lunch Club and for the residents of Ashgrove House. Ashgrove residents enjoyed a visit from the unit too, for carol singing. Guides have made Christmas decorations, marshmallow snowmen and Christmas tree cakes (not sure how many snowmen and cakes survived the journey home!) Following the wintry theme the Guides have also been ice skating.

1st Purton Brownies held a Swiss-themed evening which included a talk and pictures from two Minety Guides who visited the guiding centre 'Our Chalet' in Switzerland during the summer. They also tasted Swiss cheeses (not too keen) and Toblerone (much more popular!).

2nd Purton Brownies have now finished their activities for the autumn section of the Four Seasons Challenge by having a campfire and toasting marshmallows. Another evening they did timed activities – one minute to match buttons, pick up dried peas with a straw, make a tower of sweets and stab mini marshmallows with a kebab stick.

Rainbows have been seizing opportunities to party: they held a Pot of Gold party for those leaving the unit: Layla, Rianna, Tori and Daisy. They also enjoyed an end of term sit-down party tea and played games, and arranged flowers and candle decorations for Parade service at Playclose Methodist Church. The Rainbows enjoyed taking home chocolate oranges to eat!

All the guiding units send you best wishes for 2012. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to pursue a new interest, why not give volunteering with guiding some consideration? For more information about guiding in Purton please contact Jo Begg.

Purton Artists Exhibition 2011

Purton Artists held another successful Exhibition in the Village Hall 11-13 November), their 30th Exhibition.

There was a variety of exhibits on display using various Media including paintings, photographs, pottery, wood turning and handmade cards. Bradon Forest school provided their own interesting exhibition on the stage which was enjoyed by all.

Drinks and nibbles were provided and enjoyed by many. Donations were collected and will be given to this year's nominated charity "Prospect"

There was a steady flow of visitors over the three days, about 300 were recorded and 16 of the exhibits were sold. We would like to express our thanks to all those who attended and for their enthusiastic comments.

[Ed. Purton Magazine Committee would like to thank Purton Artists for their continuing support in providing our front covers. These have been of a very high standard. We look forward, with anticipation, to receiving the remainder of their contributions, perhaps even extending beyond the original 12 months.]



T is for ... Tennis Club

2012 – Centenary Year for the Tennis Club

A meeting of 25 people was held at St Mary's School on Tuesday 20 February 1912. Mr F W Drew, Head of the Purton Schools presided. Rev J E Pugh moved and Mr Whitlock seconded that a Tennis Club be formed. The motion was carried. The Cricket Club offered to provide and maintain two tennis courts on part of the cricket field. The groundsman would erect the nets, roll the courts and the pavilion could be used by the tennis club. *After long discussion* the subscription was set at three shillings and the first match (who won?) was played against Cricklade Tennis Club. The rent for the season from 1 May to 31 August – later extended to the end of September – was set at £5.

During the First World War the Tennis Club lapsed and was restarted in January 1919 when another meeting was held at the school to re-form it. It was felt necessary to increase the subscription to five shillings and to limit the membership to 40 but to admit any returned soldiers who wish to join. This rule appears not to have been enforced as the membership rose steadily: 65 in 1920 and 71 in 1921. The arrangement with the Cricket Club continued until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 when Purton found itself in the centre of a line of defences intended to stop the expected invasion of the German Army. This consisted of a series of concrete pill boxes and a deep anti-tank trench which when it reached across the cricket field, avoided the cricket pitch but was dug right across the middle of the tennis courts – so no play then! The link with the cricket club was significant as at the initial meeting 4 of the original members were also members of the Cricket Club. A J Woolford was a player, committee man and President over more than 50 years and F W Drew was a member for 25 years.

(Caroline McLean is indebted to Joe Gardner for much of the information about the early years of the Tennis Club and its links with the much older and well-established Cricket Club.)

T is for ... Turnpikes

During the 18th century, roads in England were in a poor state ... yes even worse than we complain about today! Those outside of towns and villages were in the worst state and communications around the country were difficult, in an age when travel was becoming more important. Laws were enacted allowing Turnpike Trusts to be set up to take over responsibility for sections of road, improve the state of those roads and in exchange be able to charge tolls for use of the road by vehicles and drove animals.

Purton was on two sections of turnpike road. One of these was the road from Cricklade to Wootton Bassett. The other ran from Highworth, via Collins Lane to Malmesbury, and was in fact part of the Oxford to Bath stagecoach route. This

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 “U, V or W is for ...” to Purton Magazine, before 10 January, via the addresses shown on [page 4](#).*

explains the distances shown on the milestone on the roadside by The Angel Hotel’s carpark.

The primary toll house in Purton was the one which still stands as a private house at the junction of Station Road with Collins Lane. The table of charges on a board facing the road shows how much it would have cost to travel through a section of the road. There were additional toll booths at Church Street, covering the traffic to Lydiard Millicent and at Upper Square covering the junction of the Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury (Pavenhill) roads.

The 1894 Local Government Act brought into being Rural and Urban District Councils (plus Parish Councils) and put the maintenance of roads in the control of the Rural (Urban) District Councils - the days of the turnpikes were numbered as their roads were taken over as a result.

T is for ... Timepiece

The Institute clock in the building in Station Road, has a fine mechanism and was made by JW Benson of Ludgate Hill, London, who was Clockmaker to the Prince of Wales (later to become Edward VII). The clock had not been working for many years until 1966 when Brian Broad, with help from Tony Matthews and Ernie Young, removed the mechanism which



Brian completely overhauled. A new wheel had to be made and then altered before the works could be reinstalled. Since then Brian maintained the clock and wound it weekly up until two years ago, when Alan Bevington took over the role.

Alan and Brian removed the mechanism again in 2011, took it to Brian’s workshop and stripped it down completely. Another new wheel had to be made and wear was corrected. The clock was restored as new with cleaned, polished and varnished brass and the frame was painted green. The picture above shows it in its restored condition on Brian’s work bench before Alan and Brian, with the help of Alan Woodward, reinstalled it in the Institute building.

T is for ... Theatre

Yet again, our Village Hall is being turned into a theatre for another PADS pantomime in February. “Way Out Western 2” is a sequel to “Way Out Western” that was performed about 10 years ago and further details can be found on [page 12](#).

T is for ... Thanks

As Purton Magazine enters another year, the Committee would like to express renewed thanks to everyone who has sent us a contribution to publish (without whom you would have nothing to read), to our advertisers (without whom the price could well be over £2.00 per copy) and to our doughty detachment of distributors (without whom most of you would not receive free deliveries of your community magazine).

T is for ... Trees

With so many Christmas trees needing to be disposed in January, it may be appropriate to remind readers that the Hills recycling depot at the end of Mopes Lane has all the appropriate facilities for recycling Christmas trees.

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.org.uk



We were saddened to hear of the death of Alice Matthews a founder member of Purton WI and we held a minute silence at the start of our meeting on 16 November.

Well yet again Purton Evening WI has hit the headlines in the WI Wiltshire News. Jane Smith was a member of the Wiltshire team that won the Three Counties Golf Trophy and a photograph of the ladies who decorated bras for our Breast Awareness evening is also featured. I have to say that as quite a new member I am amazed at the number of activities that our members are involved with!

Our guest this meeting was Simon Brooks who is head gardener at Lydiard Park. He demonstrated how to make a wreath to grace our front door during the festive season as well as making a relatively simple (well that is what he said!) table decoration. Laurel, ivy, holly and yew stuck into moist moss secured in a wire circular contraption and the imaginative use of the odd apple, sticks of cinnamon or even a globe thistle, to name but a few, and Geronimo you have an attractive wreath! Simon also mentioned that volunteers are always welcome at Lydiard Park.

Trish our President brought us to order after the customary break to go through the business. 2012 looks as though it is going to be as busy as 2011 with a pantomime trip, a lunch at Marsh Farm and that's just on the January agenda for Purton WI and further afield a crime busters day, a visit to a dairy farm and a 'what the Dickens' event amongst others!

Our evening closed with members reading Christmas poetry, mostly humorous, covering political correctness which caused Santa great problems, excess festive fare resulting in those unwanted extra inches and Christmas from the perspective of the Christmas tree. An interesting and enjoyable end to the evening.

On 18 January 2012 we welcome Jackie Morris who will talk to us about Lundy Island and our competition is for the Worst Christmas Present! Please note that our Jumble Sale scheduled for 21 January has been CANCELLED.

Constance, our regular correspondent, will be back next month.

HELEN DIXON

Blue-Lidded Bins & Recycling

Plastic bottle and cardboard collections are off to a flying start with fortnightly kerbside collections having started in north Wiltshire on 10 October. In the first month, 225 tonnes of plastic bottles and cardboard were collected from 58,000 houses.

The new service is in addition to the existing fortnightly black box collection for paper, cans, glass, foil, clothes and shoes. If you don't know the collection dates you can check these online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling.htm.

You should have received your new bins or in some cases black bags to recycle plastic bottles and cardboards. But anyone who has not received a blue-lidded bin and has not notified the Council should call 0300 456 0102.

Over Christmas I expect you will have lots of items for recycling but remember that your waste collection day will change over Christmas as no collections will take place on Monday 26 December. As a guide the dates should be:

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

Normal collection day:	Revised collection day:
Monday 26 December	Tuesday 27 December
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December

Household recycling centres will be closed from 1pm Christmas Eve, and all day on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year's day.

Recycling over Christmas:

For the blue-lidded recycling bin you can put in: 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.

For the black box items to include: 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.

For your real Christmas trees take them to the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) at Mopes Lane or 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.

If you recycle other items of plastics marked with a 1, 2 or 3 or cardboard tetra packs (juice cartons) then these need to be taken to the HRC at Mopes Lane.

Hard plastic recycling should also be coming back hopefully in April 2012.

I regularly send out a bulletin email to residents and if you wish to be on the group email list then please email me – Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk. If you have any council issues you would like me to help you with please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to extend to all residents in Purton and Braydon my compliments of the season and wish you a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Cllr JACQUI LAY, Wiltshire Councillor for Purton and Braydon



Midsummer Night's Dream: 28 November - 2 December 2011

'Midsummer' is one of the better known Shakespeare plays, but even so (as you can imagine) it can be quite hard to follow the original language. However

our talented cast delivered their lines with conviction and understanding, so that even if our younger audience members couldn't follow the text, it was very clear how the story was progressing. The set was beautifully created with several large fairy-light wrapped branches lining the back of the stage, with various lighting stages to represent the different times in the forest. Rather than the traditional one



Puck character, we had a 'clan' of five Pucks who all spoke in unison. With choreography by Hannah Guy, and a lot of input from the Pucks, the physicality of their movement was especially enchanting and mystical. Titania and Oberon, played by Ailsa Calder and Justin-David Machado, were a particularly dominating presence on stage, commanding all the fairies with convincing supernatural authority. Most of the laughs came from the 'play within a play', where the group of workmen, led by Quince (played outstandingly by Rae Elias), perform the tale of Pyramus and Thisbe. Bradley Williams as Francis Flute and Oliver Webb as Nick Bottom were full of energy and the whole mini-cast were on top form, even at the end of a two hour play! Congratulations to the entire cast. This really was a top Bradon Forest Theatre production, although I'm sure that Mr Calder is already

working on how to try and beat it for next year!



Food Competition Success: Last year Shona Hargreave entered the 'Make it with Mince Challenge 2010' and got through to the finals. Unfortunately due to the snow we couldn't get there, so the organisers asked if Shona would like to enter in this year's final instead. Of course Shona jumped at the opportunity to cook for a famous Chef (James Martin). Shona participated in the finals in Bristol earlier this month. Unfortunately Shona didn't win but thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Well done Shona.

Bradon Forest Cheerleaders and Pom Dancers Perform in Anti-Bullying Week Assemblies

The Cheerleading and Pom Dance squad have been working hard in practices, both at lunchtime and after school, to create a performance for the Anti-Bullying Week assemblies. The routine included dance, tumbling, jumps and stunts as well as a cheer related to bullying and costumes that



follow the Anti-Bullying theme. The girls involved should be commended on their bravery for performing in front of their peers and for the hard work and dedication they have put in whilst preparing for the performances. (The teams won the Swindon Competition in early December and now go on to the Nationals in 2012.)

Year 7 Poetry Slam:

The students studied performance poetry as part of their first unit of work in English lessons from September and the best group performances were invited to take part in the competition. There were many very interesting poems covering a variety of subjects from next door neighbours to rowing, football and driving in a car. The



groups put in a huge amount of hard work rehearsing in tutor time and during their break and lunchtimes. Four finalists were selected to present their efforts in the Poetry Slam in front of the whole year group plus some very special guests from St Mary's Primary School. The winners were The Lionesses with their fantastic poem and impressive display of gesture, movement, facial expression and voice control. The winners received a medal and the coveted Bradon Forest Poetry Slam trophy.



Asdan Students Host Guests from The Cedars

Our Year 11 Asdan Group recently organised and hosted a Christmas party for a small group of day residents from The Cedars in Purton. Each student took responsibility for a particular area of the planning to include entertainment, food, decorations and music. Throughout the party, students chatted with the visitors

asking them about what life was like when they were young. Many of the visitors were surprised by all of the computers and technology in the school. Our students could hardly believe that many of the guests left school at 14! It was really lovely to see how well the students interacted and responded to the needs of their visitors. Well done to the students involved.

Art News:

Local Artist, Tom Robinson, came into school to work with Year 10 Art and Design 3D students, along with a group of students from Uplands School. They created a series of sculptures based on African figures made with wire, modroc and then hand painted. A great time was had by all the students and staff from both schools. We look forward to working with them again.



The Art Department recently took part in the annual Purton Artists Exhibition together with local artists, displaying a wide selection of paintings, drawings, prints, photography and ceramics, where we received many great compliments about students' work (see photo below).

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

L SPIERS, Headteacher



Poppy Appeal 2011

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal in Purton and Braydon. The grand total of £7087.16 has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal, which includes monies raised by the Purton Royal British Legion Branch during 2011. Special thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard again this year to increase the amount raised.

JOYCE BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser



Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



At the recent AGM of the Wiltshire Cricket League, Purton CC received the 'best pitch' award for 2011 and two players, Eliot Hill and Dave Allen, received the batting awards for Division 1 and Division 5 – Eliot Hill scoring 713 runs and Dave Allen scoring 857.

From the Archive – 'A Local Cricket Mystery'

During a recent re-hanging of the club photographs in the cricket club tea room I looked at the back on an old bat which had been hanging on the same wall for many years.

I had assumed that it had belonged to Peter White, a Purton cricketer from the 1960-1980 period, who later went on to play for Gibraltar in the World Cup, but a small plate on the back of the bat revealed the information that it had been awarded to C.A. Wheeler of L.U.C.C. for topping the batting averages in 1888.

As I have been researching Purton CC's history for many years I was aware that the members of the Wheeler family were great supporters of Lydiard Millicent cricket. I also had in my possession, thanks to Jan Walker, a copy of a photograph showing a team of Wheeler cricketers spanning three generations of the family. Jan also showed me a family tree with C.A. Wheeler shown as Charles Arthur who was her great uncle.

Although this information was very interesting it did not explain how the bat came into the possession of Purton CC as there are no records that Charles Arthur ever played for Purton. I asked several members and past members if they could help with any information and was delighted when Mike Crouch came up with the answer. He was on holiday with his wife Sue in Devon about 25 years ago when he was approached by Mr William Wheeler, Jan's uncle, and asked if he would like an old cricket bat! On returning to Purton Mike accepted the bat and it was subsequently displayed in the Purton pavilion.

Much as Purton CC admires the 123-years-old bat as an example of late 19th century bat making it is felt that in the absence of a current Lydiard United Cricket Club and as the bat has no connection with Purton CC it should be returned to a member of the Wheeler family. I am pleased to report that Jan Walker has recently taken possession of her relation's cricket bat from 1888. The 'bat' has returned to its home.

JOE GARDNER

Purton Guide Dogs

Happy New Year!

On 19 November I did a stall selling Guide Dogs Trading goods at Christchurch Christmas Market and took £97. Then on 4 and 5 December, I did another Trading Goods stall, this time at *Christmas at Steam*, along with the Swindon Branch stall. I took £154, and they took £1190.



Our next event will be our 7 January Jumble Sale in the Silver Threads Hall, starting at 2 pm, weather permitting. Hope to see you there.

Many thanks for all your support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

Purton Tennis Club New Year is a time for resolutions. Tennis players never have any difficulty with this: move your feet, bend down for the low ball, put the volley away – *first time* – well I won't go on but it can be a very long list! So we shall all be energised and focussed for the new season. The winter league is half way completed with varying success but, win or lose, there have been some very enjoyable matches and the weather on the whole has been benign.

But we look forward. In February we will celebrate the 100 years of the existence of the tennis club in Purton. We have already flagged up some of the events that we plan and we shall add more. We hope to be able to winkle out former members to come and join us for the Wooden Racquet tournament, for Centenary Quiz night and for Race Night. We also hope they will cheer on the youngsters over the Jubilee weekend when we celebrate the contribution that Harry Bunce made to the Club over so many years. You have been warned!!

So to all our members past and present and to all In Purton we wish you a particularly Happy and Successful New Year and if you want to knock up on a tennis court you know where to find us!

CAROLINE McLEAN, 01793 770525

Purton F.C.

Inconsistent form by the Hellenic and Wilts league sides has meant that both currently lie 4th in their respective leagues. Both would have been much better placed had both Managers not had to field under strength sides due to players being unavailable and suspensions.



Highlight for the Hellenic side was their 5-0 away win against local rivals Cricklade Town, who they will also have to meet again in the Sup/Cup that was abandoned due to a players injury after 30 minutes with Purton leading 1-0.

At Youth levels the Under 14s are doing well and currently lie 3rd in their league. The Under 12s lie 7th, the under 12s Wanderers lie 6th, while the under 15s are placed 7th, but sadly the under 16s have managed just 1 win in 6 games and prop up their league.

Looking ahead the Club will be running a Race Night on Saturday 28 January at the Red House Club (first race starting at 8 pm). Please get along and support the club in this fund raiser; its good fun and you might win a few quid. Everyone welcome.

ALAN EASTWOOD, *President/Chairman*

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

We are sorry that the railway will be closed throughout the month of January due to track maintenance and extension. There will be limited operating days during February and March and a Wine and Dine in the Moonraker dining car on Mothers' Day, 18 March.



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.

Green Tips: Highway Code - Remember it? Part 1



Well we probably all think we know the Highway Code – and if you use the Highway to include pavements it is important that we do know it. For those who have passed their driving test, use a bike, have a powered wheelchair or mobility scooter, ride a horse *etc*, it is essential to know the code and ensure when a new version comes out we update our knowledge – the latest version was published in 2007 – and, of course, it is available on line:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode

Much of the code is advisory, however there are parts which are **Must** and **Must Not**. The code is far too long to go into depth however some useful points to remember are:

For Pedestrians

- Pavements (including any path along the side of a road) should be used if provided. Where possible, avoid being next to the kerb with your back to the traffic;
- If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light and keep close to the side of the road (It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend);
- Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use reflective materials;
- Young children should not be out alone on the pavement or road until they understand the Green Cross Code. When taking children out, keep between them and the traffic and hold their hands firmly;
- Pedestrians **must not** be on motorways or slip roads except in an emergency; and,
- Never cross behind a vehicle which is reversing, showing white reversing lights or sounding a warning.

Powered Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters

- When you are on the road you should obey the guidance and rules for other vehicles; when on the pavement you should follow the guidance and rules for pedestrians;
- You should give pedestrians priority and show consideration for other pavement users, particularly those with a hearing or visual impairment who may not be aware that you are there;
- Powered wheelchairs and scooters **must not** travel faster than 4 mph (6 km/h) on pavements or in pedestrian areas. You may need to reduce your speed to adjust to other pavement users who may not be able to move out of your way quickly enough or where the pavement is too narrow;
- When on the road, Class 3 vehicles should travel in the direction of the traffic.

Class 2 users should always use the pavement when it is available. When there is no pavement, you should use caution when on the road. Class 2 users should, where possible, travel in the direction of the traffic. If you are travelling at night when lights **must** be used, you should travel in the direction of the traffic to avoid confusing other road users;

- You **must** follow the same rules about using lights, indicators and horns as for other road vehicles, if your vehicle is fitted with them. At night, lights **must** be used. Be aware that other road users may not see you and you should make yourself more visible - even in the daytime and also at dusk – by, for instance, wearing a reflective jacket or reflective strips on the back of the vehicle; and,
- All normal parking restrictions should be observed. Your vehicle should not be left unattended if it causes an obstruction to other pedestrians - especially those in wheelchairs.

Horse Riders and Animals

- Children under the age of 14 **must** wear a helmet
- You **must not** take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track – use a bridleway where possible;
- Do not let a dog out on the road on its own. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the pavement, road or path shared with cyclists or horse riders;
- When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or them, if you stop quickly; and,
- Animals being herded should be kept under control at all times.

Cyclists

You **must** ensure your brakes are efficient and;

- At night your cycle **must** have white front and red rear lights lit. It **must** also be fitted with a red rear reflector (and amber pedal reflectors, if manufactured after October 1985);
- When using segregated tracks you **must** keep to the side intended for cyclists because the pedestrian side remains a pavement or footpath;
- You **must not** cycle on a pavement (*public footpaths are also included in this category*); and,
- Never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.
- Some other “**MUST NOT**”s
 - carry a passenger unless your cycle has been built or adapted to carry one
 - hold onto a moving vehicle or trailer
 - ride in a dangerous, careless or inconsiderate manner
 - ride when under the influence of drink or drugs, including medicine
- You **MUST** obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals; and,
- You **MUST NOT** cross the stop line when the traffic lights are red.

NEXT MONTH: Drivers and Motorcyclists

Ps and Qs is organising a “Green” Day on Saturday 17 March 2012 at the Silver Threads Hall 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 Jacqui Lay for Ps & Qs
Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities*

*Valuing Community Life - campaigning for sustainable communities
New members are always welcome*

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

Nowzad

Sponsored Dog walk – Fantastic news!

1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group and Purton Vets raised an enormous £1,136.69p for the Nowzad animal charity. This was a phenomenal achievement by those taking part and just shows what we can do! As a result of this we are holding a special afternoon on 21 January for all those who took part.

We will be very privileged to welcome Sally Baldwin, who will be coming all the way from East Sussex with her Nowzad Rescue dog, Brin, to visit us.

The story of Brin's rescue also made national television news!

Brin led many soldiers to safety whilst on patrol with his untrained 'sniffer' talents! He was separated from his soldiers (the Gurkha Rifles) and captured by the Taliban. He was then rescued by Afghan Special police, and smuggled out of Afghanistan. We also hope to meet the British soldier who finally rescued him and are hoping for another 4-egged special guest on this day! Brin now works for Canine Concern visiting war veterans.

The Nowzad Dogs charity was formed by marine Pen Farthing during his tour of Afghanistan with the British army in 2006, to do something positive for the cats, dogs and other animals of Afghanistan and Iraq that have no hope and nobody to care for them. They realise they cannot transport all of the stray dogs of Afghanistan and Iraq to loving homes, but they will do their best to promote animal welfare and to assist in vital animal aid work that is so desperately needed in Afghanistan and Iraq. For more details of the charity please see their website:

www.nowzad.com



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