

Purton *Magazine*



March Hares Go Mad
by Liz Park, Purton Artists

47

March 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

Maybe it's because the snow and ice have now gone (or is that tempting fate?) there are several soft, silent signs of spring in the air – and in this edition of your magazine.

Firstly the lighter evenings will be encouraging gardeners of all ages and abilities to dig out and dust off their garden tools. The usual aches and pains that sometimes follow are often simply put down to using different muscles after the winter break but, this month, we learn some apposite advice. For example, the handles of spades and forks should reach the user's hip bone to avoid future back trouble and several other ideas can be found on [page 33](#).

At this time of the year many people try to improve their health and lose weight. The Lent Lunches have started again on Wednesdays although the quality and quantity of food available is unlikely to help people lose weight unless, perhaps, they walk many miles to and from Purton Methodist Church.

This year there are some very interesting Lent talks constructed for non-churchgoers and regular members alike. Readers will see that the list of speakers on [page 13](#) contains some famous and infamous names that will surely provoke many a thought.

Our local sustainable communities group Ps & Qs are to hold a Local Day on 17 March and, on [page 36](#), they are inviting village organisations and businesses to display information about their activities, products and services. That seems like a wonderful opportunity to spread the word and perhaps recruit some more customers or volunteers.

Spring is also the time for the Annual Parish Meeting and this year it will be held on Monday 26 March starting at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. It is for villagers to find out more about local issues and raise any questions if they so wish – more details are on [page 5](#). The following Thursday 29 March, the new St Mary's school will be holding a special open evening to show off the new school both inside and out although the school field will take a further year to re-instate. There are more details on [page 26](#).

Perhaps the best sign of spring is that the clocks go forward on Sunday 25 March and we can start dreaming about all the fun we might be having on those balmy sunny summer evenings that are slowly getting closer.

32nd

Age Concern auction
is on
Saturday 3 March
– see [page 12](#).

125th

anniversary year
for the
Cricklade Band
– see [page 29](#).

552 AD

is the earliest reference to
the year in which
Wiltshire was founded
– see [page 39](#).

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Purton
Magazine

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Parish Council News



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Purton Village Hall on Monday 26 March 2012, starting at 7.30 pm. This is not a Parish Council Meeting; the Parish Council has its annual Meeting in May. The Annual Parish Meeting is for parishioners to find out about local issues and to raise questions if they wish to and to generally find out more about their community and the work that goes on. The Police will be present to give an update on local policing, Unitary Cllr Jacqui Lay will talk about her work and there will be an update on the Parish Plan which will be an important document that will help shape our future community. The Parish Council will also give an insight into the work it has been doing, and its annual report will be available for you to take away and read. If you would like to promote an organisation in the village that you belong to, then this would be a good opportunity to do so – please contact the Parish Council office with details before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on the 26th for what should be an interesting evening, all are welcome to attend.

The Following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

- N11/03689/LBC *Tadpole Rail Bridge, Blunsdon Station*, structural repairs and alterations to the bridge
- N11/03789/FUL *Land at White Lodge Farm, Braydon*, excavation and installation of slurry lagoon in an agricultural field
- N11/03777/FUL *30 Witts Lane*, erection of single storey rear extension
- N11/03961/FUL *Norbury Court, High Street*, replacement windows (Resubmission of N11/03100/FUL)
- N11/02637/FUL *38 Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent*, demolition of existing building and erection of a replacement dwelling
- N11/03717/FUL & N11/03718/CAC
5 Church End, Purton, demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new garden room
- N11/03903/FUL *36 Ringsbury Close*, two-storey side and rear extension

Ridgeway Farm Appeal – The Planning Inspectorate required responses to the Ridgeway Farm application for 700 dwellings before 16 February 2012. The Parish Council has sent a letter reaffirming its objections to the proposed development. The appeal is due to take place on 9 May 2012 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham and is expected to last for 8 days. The Parish Council will be represented at the Inquiry.

Widham Farm Appeal – The Planning Inspectorate required comments by 23 January 2012, the Parish Council responded by continuing to object to the proposal to build 50 dwellings on the site. The Inquiry for this development will start on 11 April 2012 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham and is scheduled to last for 3 days. As with the Ridgeway appeal the Parish Council will be represented at the Inquiry.

Aggregate Minerals Site Allocation DPD will be available to view and comment on between 30/1/12 and 12/3/12 on Wiltshire Council's website:

consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/spatial_planning/aggregate_sites_allocation

and select the document **aggregate_minerals_site_allocation_dpd**

The Dog Warden Sebastian Williams will be in the small meeting room adjacent to the public toilets in the village hall car park on Wednesday 7 March from 9 am to 11 am if you would like to discuss any issues you have regarding dogs with him. If you would like to speak to him in the meantime then phone 0800 4560100 and ask to be put through to him.

Informal Rights of Way Meeting – If you are interested in Rights of Way and would like to find out more about those in Purton Parish then you are very welcome to come along to our Informal Rights of Way meeting on Monday 5 March, at 7 pm at Purton Village Hall. You will hear about the work our rights of way gang does in the parish to keep our definitive routes open, find out about ongoing issues such as those of Mud Lane and Stoke Common Lane. You can report obstructions or damaged stiles and even adopt a route that you can monitor and feed back information on if any problems are found. Also our popular walks booklets will be on sale at £1.50p each and definitive maps (cost varies depending on size).

Cross Lanes – The Parish Council is very pleased that work has been carried out on the Cross Lanes junction to try to improve its safety. It has been quite a struggle to get this work done. It is not what we would have ideally liked but money restraint has been the overriding factor. Only time will tell if the alterations have improved this awkward junction, we certainly hope that they will.

Churchyard Paths – Those of you who have visited Purton Church recently will have noticed the new paths that have been recently laid. The Parish Council organised and paid for the work to be carried out as it is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard. Justin Frost was the contractor who did the work and we hope you will agree that it is a job well done.

Parish Council vacancies – the Parish Council still has three available vacancies for Parish Councillors, we currently have twelve members but should have fifteen. There will be Parish Council elections in May 2013 therefore if you have ever considered becoming a Councillor then this might be a good time to ask the Parish Council to consider co-opting you onto the Council. This period before the next election would give you the time to get a feel for the work and an understanding of the role which you will hopefully find interesting and you will want to stand for election in 2013. An election will only be held if more than fifteen people stand, if fifteen or less put their names forward then they will automatically be elected onto Council. This is an interesting time for Parish Councils with the new Localism Bill on the horizon and more opportunities to enhance its role. In order for us to achieve more we need the manpower. Please give this some thought. If you would like more information then please contact the Parish Council Office.

Groundsperson Vacancy: Ken Parrett has been the Parish Council's Groundsman since March 2004 but has now decided the time is right for him to

leave the Parish Council for pastures new. We wish him well for the future. As a result of this the Parish Council has a vacancy for a Groundsperson. The position is for a full time post of 37 hours per week, with good terms and conditions. It is varied work within the parish, in the main the work is outdoor work involving tasks such as grass and hedge cutting, cemetery and play area maintenance. The work will also involve some minor building maintenance and upkeep and repairs to bus shelters and seats, and machinery maintenance. This is not a complete list of tasks but it does give an idea of the type of work involved and the skills required. If you would like to apply for this position then please contact the Parish Council Office for an application form: Council Office, Village Hall, Station Road, Purton, Wilts. SN5 4AJ, tel 01793 771066, email clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk The closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 8 March 2012.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

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

Waste & Recycling Changes

Fortnightly waste collections start this month

Household waste will be collected fortnightly from March 2012 in north and south Wiltshire. This will bring our waste collections in line with those in the east and west of the county where fortnightly collections are already in place. It is hoped that this, along with the extension of the recycling and composting services, will enable the council to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to below 25% and increase recycling to 50% by 2014.

Residents should have received an information pack through the post containing a leaflet explaining the changes and a new collection calendar setting out on which date each bin will be emptied. This information and your new collection calendar is also available online at:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling

New garden waste collection service

A non-chargeable garden waste collection service will be introduced in March 2012 for residents in east, north and south Wiltshire who have requested it. Residents in west Wiltshire already receive this service.

This is an optional service and residents have to sign up to receive a garden waste bin, if they don't already have one. Delivery of garden waste bins started in February and will continue during March for those people who signed up to receive this service last year.

If you didn't register last year, you can still sign up for a garden waste bin to be delivered this summer, online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling or by contacting the council on 0300 456 0102.

Residents who already have a garden waste bin do not need to sign up again.

Purton & District Age Concern



Words seem inadequate to talk about a person such as **John Cook** who has sadly died. He did so much for people, organisations, the two schools and, of course, the Parish Council.

Mind, John's views and mine were not always the same but that never stopped me respecting this gentleman. (I don't know what he thought about me!) Still it would be a funny old word if we all thought the same. John was a true Purtonian, born at Parkgate Farm – I would term that as Lower, Lower Pavenhill – it is about three or four fields over, going down from Purton towards Braydon on the right hand side. Along with his sister Pauline, he would come along this muddy track to catch the school bus at the entrance where you go into Lower Pavenhill. There was an old shed at the end of the track where they used to leave their muddy boots and change into their shoes. John had two other sisters Sue and Ann but I don't think they were old enough to experience these trips to school. I suppose they were lucky because, a few weeks ago, I wrote a little piece about Alice Matthews who lived in Lower Pavenhill – they had to walk to school from their house but I think, to qualify for the school bus you had to live two miles from the school. In my time it was Shepherd's Coaches from Broad Town that picked up around Braydon.

John was ten years old when the family moved from Parkgate to Quarry Farm along the end of The Hyde. I bet they found a difference farming, coming off that clay on to dry brashy soil. One thing, they didn't have any excuse for not going to school like when they used to hide in the shed at Lower Pavenhill until the school bus went by and claim that he hadn't seen them! John was very clever as he passed his exams and went on to Commonweal Grammar School. On leaving school he worked with his father at Quarry Farm and they acquired more land, renting and buying so that now it is quite a large farm. John could often be seen driving his little red tractor in the village, with his white milking hat on, waving to all he knew. I am sure, with John's expertise in education, especially figures, he could have found employment with any of these big firms that deal in finance although I am sure his father would have wanted him to carry on with the farm like he did. What an excellent job he made of it, especially in view of how hard it is for dairy farmers now. While on about farming, I know how much Rowie at Purton House Organics appreciated John's help and advice, well the two Johns really, John and his son Jonathan, who has been excellent on the farm as well, like his father. When Rowie lost her husband Alex, she had very little knowledge of farming and when she had a problem she would call John, over he would come and advise her but never once did he try and belittle her for the way she was trying to do things. It was always 'This is the way I would do it' and he would never take anything for his trouble. To John it seemed like that saying: 'One of the greatest pleasures in life is giving' and he certainly applied this in his life.

I have just said that giving was one of John's priorities like all the time he gave to St Mary's School as a governor – what an asset it would have been to the Headmaster to have someone like John on board, plus the fact that the children were invited to Quarry Farm to see the animals and here the bonus was that John

would talk to them and tell them all about farming in language they could understand. As a governor his expertise was of great value to the school. He would talk to the pupils and would always emphasise that they should take a pride in themselves.

John was a member of Purton Young Farmers which was formed by Leonard Scott and Jim Wells some fifty-odd years ago – they amalgamated with Cricklade Young Farmers, meeting halfway in what used to be the Reading Room at Purton Stoke. Along with some others John was instrumental in the Young Farmers purchasing the Reading Room. John had a lot to thank the Young Farmers for as it was at one of their dances that he met Sue and they were married at Wootton Bassett in April 1967. What a perfect match they have been and this reflects on their lovely family who are in the same frame of mind as their parents.

John was very interesting to talk to – he had a photographic memory and was interested in all walks of life. He went to Denmark with the Young Farmers and to Israel, Jordan and Oberammergau on the late Rev. Roy Blake's trips. Closer to home he would go on our mystery tours when his work permitted and he was a regular on our annual Weston Trip. Mind, he and Sue went to lots of other places in between. What I was trying to do was to give you his wide variations of pleasure and interest, as I am sure he enjoyed one as much as the other. A little story on one of the Weston trips – come 6.30 pm, our return time and no John. He always like going off for a walk – I think he would walk to Sand Bay. Well, we told the other coaches to go on home and we would hang on until 7, then our coach would go and I was going to stay with Sue and see if we could find him. Obviously we were very concerned and different people went looking for him. About five to seven he comes walking back – his friend Tony Young had found him sitting on the pier watching the world go by quite unconcerned – his watch had stopped! Nobody was cross – we were all so pleased to see him safe and sound but he has never lived that down.

I first got to know John really well when I got elected to the Parish Council. He was the person who looked after the Parish finances and can I say he looked after them as if they were his own. Perhaps he should have been Chancellor of the Exchequer – he would not let us spend money we didn't have – he had a marvellous financial brain. He was a very clever man all the way round so it's no wonder he loved doing quizzes and crosswords. What an asset he would be to any quiz team.

As I have said, he was so kind and it wasn't a one-way thing as Sue must be of the same nature, along with Emma, Lucy and Jonathan, for the time they give to various causes. John lent the Football Club his tractor for rolling the pitch then, of course, when we used to have our Horse and Dog Show and Carriage Driving we wanted an extra field. John readily agreed to let us use his field, something that has still carried on with the Carriage Driving. It couldn't have been easy with hay making etc. but he never failed to accommodate us and it was just the same with Purton House. Another group that appreciated John's kindness and help was our local stile gang. While some farmers are a little bit dubious and reluctant to help, John was the opposite. When asked for permission to carry out work on his land, he would always say 'Drop the material in the yard and I will take it to where you

are working on the stile' and I know what a great help this was to the stile gang.

Well John, there is hardly anybody in this village that you loved and did so much for who hasn't been touched by your kindness. You were a truly remarkable man and what is more, you have left us your family who are all tarred with the same brush as you. Your interest in and love of the village will carry on through them and we thank Sue for sharing you with us and making Purton a much nicer place to live. We will always remember you. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue and the family at this sad time and I would like to thank Rev. Judith Wells for such a fitting service for such a well respected gentleman.

Another person we have sadly lost is Mr **Edwin Pikett**, known to most as Eddie. He was born one of seven children in the village of Denaby Main in Yorkshire in 1915. He went to school there and, on leaving school, he went to work in the mines in what I am sure were not ideal conditions. However, he wasn't there too long before joining the army – the Royal Artillery. I think he joined up with the late Tom Stead who lived in Reids Piece. They were posted to Lydiard and that is where he met his wife Irene, but we knew her better as Queenie and she was a Strange from the Washpool/Shaw area – in fact she was a cousin or second cousin of my father. I wonder if they met in the Reading Room at Lydiard as I know, during the war, they had dances there and it was a favourite spot for local girls to go. They even used to walk over from Purton. However, they got married and it was a double wedding at Lydiard Church in 1944 with Irene's sister Joan, who married Jack Brierly. They had the pleasure of celebrating their diamond wedding some years ago. Tom and Eddie would have had their postings pretty quickly after the wedding and Eddie was posted to Norway and Tom to India. Queenie, along with new arrival David, lived with Granny Strange at Washpool.

When Eddie came home and was demobbed, he moved back to Denaby Main with Queenie and David where his job had been kept open for him, working at the coal face. After about fourteen years the family moved back to Purton, with Eddie working for Hills and living in one of their houses in Nannygoat Terrace – this is a little area off New Road. From Hills he moved on to work for Harold Barnes, which of course meant he lost his house, so the family moved to Reids Piece. Eddie went on to work for George Fraley at Lydiard before finishing up at Lyneham at the RAF base where he retired from. By this time he had gone from being a collier to being a painter and, I've been told, a very good one.

Eddie was a very neat, tidy person, contented and not looking for the world but enjoying what he had, like going up to fetch his paper and having a chat to various people. One thing that has come to light was that he used to go to the Methodist Chapel in Denaby Main. I know they are now known as Churches but this was in 1926 – in fact on 2 May in that year he received a Methodist School hymnal. With reference to him working in the colliery, there was a terrible accident with several killed. I wonder if that made him decide to come back this way. I know it upset him badly but he never spoke about it. Of course, something like that would worry Queenie and she would be the deciding factor – mind this is just a thought of mine.

While Eddie was a very quiet person, he was also very kind, like when Frank Woolford was alive and Eddie would go and see him every morning to make sure

he was alright. The tables were turned on him as he got older as his neighbours, Jeff and Iris, were so kind to him in the same way. Jeff would go in every morning, draw his curtains back, make sure he was OK, make him a cup of tea, and take his rubbish out. It must have been very reassuring for David, his son, and Jean, his daughter-in-law, to know that he had such good people around him. Mind, Jean and Dave, along with the family, were so kind to him as well, calling in every day and Jean always took him a cooked meal. Eddie was 96 when he died – if you want a recipe for a long life, he used to have a bowl of rice pudding with jam on for his sweet every day. About the only day he didn't want to eat it was the day he went into hospital. As well as living a long life he had a healthy one. It was only in later years that he started going to the Cedars Day Centre and he loved it, especially when they bathed him. He would say to Audrey when she washed his hair 'Not too hard, love'. One of Eddie's hobbies years ago was keeping canaries and he loved gardening, especially in the greenhouse, bringing all the plants on. Another of his pastimes was watching the cricket and snooker on TV. He was a very kind, modest man to the degree that he would not take his war medals as he felt he hadn't done enough to deserve them. He was another gentleman who enjoyed our trips and was good fun. Could I thank the family for money in lieu of flowers being shared between us and Purton Helping Hand – it is greatly appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of John and Eddie and also with Jeff and Iris, Eddie's neighbours, who are both very poorly themselves at the moment.

We do hear of lots of sadness living in a village where you are all part of one big family then, out of the gloom, you get some nice gestures like the one we had from the One Stop Shop at Pavenhill. The late **Joyce Selwood** was a valued customer of theirs and, so that people could contribute to her memory, they put a collection tin on their counter so that people could make a donation. I must say it was a lovely thought and it amounted to a very nice sum, so many thanks to you all – customers and staff at One Stop.

Another nice surprise was that Marlene and Bim Herbert gave us the money they collected from people viewing their Christmas lights – a display always worth a trip to Purton Stoke to see and, of course, Marlene is our street warden for Purton Stoke and does an excellent job. Still peoples' kindness continues: we had a card and a cheque from St Mary's staff – it was in lieu of Christmas cards – the staff there deciding that, rather than send one another Christmas cards, they would place a donation in a Charity tin, so we thank Liz Rushen, the deputy head and all the staff at St Mary's School for their kind gesture. We are so lucky that people are so kind and generous to us.

The Burns Night was enjoyed by all according to reports so congratulations to all who made it so successful. I am afraid I cannot be included in those remarks as I just paid my money and sat back and enjoyed the evening but there is a terrific amount of preparation that goes into an evening like this, but our committee seems to enjoy it and let's not forget the ladies who are not committee – their help was greatly appreciated and they paid for their tickets as well! I am sure we will be holding a Burns Night again next year. This year was a sell-out with people waiting and several people already want to reserve tickets for next year.

When you read this we will have had our jumble sale so the next fund raising event is our annual auction on Saturday 3 March. I'll remind you of the details – items to be auctioned can be brought to the Village Hall between 9 am and 11.30 am and you get 75% of the selling price providing it makes over £2. Viewing is from 12 noon and the sale starts at 1 pm. Once again we are lucky to have Mr Roderick Wightman in charge of proceedings and you can rest assured that he will get the best possible price for you which, in turn, helps us. Of course, if you wish to donate anything to the auction it would be greatly appreciated. Could I just say that this is our 32nd auction and the Wightman family have been at every one – first Mr Bob Wightman then a joint effort with Roderick and his dad and now Roderick. Mr Wightman was a very shrewd man and wanted to make sure the auction continued when he could no longer do it.

I would like to remind you of the T'ai Chi class every Thursday afternoon in the Millennium Hall from 2 pm to 3 pm, cost £3 per session. You can just turn up at the hall. This is something Age UK Wiltshire has organised and it is a nice gentle exercise and I know you would be most welcome. [See [page 19](#) for more details. Ed.]

We are planning an Easter Market Stall on Saturday 7 April from 9 am to 12 noon at the shops at Pavenhill. Anything to sell on the stall would be greatly appreciated, especially cakes. Anything that is except jumble – you can bring that along to our jumble sale instead! – and we shall be having a raffle. Advance notice of our 3 Bs evening on Friday 13 April at the Silver Threads Hall – the 3 Bs stand for bingo, bangers and beans. More details next month.

The first mystery tour of the season will be on Wednesday 4 April starting at 10 am with lunch provided. The cost is £11 (£13.50 for outsiders) and names should be in to your street warden by Saturday 24 March. Then following on from that we have an afternoon one with tea – more details later.

On a final note, seven of our committee are going on a food hygiene course so that we keep up to date with any changes. This is only on the hygiene side – the way they do things, I don't think there is much anyone could show them on the cooking side!

TONY PRICE

Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 30 March 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).

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

Power, Money, Fame ... and God - Opportunities for Lent 2012

Take a former Chief Secretary to The Treasury later disgraced for his business dealings with a rich Arab Sheik; a Coalition Cabinet Minister presently grappling to find a solution to the pensions crisis; a Maastricht rebel now chairing the all party parliamentary group monitoring North Korea; a Blues singer invited to join the Rolling Stones but then going off to make ten top ten hits elsewhere; and a cricketer who risked his life publically opposing Mugabe in front of the World's Press – and you should get a fairly rich understanding of the likely effects of power, money and fame! Give each of them at some point in their lives an experience of God and you have some fascinating questions to consider. Bring each of them to within 3 miles of Purton and you have a rare and enviable opportunity.

That seemingly unlikely combination is what is on offer this Lent – conceived for non-churchgoer and regular members alike. Purton Churches are therefore as this year's Lent studies joining, and encouraging others to join, neighbours in Cricklade. Like them we hope this might provide a resource for a broad range of people to meet and question those with some unusually wide experience in an area of relevance to today's world.

The venue is by courtesy at Prior Park School, Calcutt Street, Cricklade. Admission is Free but tickets are required – see below.

Thursday 1 March - Baroness Berridge

Barrister, youngest female member of House of Lords, member of the Council for Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East – founded by Canon Andrew White the “vicar of Baghdad”, trustee of “More Than Gold” 2012 Olympic Organization.

Friday 9 March - Steve Webb MP

Member of Parliament for Yate and the current Minister of State for Pensions. Seen by many as a future candidate for Lib Dems party leader.

Friday 16 March - Baroness Cox

Deputy Speaker of House of Lords 1986 – 2006, a co-founder of the *One Jerusalem* organisation and Co-President of the Jerusalem Summit, founder of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) working to provide lasting change in Burma, East Timor, Nigeria and Southern Sudan, and Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea.

Tuesday 20 March - Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley

Paul (*right*) – Musician, Radio 2 Presenter and Blues aficionado, West End actor, nineties BBC Children's TV's Uncle Jack, sixties Lead Singer of Manfred Mann with first 8 Top Ten Hits.

Fiona – Actress – TV's Widows drama series, Musicals – Guys and Dolls, Jesus Christ Superstar, Cabaret singing duo with Paul.

Wednesday 4 April - Henry Olonga

Zimbabwe's first black cricketer, holder of long-held bowling



record against England, famously protested against the Death of Democracy with a black armband at controversial 2003 World Cup, fled country in face of Mugabe Government threats, commentates on cricket and follows musical career.

Monday 20 February - Jonathan Aitken (*This was rearranged from 29 March but is included here to show the scope of the series.*)

Journalist who gained unusual access to Richard Nixon for his biography, Cabinet Minister in Major Government, served seven months in prison following libel case against Granada Television's World in Action, preached famous sermon in Windsor 'Finding God in the Depths' latterly given charge of Prison Reform Task Group for Iain Duncan Smith's Centre for Social Justice.

A rare local opportunity to hear and question those who have made an impact on the national and international stage. Tickets (free of charge) available from Graham Light in Cricklade on 759181 or from David Martin in Purton on 770171. Start time – 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

DAVID MARTIN

Church Floodlighting

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



- 8 February St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Philip Tucker** for his birthday, age 57. From everyone in the village who knew him.
- 22 February St Mary's Church was floodlit in loving memory of **Ray Suddaby** on the 16th anniversary of his death. Loved always by his wife Pat
- 24 February St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate the **Golden Wedding of Jean and Graham Simpkins**. Love and congratulations from all your family.
- 7 March The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Ray Herbert**. Loving Husband and Dad. Forever in our hearts.
- 18 March **Mothering Sunday**
St Mary's will be floodlit for all Mothers in the village, past and present.
- 19 March The Church will be floodlit for the 3rd anniversary of **Bob Totterdell's** death. Loved and sadly missed. Jean and family

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

Taking a Risk ...

Have you ever felt that you wanted to do more to help others ... but not known how to offer your time or your skills? Have you ever wanted to get involved in fundraising ... but never known how to start? Have you ever wanted to take part ... but with a group of others to make it more fun ... but not known what to do about it?

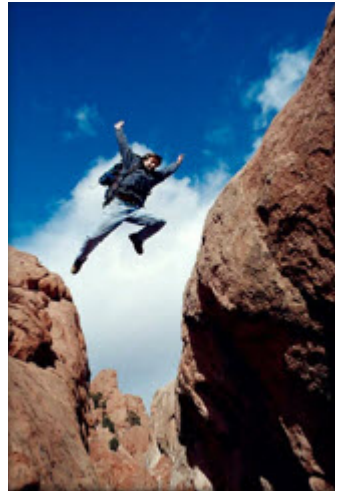
If this is YOU, please come and join us on 4 March at St Mary's Church, 10.30 am.

- Meet Anna Potts: come and hear about Christian Aid.
- Take a risk for the world ... and we don't mean anything too dangerous!
- Take a leap: be different.
- Be inspired: encouraged: supported.

We need you ... we really do! Helping to deliver Christian Aid envelopes ... or making some cakes?

Interested? Come and find out more ... and see what a difference you can make.

Thanks: see you there: cake for all!



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

OFFERED: HPpsc 1510 PhotoSmart (all in one). Tel 01793 772350 (Dave).

OFFERED: Gas cooker 3 years old. Also electric reclining chair. 01793 771716.

OFFERED: Working Phaser 6350 printer (needs new drum). Also 4 new colour toner cartridges, though these are for sale. Tel: 01793 848455 (Jane).

To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine (address on [page 4](#)).

Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell, Bagbury 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.

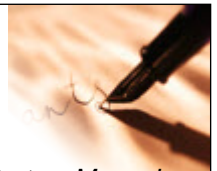
We Record ...

Funerals

13 January Joyce Selwood

30 January John William Cook

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



PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Age Concern **ANNUAL AUCTION**

Saturday 3 March
at the Village Hall
Auctioneer – Mr. Roderick Wightman
Viewing from 12 noon to 1 pm.
Sale starts at 1 pm.
Further information: 770696

POP/GENERAL QUIZ

Friday 9 March 2012
Purton Village Hall
Time: 7.30 pm
Licensed Bar
Maximum 6 Per Team
£5 per head to include hot supper
Raffle

Tickets Available from
Helen Griffin Tel 771645
All Proceeds Towards
World Challenge Morocco Trek

Christian Aid A Family Service for All Taking a Risk for the World

With songs, stories, prayers
and a talk by 'Anna Potts'
a Christian Aid speaker
@ St Mary's Church
Sunday 4 March
10.30am
Coffee and cake after the service



Lent Lunches
at Purton Methodist Church
11.45 am - 1 pm
Wednesdays
7, 14, 21 and 28 March

St Mary's Church Quiz Evening

Saturday 24 March
Silver Threads Hall
7.15pm for prompt 7.30pm start
Teams of up to 6
Tickets: £5
to include Ploughman's supper
Licensed bar, raffle

Tel 770157, 770970, 770375, 771201

Jubilee Concert with The Chedworth Band

Saturday 26 May
7 for 7.30pm
at Bardon Forest School
Admission £7.50
Enquiries: 770178

Coffee Morning

18 Church Path
Friday 30 March, 10am to noon
Cakes, bric-a-brac, books, raffle
Proceeds to Jubilee Gardens
All welcome

Ps and Qs
is organising
a **Local Day**

on Saturday 17 March 2012
at the Silver Threads Hall

and invites any village organisations or businesses to express an interest in having a stall there to display their activities, products and services. Or, if you wish to just provide some flyers, leaflets, brochures or business cards we would be pleased to hand these out.

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

Quiz Night
in aid of Jubilee Gardens

Young Farmers Hall, Purton Stoke
Friday 30 March, 7pm for 7.30pm start
Light supper provided - bring your own
drink!

£20 per team of four.
Tickets from Bell Inn, Purton Stoke

Purton Age Concern
EASTER MARKET STALL

outside the Pavenhill shops
on Saturday 7 April
9 am to 12 noon

Lots of bargains, bric a brac
books, toys, home made cakes,
a raffle and a chance to taste
Andrew's famous sausages!

Purton Helping Hand
Table Top Sale

Village Hall
Saturday 31 March,
1.30pm

To book a table, tel: 770251
Raffle & Refreshments

Collectors Market

Saturday 5 May
10.30 to 4 pm
at Purton Village Hall
To book a table, tel: 770251
Raffle & Refreshments

St Mary's CE Primary School
Cake Sale

for Water Aid charity
at the School
Thursday 8 March,
Further information, tel: 770239

Jumble Sale

Saturday 10 March
2 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

Group for Patients

Group for Patients



Prostate Cancer Evening: 9 February 2012

Over 40 people attended this highly successful event which was held in Purton Surgery on a snowy evening. Sian Fletcher, Macmillan Nurse from Great Western Hospital and Malcolm Gamlin from the Prostate Cancer Charity both spoke giving a very full picture of this cancer, right through symptoms, to treatments available, the choices available, possible side effects, and the whole experience of living with this condition from a personal perspective. Two excellent speakers who provided useful and constructive answers to all the questions asked.

There will be future presentations organised by G4P on other medical issues.

You can keep in touch for future events by:

- Handing your email address into Purton Surgery marked 'for the attention of Kim'
- Giving Purton Surgery SAEs marked 'for the attention of Kim'
- Keeping an eye on your local Magazine

SHEILA FOWLER, G4P Secretary



From left to right, at the Prostate Cancer evening: Colin Freemantle (G4P), Roger Mugridge (G4P), Sian Fletcher (Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist, Great Western Hospital), Malcolm Gamlin (Chair, Bristol & District Prostate Cancer Support group), Mike Broxton (Secretary, Bristol & District Prostate Cancer Support Group), Sheila Fowler (G4P), Kim Hiles (Practice Manager Purton Surgery) and inset Marietta Crockford (G4P).

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier.

Please call me, Ellen Blacker on **07557 110414**

I plan to be at Purton Library on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Come and see me between 2 and 4pm.



T'ai Chi - Is it for me?

An introduction to T'ai Chi and its benefits for Older People.

This course, supported by our *Fit as a Fiddle* Project, enables older people to find out for themselves the benefits of participating in this gentle form of exercise.

Thursday 9 February to 12 April, 2 pm to 3 pm at the Millennium Hall, Purton.
Tutor: Steven Rouse.

Your first session is free, after which there will be a small charge of £3 per session. (In special circumstances we may be able to help individuals with the cost)

For further information, please contact our Active Ageing Coordinator, Sally Evans on 07983 629830 or contact our office on 01380 727767.

Fit as a Fiddle is a programme run by Age UK and funded by the Big Lottery as part of the *Wellbeing* programme.

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

During the Winter months, routine maintenance work is carried out, therefore the railway is closed to the public most of the time. The season will open with the following events:



Lunchtime Wine and Dine in the luxurious Moonraker coach on Mothers' Day 18 March. Please ring Jim Larkin on 01367 820623 to book for this event which is locomotive-hauled and consists of a three-course meal with glass of wine and tea or coffee to follow.

Kids go Free Weekend on Saturday and Sunday 31 March and 1 April. Unlimited train rides between 11 am and 4 pm. Adults' tickets cost £6 and £5 for seniors. Cafeteria, shop, museum and picnic area. Enquiries on 01753 770335 or 771615. or www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org.

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.

On The Lighter Side

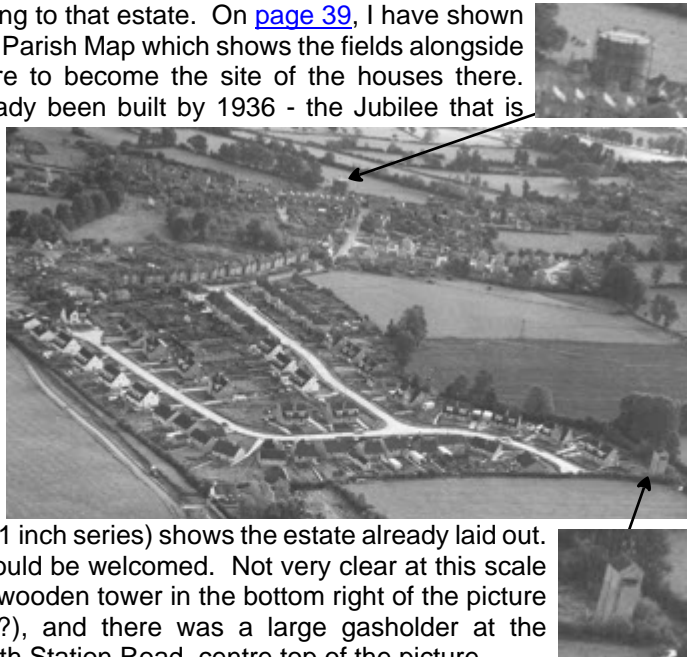
Grandparents: *(More from the mouths of grandchildren)*

- Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.
 - They know we should have snack time before bed time, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.
 - Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!
 - It's funny when they bend over, you hear noises and smell smells, and they blame their dog.
 - Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.
-

Exhibit of the Month: Vasterne Close

In conjunction with this month's *V is for Vasterne Close*, I have found a few interesting exhibits relating to that estate. On [page 39](#), I have shown an extract from the 1894 Parish Map which shows the fields alongside Vasterne Hill which were to become the site of the houses there. Jubilee Estate had already been built by 1936 - the Jubilee that is commemorated in the name is that of King George V.

The photograph of the close, shows the estate towards the end of construction and people I've spoken to put this towards the end of the 1950s, although the Museum's records have it as being the 1970s. Certainly the 1968 Ordnance Survey (1 inch series) shows the estate already laid out. Any extra information would be welcomed. Not very clear at this scale is what appears to be a wooden tower in the bottom right of the picture (perhaps a duck stand?), and there was a large gasholder at the junction of Witts Lane with Station Road, centre top of the picture.



The second picture is an aerial view from 2000 and shows a much more developed estate than the earlier picture. As well as gardens now being mature, there are far more cars ... and caravans.



Of course the original fields had been in use for many years. Even today the surrounding land is crisscrossed with footpaths. And where



people walk they lose things. Only two items found during the excavation work made it to the Museum's collection. The first one is a key dated to the 16th century. It is quite elaborate and would have been sorely missed by the owner. I have included a 50p coin in the picture to give an idea of scale.

The other item is also thought to have been from the 16th century and is described as a nail head. It's a rather large nail though, probably a clout used for fixing down roofing. The lettering on it isn't 16th century though ... it's the Museum's accession number!

There will be much better quality pictures on the web site at 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

Volunteers in local libraries

In the last 6 months there has been a big change to the way we deliver your local library service. Since September 2011 Purton Library has been operated during opening hours by volunteers. These volunteers come from the local community and regularly give up their time each month to help ensure that Purton Library remains open. We would like to say a huge thank-you to all the volunteers at Purton Library for all their hard work and support. Currently, we have over 300 volunteers in Wiltshire who are involved in operating opening hours at their local library. A further 360 help with the Home Library Service, computer support and the Summer Reading Challenge.

This has been the result of successful partnership working between Wiltshire Library Service, local communities and Parish and Town Councils. The Library Service continues to provide the buildings, stock, IT and staff support for fifteen of our smallest libraries, and volunteers are involved in providing support to customers.

Together we have managed to ensure that these libraries remain open, despite difficult economic conditions. We have been overwhelmed by the willingness of communities to get involved and support their libraries. Six months on we have a large group of committed and supportive volunteers helping to deliver local library services.

We offer a range of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages including large print and audio book formats; information about your local area; free computer access to the Internet and other online resources; local interest books and reference stock and a range of DVDs for both adults and children. Through Purton Library you can also access stock and services from across the county.

It is not possible to renew items by phone at Purton Library. Please phone Wootton Bassett (01793 853249) or Malmesbury Library (01666 853249) or phone our 24-hour service (0800 4142270 – have your membership number and PIN number handy). Also you can renew items via the Internet at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

For booking public access computers please phone Wootton Bassett Library or Malmesbury Library.

Opening times for Purton Library are shown in the box above.

CAROLYN KENNEDY, Community Librarian

Purton Diary - March 2012

1	Th	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
2	F	11.00am	to 3 pm: Memory Loss support event at Marsh Farm Hotel
		7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at Toothill Church
3	Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Auction at the Village Hall (viewing from noon)
4	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church including Christian Aid - <i>Taking a Risk</i>
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	M	7.00pm	Informal Rights of Way meeting at Village Hall
6	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
		2.30pm	Holy Communion at White Lodge
7	W	11.45am	to 1 pm: Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	Week 3 of Historical Society course: <i>The Early Tudors</i> at St Mary's School Hall. Then on 14, 21, 28 March.
8	Th		Cake Sale for Water Aid at St Mary's Primary School (open only to parents, guardians and children of the school)
9	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
10	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall
11	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
12	M		Commonwealth Day
		7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
13	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
14	W	11.45am	to 1 pm: Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Rev. David Perkins
15	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
		7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: Annual General Meeting followed by Paul Booy: <i>Another Look at the Titanic</i>
17	Sa	8.00pm	Race Night at Red House (Tennis Club)
18	Su		Mothering Sunday
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Family Communion for Mothering Sunday at St Mary's Church
			Lunchtime Wine & Dine at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

20	Tu		Spring Equinox
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: Celebrating 200 th Birthday of Charles Dickens: led by Mary Smith at her house
21	W	11.45am	<i>to 1 pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI AGM, at the Village Hall
24	Sa	7.15pm	<i>for 7.30 pm start</i> : Quiz Evening, Silver Threads Hall
25	Su	2.00am	Start of British Summer Time - clocks go forward
		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
26	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Village Hall - all welcome. See p5
27	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Carl Gill - <i>Planting Summer Containers</i>
28	W	11.45am	<i>to 1 pm</i> : Lent Lunch at Purton Methodist Church
		6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
29	Th	6.00pm	<i>to 7.30pm</i> : Open Evening at St Mary's School new building
31	Sa	2.00pm	Table Top Sale at Village Hall (Helping Hand)


April

4	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
7	Sa	9.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Age Concern Easter market stall by Pavenhill shops

Every week

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

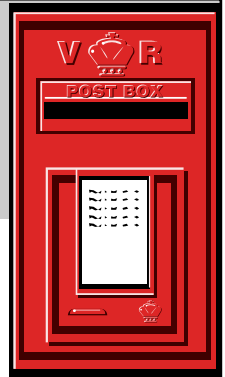
Moon Phases

 1 March
  8 March
  15 March
  22 March
 30 March

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

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.



■ JOHN COOK

I would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support during John's short illness and especially since his death. The sympathy cards, kind words, offers of help and generous donations to The Prospect Hospice have been a great comfort to me and all the family.

Sue Cook, Quarry Farm

■ HOSPITAL THANKS

A very big thank-you to all for the cards, phone calls and flowers which we received, also for the support given to Val during my recent stay in the Great Western Hospital. Also my thanks to the doctors and staff and nurses of Woodpecker Ward who looked after me so well. I am very pleased to report that I am now feeling well.

Best wishes to you all.

Bruce D'Arcy-Masters

■ A WELCOME HELPING HAND

I would like to thank Purton Helping Hand Club for the card and parcel of gifts they kindly gave. I am feeling much better now after having a bit of a health scare. I think Lisa had more of a fright than myself (she didn't have me insured).

It's nice to be thought of in what could of been a very troubled time, so once again Thank You very much Purton Helping Hand and all my family and friends for all their support

Simon Martin, Pavenhill (former landlord of the Angel)

The Great British Fish & Chips Supper

Supporting Spinal Injuries Association
Friday 18 May 2012

The Great British Fish and Chip Supper is all about getting together, having fun and raising money for the Spinal Injuries Association.

To request a fundraising pack: Call 08450 714350, email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips

Registered Charity No 1054097



Purton Historical Society

Our next meeting is on Thursday 15 March at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Primary School. This is our AGM followed by coffee and "Another Look at the



Titanic" (pictured left) by Paul Booy.

This AGM is very important as we need a new Chairperson and a Secretary. Societies cannot exist without them. Old hands on the committee will be available to help so no one will be on their own. Perhaps a job share could be organised or a couple could do the job together. But due to age and health concerns we desperately need new officers. We have appealed in the past for officers

to help run the Society and this time it is critical that we get a response. If you think you can help please contact Jean or myself.

Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 8 March at 7.30 pm in the Civic Centre. Bob Browning will be talking on "Living in the shadow of a Shadow factory"; this is the ECKO factory at Malmesbury and the making of RADAR sets.

The Cricklade Historical Society will meet on Wednesday 21 March in the Town Hall at 7.30 pm when Owen Collier will be talking on *The English Civil War in Wiltshire 1642 -1646*.

The Swindon Society will meet on Wednesday 14 March at the Broadgreen Centre at 7.30 pm. The talk will be "A Herbert about Town" by Andy Binks; I phoned the Society to find out what the talk would be about but was told that he likes to keep his subject under wraps, but his talks are always enjoyable. So your guess is as good as mine!

EVE BOOY, Secretary

Memory Loss?

Do you suffer with Memory Loss or have a loved one who does? Are you a Carer or a Support Group involved with people with Memory Loss?



We want to hear your story, your aspirations, the difficulties and challenges faced and successes you have achieved.

We are holding an event on 2 March at Marsh Farm Hotel, Coped Hall, Royal Wootton Bassett from 11 am until 3 pm and would love to hear from you. If you need help or support to attend the meeting, we may be able to help with that too.

To contact us or to book your place, please contact Jacqui Lay (Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon) on email Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk or on-line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MemoryLossEventMarshFarm

The event will be an opportunity to share your thoughts, hear how others manage and find out what help is available.

You might have some ideas about what help is needed in your local area too – we want to hear from you.

St Mary's CE Primary School



The first term in our new school is nearly over and as we near the end of term 3, this is a good time for us to update you on some of the continuing successes and achievements of St Mary's. Three pupils from Year 6 came a very credible 2nd place in the Youth Speaks Award held by Wootton Bassett's Rotary Clubs this term; the planning and preparation that went into this event was excellent and the children acquitted themselves very well. The Netball 'A' team are through to the County Finals which will be held in early March and the football team has also enjoyed success getting through to the next round of the local Inter Schools Cup competition; many thanks to all our staff who have helped to prepare and coach children to a very high standard. St Mary's has high expectations in all competitions that it has the chance to take part in.

We have all particularly enjoyed being on one site and learning together, and we really appreciate the great facilities that our new school now provides. There have been many successful outcomes in moving to one site and in this contribution I would like to draw your attention to a special open evening we are going to have for members of the local community. This will take place on **Thursday 29 March from 6 pm until 7.30 pm**. It will be a chance for us to show you all the new school both inside and out and we will, by then, hopefully have all of our landscaping completed. Although the school field will take a further year to reinstate, the habitat areas, timber trails and nature walks will all be on show for you. There will also be a chance for you to hear some of our children perform their music in our hall. You are all very welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our PTA for all the support it has offered as we have built our new school. The whole audio visual system in the school hall has been paid for by their efforts as has our bespoke stage, which we can roll out for performances. Many of you come along to support their activities and fund raisers in school and we would hope that now we have our new building, you would also be able to join in the future plans they have. Your contributions to recent Quiz Nights, summer and Christmas fêtes, Easter and Christmas Square sales and the like have all helped to purchase around £10,000 of equipment for our new hall and classrooms. The PTA continues to be very proactive in resourcing our new school and we would like to thank them for their dedication to improving opportunities for all our children.

As we come to the end of Term 3, we would like to express our appreciation for all your support over the last two years as we have worked together to provide a legacy for education in Purton. Some of you may be aware that this new school has been nominated for an award by the Royal Institute of British Architecture. The shortlisting for this award takes place towards the end of February this year and whether or not we are successful in making the cut, there must be some satisfaction in knowing that such an iconic building is here for such a wonderful community. I will keep you posted.

IAN TUCKER, Headteacher

At the meeting of 18 January the annual subscription of £31.50 was due and it was cheering to see the long queue anxious to pay. (Helped by the possession of the WI Membership Booklet, with its discounts and savings, of course!)

President Trisha Baker had a busy time talking of past successes and plans for the coming year and members will surely enjoy the speakers in 2012. Barbara Compton had us chuckling about her beginner's attempt to play bridge. Social time involved us all in a musical quiz, well organised by Sylvie. And judging the best of the Least Useful Christmas Presents was not a problem – some amusing entries but the winner had to be a simulated tiger skin suit (one of those useful comfort wraps) for our popular, average-sized Joan Garlick - the gift was man's size, 7 ft long ...

The speaker, Jackie Morris, gave an illustrated talk on Lundy Island and, had there been a travel agent in her audience, I think we would have been queuing to book our next holiday. (You can do this through Landmark Trust). The island offers bird-watching and much to photograph, rock-climbing, seals, a shop and a pub, and peace and quiet; for an historically interesting and beautiful place to stay it must take some beating, and Mrs Morris's love of Lundy was obvious.

I do hope some of you heard me enthusing about Purton WI on BBC Wiltshire Sound on 11 January. Sadly, I know of only two listeners. One was already a member but hooray! – the other person rang the studio to enquire how she could become a member, so it wasn't without result! Actually, we have welcomed two new members recently and we wish them years of pleasure and interest in the Women's Institute.

There is a suggestion that we might enjoy a fish and chips supper at our April meeting – it shouldn't cost more than about £3. Think about it – a board will come round for the names of interested members.

Plans are being made for the future and will include a Soup and Sweet Lunch in April and a Cream Tea in July. There will be serious times too, especially when we consider the Resolutions for this year. Your Committee always works hard to ensure interest and amusement, and it would be particularly appreciated if members would come forward to suggest – and actually arrange – activities. I suspect the committee members would love, just occasionally, to attend something for which they had no actual responsibility but could sit back and enjoy. Many of our bright members have good ideas (I've heard them at tea break) but are shy about coming forward. No need to be!

The AGM on is on 21 March and there is to be wine at Social Time! Full attendance and bright ideas anticipated, yes?

CONSTANCE REED



left: a pair of Lundy's famous residents

WHAT'S ON?

'Northern Lights' theme for Dodecantus' Spring Concerts

Although only halfway into its 8th year, Dodecantus has already performed 28 different concert programmes at 12 different venues in the UK and at 13 different



venues in Europe, including several UNESCO World Heritage buildings. In those concerts Dodecantus has performed 79 different pieces that have required the choir to sing in 9 different languages. Their next concert programme involves an additional 4 languages and 8 new pieces of music – not bad going for a small group of amateur singers!

On 14 and 15 April, Dodecantus invite you to join them for an exciting musical evening sharing music both familiar and new. With a theme on 'Northern Lights', the main works for these performances are *Grieg: 4 Psalms* and *Mozart: Vespers*. Grieg's final musical utterance and Mozart's rebellious yet beautiful *Vesperae solennes de confessore* will be surrounded by a selection of evocative music from countries in the northern part of Europe including Sweden, Norway and Estonia. Not forgetting of course the choral setting of Sibelius' beautiful *Finlandia* sung in Finnish.

The small size of the chamber choir is indicated by its name – Dodecantus is a confluence of Greek (for twelve) and Latin (for singing) although these days the group has gently expanded to accommodate a few more high quality singers. The choir's aim is always to perform to the very highest standards and it should never be underestimated just how difficult it is for individuals to sing in such a small group. There are simply no hiding places and it requires dedication, commitment and a love of music, which, it is hoped, comes across in their performances.

The initial idea of restricting numbers remains paramount to ensure that all performances are very special and intimate. That is because cultivating a friendly, informal atmosphere at all concerts helps to forge a vital relationship between the choir and the audience – without whom no performance is complete. They are looking forward to seeing friends both old and new at:

- Wroughton Parish Church on Saturday 14 April
- St Mary's Church, Kempford on Sunday 15 April

Both performances start at 7.30 pm and are free to enter with a retiring collection. For more information please visit the Dodecantus website (www.dodecantus.org).

Alternatively you can contact Francis Sheppard (771018) or email wendylmorris@btinternet.com

125th Anniversary Year News from The Cricklade Band

Yes, that's right, the band was formed in 1887 by Daniel Nash who hailed from Tilshead in the centre of Salisbury Plain. Mr Nash (he would never have been addressed by his first name by the band) left his home village with, among others, Harry Mundy, to seek employment with the Great Western Railway in Swindon. The band included woodwind then and began life at the *Three Horseshoes* in Cricklade High Street. In 2012 the band may well be the longest continuously operating organisation in the town.



So that's a bit of the past – now the band has a full list of events already lined up for 2012 – you can see where we are and what we're doing either online at www.thecrickladeband.co.uk or at the Leisure Centre, or call in for a list on Monday or Thursday evenings at The Club at Cricklade.

The weather over the Christmas period was much kinder to us in 2011 for our traditional carol-playing in and villages around Cricklade. Thank you all for your kind donations to our collecting boxes, we have made the first instalment of a usual annual donation to the Prospect Foundation. Prospect have told us that 2012 will see a total of nearly £8,000 being donated by the band in the last ten years. It's also a time-honoured tradition that some of the band's annual running costs are also funded from our carol-playing tours.

Another capacity audience packed into our annual Christmas Show at the Leisure Centre. Again we installed seating, lighting, sound system, stage and stage set and turned the sports hall into a rather grand theatre for the evening (have a look at pictures on the web site). Joining us for this show were a new, entertaining choir of almost 100 voices, *BigSingThing* from Swindon.

Going on, our BandAcademy offers tuition to people of all ages to play brass instruments or percussion. Also included is some manageable music theory (not compulsory!) and certificated attainment of the three stages of learning – all in a friendly, welcoming environment and still at the unbelievable fee of just £1 a week.

Just turn up at The Club at Cricklade any Monday evening at 6.30 or have a look at the details on the web site. Of course, if you're already a proficient musician we welcome your interest too. Our performance and play-list is geared towards entertaining dance music – a bit like a brass big band really (although we are looking for a bass guitar player too) – and not in the least staid or boring. We also have a varied list of social stuff so it's not all work (and play), it's sometimes just play too!

For those who aren't interested in taking a musician's role in the band, you could still play your part as a non-playing member of our envied 'Crew', that's our uniformed support team.

You're welcome to get involved with Cricklade's own band. Come and see us at the Club or contact us through the details on the web site. You'll wonder why you waited 125 years before joining us!



2011/12 Boys Basketball Competition Summary (So Far!) Overall it has been another fantastic year for Bradon Forest in the Swindon schools competitions. It is a huge testament to all the teams' attitude, effort, commitment and ability. So far 64 boys have represented the school this year and every one of them has been a magnificent and fantastic ambassador for the school. They should all be hugely proud of their achievements. Overall: Played 15 lost 0! Well done to all the squads!

Year 8: Swindon Champions As there is no Swindon Schools Cup in Year 7 this was the first season of competition for this year group. It was therefore a bit of a journey into the unknown as it was hard to gauge how they would get on. Any trepidation was quickly found to be misplaced as they comfortably beat all opposition on the way to winning the Swindon Schools Cup. **Year 9:** Swindon Champions and Wiltshire Champions. The target this year was to qualify to enter the National Cup competition. To do this they had to once again win the Swindon Schools Cup and then win the Year 9 County Cup tournament. The Year 9s won the Swindon Cup and then a week later were crowned county champions, having won the County Cup at a tournament held at the Link Centre, beating St Johns (Marlborough), Matravers (Westbury), Bishops Wordsworth (Sailsbury). Having achieved their target they now look forward to competing in the National Cup as the Wiltshire champions. **Year 10:** Swindon Champions & progressing in National Cup The Year 10s have continued their dominance of Swindon schools by winning the Swindon Schools Cup. In the process they have remained unbeaten in the competition. They have also made good progress in the National Cup competition (beating St Johns Marlborough 71-17) and at time of writing are one win away from qualifying in their group to progress to the next round of the National competition.

U13 Girls Cricket Team Swindon Schools Champions: The newly formed indoor cricket squad approached the final against St Joseph's hopeful but nervous. We won the toss and put St Joseph's in to bat. Our bowlers did a great job of keeping the runs down, and St Joseph's finished their innings on 44 for 4. We finished on 67 for 6 as winners! The U13 team now represent Swindon in the Wiltshire County Finals. Well done

Holocaust Assemblies Week: Miss Mazelin ran a very thought-provoking and informative series of assemblies during the week of National Holocaust Day on 27 January. This is the third year that Miss Mazelin has run these assemblies on such an important aspect of 20th century history, highlighting the lessons that should be learnt for future generations.

Rock Climbing Success: Alisha Garside has been climbing for the last four years at The Ridge climbing wall in Swindon. She was part of the Bradon Forest team that won the Key Stage 4 Swindon Rock Climbing Competition last year and also was the winner of the best individual climber (our Key Stage 3 team also won their competition). We were delighted that Alisha won her first Bouldering competition last November and has been recruited into the squad of the Bristol Climbing

Academy. This is the elite squad for the South West. Since joining the academy in January she has won yet another Bouldering competition. Well done Alisha.

Student's Enjoy A Fish Fight Talk: Earlier this term a group of Year 10 Food Technology students were treated to a visit from Simon Rhodes. Simon is the owner of *The Lobster Pot* fishmongers in Hungerford, which he opened in November 2010 after being the chef at the Pear Tree in Purton. He is an active supporter of Hugh's Fish Fight (www.fishfight.net) and the campaign against the European ruling on fish discards, the law stating we must throw dead fish back into the sea. Simon led a two-hour session



with the group discussing the different types of fish available, where they live, how they are transported to him, the importance of sustainability, and how easy and versatile it is to cook with. Each student was asked to bring an item of food with them which they thought would work well with fish. Simon then put together a variety of dishes which the students then all got to sample! The dishes included a mixed fish chowder, a Thai spiced tuna and marlin with coconut, and a tomato and tarragon sauce with a sea bass. The dishes were awarded 100% satisfaction from everyone who tried them! The students were surprised to enjoy so many different types of fish that they didn't think they'd ever like.

Safer Internet Day 2012 (SID) took place on Tuesday 7 February 2012 and was centred around the theme: 'Connecting generations and educating each other.' At Bradon Forest we ran an 'E-Safety Week' with Miss Colbert our ICT Co-ordinator leading assemblies for each year group. The assemblies have focused on the 'Connecting Generations' theme and also emphasise and reinforce cyber-bullying and 'netiquette' issues. During the E-Safety Week, all Key Stage 3 ICT lessons were focused on aspects of e-safety.

Swindon Young Musician Of The Year February 2012 Miss Groom reports: Time has flown by and once again some of the top musicians in Swindon gathered



for an evening of musical entertainment. The variety of performances was extraordinary, even on the same instrument, which was commented on by the adjudicator and compère. All the students seemed to have a fantastic time including our performers: Grace Bartlett (9Q), Hyun Kim (8Y) and Jake Painter (8T), who represented Bradon Forest School in the junior section. Hyun was placed second and Jake

was placed third. Two students represented Bradon Forest in the senior section: Rei Shimizu (11Z), who is now very familiar with the competition, and Hope Steadman (11T). Both girls performed superbly and Rei was given the tough task of closing the whole event. Hope was placed 3rd. Congratulations to all involved!

John Cook: We were extremely saddened to hear of the passing of John Cook, who was a School Governor at Bradon Forest for over 25 years and a stalwart supporter of the school and the village. John's funeral was held on Monday 30 January and St Mary's Church was packed to overflowing, which showed the respect and affection in which John was held by so many people. Generations of Bradon Forest students will remember the visits to Quarry Farm and sitting on the hay bales whilst John answered the many questions the youngsters had about farming. Over the last few years John had been a principal guest at a number of Awards Assemblies which he thoroughly enjoyed as he was so positive about young people. Many of us will remember John sat with his wife Sue in the front row of the gallery at all of the Awards Assemblies for his three grandchildren. Reverend Judith Wells, who conducted the lovely service, spoke warmly about John, and Ian Perkins, a previous Headteacher of Bradon Forest (who also went to Commonweal school with John), gave a moving and humorous tribute to John and his fantastic support for Bradon Forest School. Our thoughts are with Sue and all of John's family and many friends.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Rainbows, 2nd Purton Brownies and the Guide unit have all welcomed new members this term and they're busy finding out what's like to be a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide.



2nd Purton Brownies have been working on the winter section of the *Four Seasons* badge. They have made pine cone bird feeders and some Brownies took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. They've celebrated Burns Night by each girl making a "Haggis" – a furry creature with three feet that lives in the mountains! – and tossing cabers.

Both Brownie units and the Rainbows celebrated Chinese New Year. Activities included dragon based crafts, finding out about the twelve creatures of the Chinese zodiac and Chinese New Year customs as well as eating Chinese food of course.

Brownies from both units attended the PADS pantomime and had a great evening joining in with the traditional pantomime shouting as well as enjoying the thrill of standing on stage for the audience participation song. The bangs of the guns did make us jump though!

Guides are preparing for a celebration – the unit has been going for 60 years and there will be a party to celebrate on 20 March. If you used to be a Guide with the unit and would like to come along, please contact us at 1stPurtonGuides@wncounty.org.uk for further details.

For more information about guiding in Purton please contact Jo Begg at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Over sixty members attended the AGM, in which the outgoing secretary, Moira White, and outgoing chairman, Diana Thombs, presented a review of the previous year's activities, supported by treasurer Jill Herbert's report of the financial state of the Guild. David Herbert, as senior member, then presided over the committee elections, which saw Margaret and Stephen Goodall elected to the committee, with Dionne Child as chairman and Margaret Goodall as secretary. Dionne Child then introduced the speaker, Alan Christopher, who spoke very entertainingly and informatively on *Gardening Made Easy*.

Alan had shown an interest in gardening from the age of three, and at fourteen was responsible for his school gardens, producing both vegetables for school meals and flowers. Early training took him to Bath Parks Dept., Wisley, Kew, Langfords' Nurseries, then back to Bath as Clerk of Works. Later he moved to Essex as Estates Manager of a large country estate, responsible for all land and property maintenance and overseeing five hundred workers. His last job was the supervision of property and gardens for a group of nursing homes. After this wide experience, which came to an end following an accident, he decided to pass on to others the knowledge he had gained.

We learnt, through Alan's hard-won experience, to buy the best we could afford in spades and forks, to wash, clean and oil them at the end of every working day and to hang them up by the blade, and not the handle, so that moisture cannot permeate the shaft. Choose spades and forks according to your height: the handle should reach your hip bone if you want to avoid future back trouble. We also learnt that proper, old-fashioned and fully informative seed catalogues were infinitely preferable to eye-catching CD and video presentations. When loading compost into a wheelbarrow, do ensure that you park the wheelbarrow facing the direction in which you intend to take it when heavy and full – such a simple point, the observation of which would have saved me many wrenched muscles! When using a half-moon lawn edger, stand astride the guiding string and use the edger like a pizza cutter. When using lawn edging sheers ensure that your dominant hand is holding the fixed bottom blade so that only the upper blade moves and cuts. Any bug killing or herbicidal spray is best used with the addition of some washing-up liquid to ensure it sticks and does its work. Deep digging promotes weed seed germination and hinders the conservation of moisture in the soil. It is far better to use a Dutch hoe frequently but hoe to about two inches deep only. Alan assured us that the best method of disease prevention in the greenhouse was burning a sulphur candle in spring, but warned us of the importance of buying the right size of candle for the greenhouse. There was more, some of which some of us knew, but we all found it pleasurable to be reminded of why these things matter. Alan's relaxed, informal style of delivery, and of illustrating his points with telling anecdotes, provided a most enjoyable prelude to the year's gardening.

Our next meeting will be held, as usual, in the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 27 March when Carl Gill will be talking on the subject of 'Planting Summer Containers'. Competition - 5 daffodils. New members are always welcome.

On behalf of all our members may I say a big 'thank-you' to Diana Thombs and Moira White, our outgoing chair and secretary. They, along with other Committee members, have been the backbone of Gardeners' Guild, providing members, with what I'm sure you'll all agree, is such a stimulating and sociable monthly event. Your efforts have been much appreciated by us all.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary) DIONNE CHILD (Chair)

Water Aid

Year 6 Children at St Mary's C of E Primary School have been quite moved during their current topic on water (*The Water Detectives*) by the realisation of the suffering many children and adults in other parts of the world undergo when clean, safe water and sanitation are not readily available. So, moved by this, they have undertaken to independently organise a charity fundraising event in the school in March.



Peter Cresswell (Year 6) writes, "We are raising money for a fantastic charity, *Water Aid*, to raise money to stop 1 child dying every 4 seconds in Africa. We are planning on doing this by holding a cake sale. *Water Aid* is a charity that helps people get clean water and gives them the knowledge to build wells. The charity also supports other countries, even England, to stop people dying from dirty water.'

Isabelle Walker, told us, "There are so many child deaths in Africa and we should be able to change that. In our school, our year 6 classes are holding a bake sale to raise money to support *Water Aid*. Firstly, we're very excited to help. In our school topic we have been learning about water. We have found many facts to support our cause. We would like to change all the bad things that are happening and make them right.

"Secondly we hope we can be helping a charity called *Water Aid* ... to help people less fortunate, and to provide fresh water for them to drink. We are holding a bake sale to raise money. We are hoping to be supported by ASDA and others so we hope it will be a great success.

"We hope you can see our reasons and hope you will understand and help support us. We would like to inform Purton of how much money we raised."

Peter added, "These poor people in Africa's lives are in your hands."

Russ Payne and Sarah Marshall (Year 6 team) say, "The children's event is on 8 March. On behalf of St Mary's sixty-two children in Year 6, we thank you for your time, interest and support."



Further information can be obtained by telephoning St Mary's School (770239). Whilst only parents, guardians and children at the school will be able to attend the event, the Year 6 children wanted Purton Magazine readers to be aware that they can all support *Water Aid* by donating directly to www.wateraid.org.uk.

Going Wild in Purton



As I sit and write it is -4°C outside and the birds' feathers are fluffed up for warmth. So forgive me for commenting on a warmer time, the weeks over Christmas 2011 and 2012. I am grateful to my contributors who are the W.I. Skittles squad, Neil Etheridge, Val Dixon and Sylvia Freemantle for their observations.

The Vasterne Hill/Hogs Lane area has been visited by fewer birds than usual as there has been plenty of food available in the fields. But we are fortunate to have seen a lot of bullfinches, great, blue and long tailed tits, blackbirds, robins and sparrows. The woodpigeons, magpies and crows have been about; too numerous for my taste, but they do add to the colour on dull days.

Residents in this area have had sightings of green and greater spotted woodpeckers. But the visits of a redwing, a fieldfare and a blackcap have added to the excitement. We have also seen a muntjac (*pictured right*) several times

creeping around trees, shrubs and long grass looking for food. The usual three roe deer are around with a further addition to the family. The squirrels are regular visitors too, sometimes in twos and threes. These peanut-pinching animals have enjoyed the largesse left out for birds such as woodpigeons.



There have been fewer small birds in the Vasterne Close, Jubilee Estate and Witts Lane area. A solitary goldfinch has been spotted as well as a chaffinch and a Greenfinch. However, they have looked healthy, which is good news. Some beautiful collared doves have been regularly feeding at the Bartone Cottage bird table, as have jackdaws, starlings and sparrows.

At least one fox has been seen in Vasterne Hill, Vasterne Close and Willowbrook Close. There are some active hedgehogs in Vasterne Close as well as a rat, which is not so welcome.



Moving on to Station Road there have been a good variety of birds already mentioned but I must add a dunnock to the list as it was noted by only one contributor. Miriam Saunders' white and blue violets were out and the trailing geraniums were still flowering as well as Christmas Roses (hellebores - *pictured left*). Miriam has also seen a ladybird moving around. Speaking of roses, I had some flowering over Christmas and New Year as did many people in the village.

Sparrowhawks have been active around Willowbrook and The Hyde. Chris Sheppard saw an owl on one of the Manor's fences during daylight

before Christmas as well as ten squirrels cavorting in the churchyard. She also reported muntjac in the Manor woods and no less than ten long tailed tits in the garden.

Three pairs of goldfinches have been seen in a garden on the High Street. These beautiful birds are delightful to watch alongside many sparrows. Paven Close residents have also enjoyed seeing bullfinches, robins, blue tits and collared doves, and their song thrush was an extra bonus.

Finally, I would like to tell you about my six-legged lodger. I have had a ladybird living in the conservatory all winter. He or she is active as I write and finding plenty of food to eat. Isn't nature wonderful, surprising and diverting!

Ps and Qs is organising a Local Day on Saturday 17 March 2012 at the Silver Threads Hall and invites any village organisations or businesses to express an interest in having a stall there to display their activities, products and services. Or, if you wish to just provide some flyers, leaflets, brochures or business cards, we would be pleased to hand these out. 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

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



Hopes are high that improvements to the club's scoreboard and a new sight screen will improve the facilities and encourage current and new members to support Purton in 2012.

The pre-season coaching sessions are being well attended and many players are preparing well. The last issue of Purton Magazine contained some incorrect information – the Cricket Force Weekend is 30/31 March and 1 April and not as previously stated. All members are asked to help with the many pre-season tasks.

From the Archives: - Club Minute Books

AGM 1950: Scorers appointed at the meeting were Miss M Titcombe and Miss M Eatwell.

Committee meeting 1968: "On the question of purchasing a motorised roller it was decided not to make any decision until we had actual quotations, though it was felt that it would be a good idea in principle as it would ease the work of the few 'willing horses' who did the rolling. 30cwt was suggested as an ample weight with a width of 3ft."

Prior to motorised rollers the rolling was done by hand – heavy concrete blocks were placed in a frame fitted on the roller. It took a dozen players to move it and roll the pitches.

JOE GARDNER

As I write this on a freezing afternoon with snow lying over the fields it is hard to imagine playing tennis outside let alone after dark. But if all goes well we very much hope that, by the time this month is out, our 2 courts by the tennis clubhouse will be capable of being floodlit so we can play on into the darkness! It has been a slow and, at times difficult, process but the objective has been very important to us and, we believe, to the village. We shall be able to offer a much wider range of opportunities to youngsters of school age and we very much hope it will also see a resurgence of purely social play. Being of a superstitious nature I shall wait till the lights are in place before acknowledging our thanks to all those who have helped along the way. But I *am* looking forward to the champagne being cracked open to signal the end of the saga.

Meanwhile we have the very important **Race Night** coming up. It will be held at the Red House at 8 pm on **Saturday 17 March**. There will be an opportunity to bet on horses, win prizes in the raffle and have a thoroughly entertaining evening as well as knowing you are part of our Centenary celebrations. Everyone is welcome – do come along and join us.

The club will be holding practice sessions this month to prepare for selection and get some pre-match training in but all players will be welcome. The dates are:

- Saturday 10 March 11 - 1 pm Ladies
- Sunday 11 March 10 - 12 Men
- Saturday 17 March 10 - 12 Men
- 1 - 3 pm Ladies
- Sunday 25 March 11 - 1 pm Mixed

And as the spring comes merrily along, why not dust off the cobwebs and put the spring in your step? We can lend beginners a racquet to see how they get on. Have a go! You, too, may find you can play and enjoy the game of tennis. I shall look forward to hearing from you!

CAROLINE McLEAN



Carnival 2012

15-23 June Theme: Olympics

Spring is upon us and summer fast approaching ... it's time to start thinking about the up and coming Carnival (15 - 24 June) in aid of Purton Helping Hand.

We've all enjoyed previous years, and this year we're hoping to make the day extra special with the theme around the Olympics. We want to take this opportunity to reach out to our fellow Purtonians and get people excited, enthusiastic and proud with their involvement in the event. We're hoping for the best turnout ever with floats in the Procession (23 June) to make the event extra special and want the community to think about how they could join in. Do you have an idea for a float? Are you a member of a local group who may want to join in this year? We've taken the extra step of making this easier than ever by providing the necessary insurance cover and look forward to hearing your ideas. Please contact Pauline Ward.

A TO Z

OF PURTON

U is for ... University send offs

To celebrate Naomi's entry into the London School Economics (LSE) to study international relations with a leaning towards Spanish-speaking countries, her Purton family created a mobile billboard.

Her late grandfather (Leslie Holland) was a popular local artist who would be remembered for his painting of *The Last Supper* at St Mary's Church, Purton. Leslie and his wife Gertie, who was originally from Vienna, lived for 50 years of their married life in Purton where he was known as a real character around the village.

Ruth, the youngest of the six, trained as a midwife at a teaching hospital in London. Later she spent many years working in Africa under trying conditions. Returning to the UK she took up a teaching post in Brighton where she met her husband Guy. Their eldest child, Naomi was born, and her brother Fergus 3 years later. They then moved to Bristol to be nearer the Purton family base. It was here in Bristol that Naomi attended Fairfield High School, which enabled her to obtain the qualifications to be gain a place at London School of Economics.

Ruth's eldest brother John looked to his family and company for ideas to wish her well on her new adventure from Bristol to London. He was inspired by his late brother Peter, co-founder of Holland Handling, who always had grand and unusual ideas, (like announcing the pulling down the 180 ft incinerator chimney in Swindon on April Fools Day; no one believed him until they heard the bang and saw the dust!) He also enlisted the help of his 15-year-old granddaughter Megan to do the sign writing and the photography on the day.



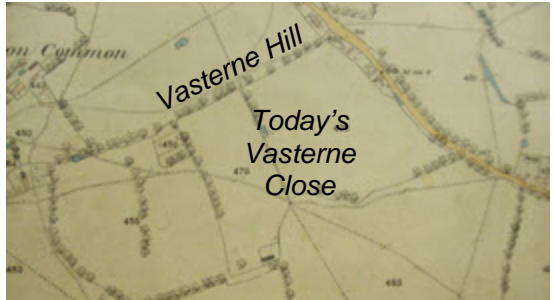
The family synchronised the closing of the bridge over the motorway at junction 16 for 2 minutes while Naomi passed underneath from their home in

Bristol to the LSE. What a start to fresher's week! Good luck Naomi from all your far-flung family. We look forward to painting the other side of the lorry for your graduation day.

John, who now runs the family business, Holland Handling, with Peter's wife Jeannette, said "We felt this family gesture would be nicely rounded off by using the lorry bearing Peter's initials on the number plate (PDH)".

V is for ... Vasterne Hill & Vasterne Close

Vasterne Hill is an ancient track connecting Witts Lane to Hoggs Lane. It is shown as such on the 1894 map of the village on the Museum wall. Vasterne Close was built in the 1970s on fields running alongside Vasterne Hill. There is more about the Vasterne Close development and two 16th century finds from the building site in this month's Exhibit of the Month on [page 20](#).



W is for ... Widham

The Widham area of Purton was a separate hamlet before the railway was built in the 1860s and cut it in two. The original track of the Purton to Cricklade road can still be seen as the narrow lane that runs straight on while the road northwards veers off slightly to the right to cross the tracks via the brick-built bridge. To



the north of the line, the old road is picked up again as it passes in front of the former *Ghost Train* pub which before that was the *Railway Inn* until the station closed in 1965. New Road turns off with a hairpin junction just past the bridge. It is called New Road because the railway cut Locks Lane in two and a new section of road had to be constructed. The course of the old lane is clear on the Museum's 1894 map.

W is for ... Wiltshire

The founding of Purton's county, Wiltshire, can be traced back as far as 552AD, with the victory of the Saxons over the native Britons at Old Sarum. This opened up Salisbury Plain to the invaders, and 4 years later the Saxon leader, Cynric, pushed his way through the Vale of Pewsey. A victory at Barbury Hill extended the West Saxon kingdom to the Marlborough Downs. Colonization was chiefly confined to the Avon and Wylve valleys, and the small township of Wilton in the latter gave the name of Wilsaetan to the Saxon settlers.

In 800AD, Walstan, Ealdorman of the Wilsaetan, repelled an attempted invasion by the Mercians. In 878, Wiltunscire is mentioned in the history books when the

invading Danes settled in Chippenham, spending a year plundering the surrounding countryside.

After the Norman conquest, estates were redistributed, with over two fifths of the land going to the Church. It wasn't until 1397 that William le Scrope became first Earl of Wiltshire.

Present day Wiltshire covers an area of 3485 km² (2165 square miles) and is bordered by Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire, Gloucestershire Oxfordshire and Berkshire. It has a population of approximately 615,000, of whom 184,000 live on our doorstep, in the Borough of Swindon.

W is for ... Wilts & Berks Canal (Northern Branch)

The Wilts & Berks canal was constructed late in the canal era running for 52 miles from Semington Junction on the Kennet and Avon Canal to Abingdon on the River Thames Navigation, opening on 14 September 1810. The northern branch from Swindon up to the Thames and Severn Canal at Latton is the canal that used to run though Purton parish via The Pry up towards Cricklade. The canal was never profitable as water supplies were always a problem and the railway age was just a few decades away by the time it was finished. An aqueduct collapse in Calne in 1901 was the final straw, cutting the under-used canal in two and leaving much of it dry. An Act of Abandonment was passed in Parliament in 1924 and much of the canal was filled in, leaving long strip fields in evidence in The Pry and Canal Wharf in Wroughton among other places and the redevelopment of Canal Walk in Swindon.

Please send your contributions for "X, Y or Z is for ..." to Purton Magazine, before 10 February, via the addresses shown on [page 4](#). I wonder if we might get ... Yacht Club, Yew Tree at church, Zebra crossing ...

Purton Open Gardens 2012

The weekend of 14/15 July will be our Open Gardens weekend this year.

We already have one or two gardens opening their gates for the first time as well as some of our regulars. Opening our gardens gives the opportunity to put something back into our community – two years ago we were able to make donations to Jubilee Gardens (£800), the Village Hall Charity for a new cooker (£1,000) and the Toddler Group (£500). Some individual gardens also raise money for charities of their own choice by doing refreshments but this is not obligatory. Your garden does not have to be pristine, in fact some gardens are thinking of organising a weed hunt with a prize going to the visitor who digs up the most!

If you would like to join us or find out what is involved give our chairperson Nick Yerbury a ring on 01793 770552 or email the.yerburys@btinternet.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

It's behind you!!

Oh yes it is! The beginning of February saw PADS present their *Way Out Western II* pantomime. A great deal of hard work and talent combined to provide an entertaining romp in the Wild West. Congratulations to you all. A full review will be in next month's magazine.
