

Purton *Magazine*

April 2012



Blossoms
by Barbara Gosden, Purton Artists

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

How would you describe Purton? Are we a village or a parish or a community or even a neighbourhood; possibly we could even be all four at the same time. Perhaps there are other descriptions that come to mind even if the need to define Purton has never really arisen – perhaps until now.

The Localism Act comes into force this month as part of the Government's approach to decentralisation and it establishes a "neighbourhood" as the smallest local group for the purposes of planning future residential and industrial developments. The Act says that neighbourhood plans must reflect the common good and, most of all, the neighbourhood's people. Ps and Qs are already active on this issue and [page 35](#) has further details.

Meanwhile our community continues with a wide variety of activities and information which we are again pleased to be able to bring to you in this latest edition of your magazine. Chronologically it is just possible that you will be able to read this before Friday 30 March when there will be an Open Meeting at St Mary's Church of England Primary School to discuss, with officers from the Diocese of Bristol (Department for Children and Young People), the plans for the future of the former lower school site – see [page 19](#).

The first Storytime is at the library on Wednesday 4 April. On the first Wednesday of each month from 10 to 10.30, pre-school children, parents and carers are invited to listen to stories, join in nursery rhymes and enjoy the wide range of attractive picture books. It's a new, free service and further details are on [page 23](#).

Fortnightly household waste collections have been operating since early in March. It is planned to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to less than 25% by 2014 and thereby reduce the Landfill tax that Wiltshire Council has to pay. There is more information on [page 8](#) about the extension of the recycling and composting services that will significantly increase recycling levels.

However we describe ourselves, it seems that we still know how to enjoy ourselves. As a result of a very successful Rock Night (see box below) further fun and frolics at the Village Diamond Jubilee Celebration on Sunday 3 June are planned. Perhaps free tea and cake might define our neighbourhood, although more cakes are needed – see [page 21](#).

<p>36 years of practising yoga in Purton – see page 38.</p>	<p>£1083 raised at the Rock Night for the Village Diamond Jubilee celebrations – see page 21.</p>	<p>2,000,000 cups of tea could be made from recycling Wiltshire's used cooking oil as energy – see page 15.</p>
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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' written in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

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Magazine Committee

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton, John Creasey, Helen Dixon,
Rick Dixon, Sheila Fowler, Nigel Manfield, Francis Sheppard

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Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions

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to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB
tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution enquiries only:

[John Creasey](#)

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

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Resurfacing/patching work for Cricklade Road, the High Street and Station Road is due to start at the end of April, beginning of May. This will undoubtedly cause some temporary disruption which is unavoidable but will be worth it once the work has been completed.

[Ed. See item on [page 6.](#)]

Parish Plan – work is ongoing and if you would like to be involved then please contact the Parish Council Office and we will put you in contact with the relevant people.

Asterliving Handihelp – Handihelp is a not-for-profit organisation supported by Wiltshire Council and Primary Care Trust. They are commissioned to help people aged 60 and older or younger with disability. The service offers general household maintenance and minor adaptation work to enable people to remain independent in their own home. Ring 01380 735555 if you would like more details.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following planning applications:

- N11/04074/FUL *Land to the rear of the New Greyhound, 70 Pavenhill, erection of 2 detached dwellings and carport/store and associated works*
- N11/04088/FUL *Orchard Gardens, two-storey extension*
- N11/04158/FUL *Land North of Pinks Lane, Braydon, reinstatement and improvements of existing access*
- N11/03965/FUL *7 Locks Lane, Purton, convert existing detached outbuilding to annexe*
- N11/04164/FUL *29 Waite Meads Close, Purton, first floor extension over garage, loft conversion and single storey extension to rear*
- N12/00179/TCA *7 Church Path, Purton, fell one conifer and two apple trees*

Refused Planning Applications:

- N12/00172/FUL *29 Purton Stoke, replacement garage to include studio above two-storey and single storey rear extensions and replacement windows (Resubmission of 11/01992/FUL)*

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

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

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The Next Parish Council Meeting will be on 2 April at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, as the normal day for the meeting would have fallen on the Bank Holiday. Press and public welcome.

Road Resurfacing Works

I recently wrote to let you know that patching and resurfacing was due on the road from Widham Bridge to Packhorse Corner in February. However as the patching and resurfacing of the High Street and Cricklade Road is programmed for the end of April beginning of May, the plan is to do all the work during the same period.

There will be some road closures and diversions will be in place. The work is due to take place between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm to avoid the school runs and peak traffic although some work may occur during the evenings. The bus service to Witts Lane from Lydiard Millicent will be terminated and turned at The Square/Pavenhill depending on the closure.

The bus service from Cricklade to Swindon will not service Purton and Lydiard at the times of the closure however Passenger Transport are working with the bus operator to provide an additional bus at these time. All affected bus stops will be posted with the information.

I believe these works should only take a matter of days to complete so hopefully the inconvenience and disruption will be limited.

Tadpole Lane

I have now been given an indication of dates for the closure of Tadpole Lane for the river bridge replacement and repairs to the rail bridge and embankments. This is due on 18 May and should last up to 32 weeks. There will be pedestrian and cyclist access for some of this time but no motorbike access. Signs will be put up for the diversions.

JACQUI LAY, Wiltshire Councillor for Purton and Braydon

Swindon & Cricklade Railway



SAT 31 MARCH/ SUN 1 APRIL. KIDS GO FREE WEEKEND

Every Adult or senior buying a ticket may take a child with them free for unlimited rides on available trains between 11 am and 4 pm. Steam trains on Sunday, Adults £7, Seniors £6. Diesel trains on Saturday, Adults £6, Seniors £5

EASTER EGG SPECIALS FRI 6 & MON 9 APRIL DIESEL HAULED. 11am to 4pm. Adults £6, Seniors £5, Child (with egg) £6. Family, two adults and two children £22.

SAT 7 & SUN 7th and 8th APRIL STEAM HAULED. 11am to 4pm. Adults £7, Seniors £6, Child (with egg) £6.50. Family £25

The Easter eggs are hollow chocolate with Easter shaped jellies for each child. Cafe, shop and pleasant 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.

During the road works (see above) car access to the Railway will be restricted but is to be from the Purton direction while the River Ray bridge works are in progress or from Oakhurst during the Railway bridge works. See web site for details.

News from The Trustees

The Village Hall

We have had a meeting to discuss the gents' toilets and have come up with ideas of what we would like. Cllr Geoff Greenaway is drawing up some plans for us and these will go out for tender, then we shall have some idea of the cost. The next step then is to see where we can get the funding from, so wish us well.

There seem to be quite a few cars left in the car park at times. This is not a public car park and it is not fair on the hirers of the Hall as they pay for the hire of the car park as well. Also nothing is to be put on the walls inside the Hall as it makes a mark. Now we have got the Hall into a reasonable state of repair, let's keep it like that. Thank you.

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

Let's start on some good news by congratulating the Tennis Club on celebrating their centenary. Life hasn't been easy for them but they have fought their problems and won. On behalf of the Trustees could I thank them for asking us all to their celebrations and a very nice evening with excellent food. There was reminiscing about past times but also looking forward to the future, especially with the new floodlights so congratulations for obtaining these. There was a lot of work that went on to get there but it's like what's happened over the last hundred years, they have kept at it and persevered and achieved their goal. With reference to the lights, I don't think I would be out of order in praising Neil Saunders for all the work, time and effort that he put into the project. It is amazing the amount of work that had to be done and, of course, the expertise that is required, so well done Neil.

The Bowls Club working party has been busy around the green as well as on it. The corner where they were having trouble with grass will hopefully be better now that more daylight has been let in. I must say it looks a picture although I don't know much about greens. When you read this they will be raring to go for their new season so we wish them a very enjoyable one.

The Football Club is still enjoying mixed fortunes, especially as, with the hard frost, they have had matches postponed. Still, as with the bowls green, the pitch looks very good. We appreciate the way everyone looks after their facilities. We have had trouble with youths breaking windows and stealing things. It is such a shame as it is with the rubbish left around the area, particularly when we have such a lovely Centre.

It is also a shame when we get an anonymous letter. If people haven't got the courage to put a name to what they write it is not worth the paper it is written on. If the person is right, we have no way of telling them what we are doing about the situation and, if they are wrong, we can't tell them that either. Still, as I say, this type of letter isn't worth the paper it's written on.

I would like to end by wishing you all a happy Easter.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Wise Words

All good work is done the way ants do things, little by little.

Lafcadio Hearn

Coping with Fortnightly Waste Collections

Fortnightly collections of household waste have now been introduced in north and south Wiltshire bringing your waste collections in line with those in the east and west of the county.

It is intended that this change, along with the extension of the recycling and composting services, will enable us to increase recycling to over 50% and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to less than 25% by 2014. Last year Wiltshire sent 37% of waste to landfill and recycled 41% of household waste.

We need to recycle more and landfill less because the amount we pay in Landfill Tax is rapidly increasing from £56 per tonne to £80 per tonne by 2014. Last year Wiltshire Council spent £3.9 million on Landfill Tax.

More than half of all household waste can be recycled or composted and now that the council has introduced kerbside collections of plastic bottles and cardboard and a free garden waste collection service across Wiltshire, it is even easier to recycle. Don't forget every household can also have up to two black recycling boxes to recycle paper, envelopes, magazines, junk mail, glass bottles and jars, food tins, drinks cans, foil, clothes and paired shoes. The little remaining waste that cannot be recycled at the kerbside should then fit into your household waste bin.

However, if you are struggling to fit all your waste into your bin and have a household of five or more, a medical condition, or more than one child in nappies you can contact the council for help. A waste officer will contact you or come out and visit you to discuss your situation and offer advice. Where appropriate, they will also issue a larger bin.

More information about waste and recycling services is available online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling. You can also check your collection dates.

Sign up now for free garden waste collections

This is an optional service and if you don't already have a garden waste bin you can still sign up to receive one this summer, either on-line at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste or by contacting the council on 0300 456 0102.

DONNA MOUNTFORD

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Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door.

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

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

Something to Think About

- If you don't run your own life, somebody else will.
- Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress.

John Atkinson

Thomas Alva Edison

Purton & District Age Concern



I don't quite know how to start this piece as we in Age Concern, especially the minibus personnel, were all very upset and saddened to hear that one of our colleagues had died. The person I am talking about is **Jeff Waite** who has been driving our minibuses for seven years. Another thing he did for us was delivering our minutes to the street wardens and minibus personnel in his area. He did not only concentrate on Age Concern but delivered the Magazine in his part of the world. He was a very community-minded person who would help anyone and never complained.

Jeff was born in Jamaica at Coleyville, the only young member of the family at that time, but later on he had three sisters and one brother who are scattered all over the world but still keep in touch with each other. During his early days he was brought up by his gran along with a houseful of ladies and I can well imagine Jeff being completely spoilt. No wonder he said he had a very happy childhood. One of the things he remembers when a child was going out with his uncle, who was harbour master in Kingston, and he would take Jeff out on the pilot boat to guide the big ships into the harbour.

Jeff was a very enterprising sort of person so, when he left school, he started his own cycle repair business. Here again he enjoyed his life although he had a very strict upbringing, going to Church on Sundays usually twice but sometimes three times. He got off a little lighter than me as it was three times for me – then, when I was serving at 8 am, it was four. One of Jeff's pleasures when he was a young man was sitting under a palm tree on the beach watching the world go by, sipping rum and *Red Stripe*, which I believe is a type of beer – if that isn't right, someone will soon tell me. While life was good in Jamaica, Jeff wanted to better himself and he had been corresponding with a cousin he had in Birmingham. The cousin advised him to come over to England and try his hand here, which he did. He worked on the railways as a welder mainly working on bridges – I would think this would be the footbridges. Jeff met his wife in 1959 – how do you think they met? Well she worked on the railways as well and they married in 1962 and lived at Finmere where they had two daughters and one son. Jeff's wife died in 1990 and Jeff stayed on at Finmere until 1993 before moving on to work for BMW at Cowley, Oxford, then was transferred to Swindon where he was driving overhead cranes. Jeff was quite a dab hand with computers, in fact he was very good at DIY whether electrical, mechanical – he could turn his hand to anything but it had to be done properly. He was a perfectionist – his daughters said that, if they did anything, it had to be right, otherwise they had a telling off.

Iris put out an advertisement on a dating site and Jeff answered it – they made a date to meet at the Lady Margaret in Oxford Road, Stratton – this was in 1995 – it was love at first sight and they have been so happy together. On their very first date, Jeff was worried because somebody had run into his car and there was a big dent in it – he wondered what Iris would think. However, he swept her off her feet and Jeff moved out to Purton to live with Iris in 1998. What a blessing for Purton with someone of Jeff's nature and temperament moving into the village. Jeff

continued to work at BMW until he retired, having worked for them for thirty years.

One of Jeff's hobbies was tinkering with cars, also electronics, but I suppose his biggest interest was computers. Seeing that he was self-taught, he was very knowledgeable about them. The family used to bring them out to Jeff if they had problems. It keeps coming through how Jeff was to his own family and his adopted family – Iris's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He would treat them all with extreme kindness and they treated Jeff like a father – in fact it was one big united happy family.

Jeff enjoyed his life in Purton and we in Age Concern certainly appreciated all he did for us. What a marvellous attitude he had – if anybody was late getting back to the bus, he would never grumble, just smile. Jeff and Iris loved their holidays – their favourite place was Lanzarote, but mind they would always come on our annual trip to Weston and thoroughly enjoyed that – sort of from one extreme to another!

Jeff started to feel poorly in October last year but, knowing him, he was probably poorly before that but would not say anything. He was diagnosed in January and sadly there was nothing anyone could do. As I briefly mentioned in last month's magazine, Jeff was so good to Mr Pikett who lived next door, going in every morning, drawing back Mr Pikett's curtains, making sure he was alright then making him a cup of tea and taking it up to him even when he could not have been feeling well himself. He drove our minibuses for seven years and remember it is all voluntary and, whether you speak to the Luncheon Club, Cedars Day Care or people on trips to Swindon, the answer comes back how kind and helpful he was. I have spoken a bit about Jeff's joys and pleasure but my belief is that the greatest pleasure he had was helping others and being there for them. Thank you Jeff for helping to make our organisation what it is today – you were a credit to us all. We thank the family for donations coming to the minibus fund – it is very much appreciated.

Another person we have sadly lost is **Sheila Osborne** who hasn't enjoyed the best of health over the last few years and, added to that, she had a stroke some three years ago. That really set her back but, in saying that, she has been lovingly nursed by her husband Pete and her daughter-in-law, Tip. The family also greatly appreciated the help they had from the carers.

Sheila was born in Cricklade to Jack and Lil Vincent and had two brothers John and Bob. The family moved to Wootton Bassett as Jack changed his job from the Co-op Dairies at Latton to the United Dairies at Wootton Bassett. Eventually they moved here to Blacklands and the family became involved in village life. At the time it was made known around the village that Miss Purnell (later Mrs Sheppard) who was matron at the Children's Home, wanted to do something for village children and thought a corps of Red Cross Cadets would be ideal as what the girls were taught they would not forget and it would be beneficial to them right through their lives. Girls interested were told to turn up at the Red House – I bet Miss Purnell was pleasantly surprised by the number that were on the steps at the Red House – about forty were waiting for her. Sheila was one of them, along with Glenis Hill. Mind, Sheila didn't stick at it like Glenis, who gave the Red Cross 36 years of excellent service. Sheila went to Purton School – St Mary's – when it was all one school and Mr Lloyd was headmaster. One of Sheila's pleasures at school was

sport. She was captain of both the school hockey and netball teams.

On leaving school, she worked in our local Co-op shop along with Vivien Lawrence and from there she went to work at Godwin's bakery along with Brenda Cook. She used to deliver all over the area, including Cricklade, but only three days a week in any area. Cricklade was Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays. Pete worked on Abingdon Court Farm at Cricklade and Sheila delivered the bread there. On one Thursday, Mrs Jones came running out to Pete, who was clearing out some calf sheds, saying there was someone who wanted to see him and when he got there it was Sheila. I don't know whether it was 29 February and she asked for a date or whether she had one of their famous lardies and wooed him with that but, whatever was said, it stood them in good stead as that was 57 years ago and they would have been married 55 years this year. Farm workers in those days moved around quite a bit and Pete was no exception. Their first home was Bourne Lake Farm, then they bought a cottage in Pavenhill opposite *The George*. They moved on to Charlton, then back to Cricklade and lived with Pete's mum in the High Street where Pete was born, before coming to Reid's Piece in the house that Mr and Mrs Roberts moved out of – they went to an pensioners' bungalow on the corner of Reid's Piece. They had moved up to Reid's Piece from Diana Lodge where Mr Roberts used to be the carter – sorry rambling again.

During this time, Sheila and Pete had an addition to the family – Simon – and now there are three grandchildren – Myles, Em and Olivia. These children brought so much pleasure and joy to Sheila's life. Could I say what a great support and comfort Tip, their daughter-in-law, has been to Pete over this sad time. Sheila loved cooking and was cook at the Cedars along with the late Cath Mills. What an inspiration she would be to any young person who wanted to learn the tricks of the trade. It certainly served Sheila well as she went on to catering for parties, along with sister-in-law, Sue. Then she had a cafe in Cricklade High Street in what used to be her granny's front room. Sheila also loved helping with the teas for our Purton Cricket Club along with the late Floss Canter and Joyce Bunce. She loved her cricket and was a great follower of Somerset County Cricket Club, in fact she followed them all over the country, visiting such grounds as the Oval, Lords etc. Her idol was Ian Botham – what an entertaining player he was and a gentleman. I bet it made Sheila's heart beat a little faster when she had her photo taken with him. While she has been poorly over the years, one of Sheila's joys was watching cricket on the TV. She would watch it all day long but I would say her favourite programmes were the proms concerts with the finale of *The Last Night of the Proms*. It was very appropriate that the proms music was played at the crematorium. Another of Sheila's pleasure in days gone by was to go down to Blue Anchor where they had a caravan on a permanent site. Weekends and holidays, it was Blue Anchor here we come – not too far to go but a good base for the West Country.

It was easy to see why Pete fell for this attractive young lady as Sheila was our Carnival Queen nearly sixty years ago. That was in the days when there were several entries and you were selected not only on looks but on the type of person you were. It was easy to see why Sheila won it, as she had a very warm nature and was full of fun. We thank the family for donations in lieu of flowers being



1955 Purton Carnival: from left: Marion Staley, Diana Woolford, Sheila Vincent (Carnival Queen), Peggy Bunce (retiring Carnival Queen). Front: Kay Rushen.

divided between Age Concern and Purton Helping Hand.

Could I offer our congratulations to Bim and Marlene Herbert who will be celebrating their golden wedding on 1 April. I don't know whether that is the correct date or not – certainly neither of them has been an April fool spending 50 happy years together – and they have put so much back into the community, especially Purton Stoke. Have a lovely day and we sincerely hope you spend many more happy years together. What a lovely thought – instead of presents they asked for donations to Marie Curie nurses but that is the type of people they are and, of course, Marlene is our street warden for Purton and an excellent one at that.

Could I thank the very kind couple who gave us a very generous cheque to help towards our auction as they would be away when we held it – very many thanks to them for a very kind gesture as was that of the gentleman (I don't call him that to his face) who is always slipping Sheila money and saying 'Give it to him indoors, he knows what to do with it', so many thanks to him.

We have had the first of our half-yearly jumble sales and very successful it was as well, so many thanks to all who contributed in one way and another, especially the gentleman who gave us new things to sell – it does make a big difference. Thank you.

Next we had our Auction – here again it was very successful. This is down to

our resident auctioneer Mr Roderick Wightman. His family has been auctioning items for us for 32 years at our sales. I remember the first one – I was taking things back to people that didn't sell at 9.30 pm at night, like the old night storage heaters someone brought – we have learnt a lot since then. Mr Bob Wightman started us off and he made sure we would carry on as, when he got a little elderly, he introduced his son Roderick to help him out and Roderick has been our auctioneer ever since – a very shrewd man was Bob. I am sure others, like me, always think of the kindness Bob showed us and we always think of him on sale day as we do that other kind man, Vic Cook, who was so generous towards us, but here we have Vic's grandson Jack helping out. We had another young lady helping out also, collecting the money. It is not the first time Holly has been involved and it is nice having some young input. Can I say a collective thank-you to all the people who helped make the auction the success it was, either by bringing items to sell – even donating some to our cause – the people who are not on our committee but are prepared to give us a hand and last but not least the star of the show, Roderick. He is already booked for next year and yes, we will be having the 33rd auction. I would think, at a rough guess, these auctions over the years have raised at least £17,000 for our funds, so there is no reason for us to stop them.

Our next fund raising evening will be the Easter Market stall on Saturday 7 April at the Pavenhill shops from 9.30 am to 12 noon. We shall have sausage tasting with Andrew's famous sausages – you can slip into his shop after and buy some of the ones you've tasted! And, of course, we shall have our usual cake stall with other various stalls and an Easter raffle. Anything for these stalls would be greatly appreciated, but no jumble.

After this we have our 3 B's evening – Bingo, Bangers and Beans (and puds of course) in the Silver Threads Hall on Friday 13 April at 7.30 pm. Here we are lucky to have the expertise of John Lilley as our caller, helped by his wife Brenda, so thanks to you both. This is always a nice quiet relaxing evening until somebody calls 'house'.

While on about fund raising, Louise, our secretary, is doing a sponsored walk on Saturday 12 May. The distance is 40 miles – yes 40 miles!. If anyone would like to sponsor Louise, please get in touch (772558) or you might even want a sponsor form. Money collected is being divided between the Samaritans' Purse Shoebox Fund and Purton Age Concern. So, many thanks Louise for thinking of us.

By the time you read this you should have already booked in with your street warden for our first outing of the year but there might be room if you give me a ring on 770696. The trip starts at 10 am on Wednesday 4 April with lunch provided, cost £11, outsiders £13.50. After that one, the next will be on Wednesday 2 May with a 2 pm start, cost £11, £13.50 outsiders. Names to your street wardens by Monday 23 April and, of course, tea will be provided.

We have had some ideas put forward for suitable trips for the half day and full day ones. We shall still be having our annual Weston trip that we have been running ever since we had our first minibus. What is that? ... 26 years ago. Weston is such a nice place to go for a day.

I notice that there are several flats vacant at Hooks Hill. This is sheltered housing and you would be among a nice group of people. They have functions you can join in with if you wish, the facilities are good and it is in the centre of the village, handy to the buses and the Silver Threads Hall – why not give it a thought.

We are very concerned about bogus callers on the phone or on the door step. There are more and more people trying to con you out of your money. Please don't give work to anyone who turns up on your door step and says 'You want this doing or that doing' or 'I have done some work for you and want paying'. You know we can advise you about local traders if you are looking for someone. Never give out any bank details over the phone. In conjunction with our community policeman, Lee, we have given you all a leaflet – please read it and carry out the advice.

Have a nice Easter and we will see you at the Market Stall.

TONY PRICE

Purton Guide Dogs

On 3 March I did a stall selling Guide Dogs Trading goods, at a Collection Day organised by Swindon Branch in Asda West Swindon. Guide dog owners, with a sighted companion, stand inside by the entrance doors holding a collecting bucket; they can only do two-hour shifts so, depending on the number able to come, some of the two-hour sessions may only have a sighted person on duty. I took £91.31 on the stall, and the amount collected in the buckets was £772.10. I was there from 9 am to 5 pm ... my thanks to Doreen Freegard who came and did a good session in support. A long day but well worth it. The Carnival and Country Show stalls next possibly. Many thanks for all your support.



BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group

The Merchant's House

Tickets are now on sale for Sir Roy Strong's lecture "The 20th Century Coronations".

Part of Marlborough's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, the lecture has been arranged by The Merchant's House in association with the Marlborough History Society, and will take place on Wednesday 23 May at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Marlborough College (by kind permission of the Master).

Sir Roy Strong, writer, diarist, and gardener was Director of the National Portrait Gallery and Victoria & Albert Museum. He lives in Herefordshire where, with his late wife the designer Julia Trevelyan Oman, he created a major garden. A prolific author, his last book was *Visions of England*.

Tickets for the lecture are now available from The Merchant's House Shop, 132 High Street, Marlborough, £14 or £12 for Friends of the MH and Marlborough History Society members.

The lecture is in aid of The Merchant's House Appeal and is sponsored by Brewin Dolphin.

JEFFREY GALVIN-WRIGHT, Hon Press Officer

Recycled Cooking Oil

Wiltshire residents have generated sufficient clean, green energy to make almost 2 million cups of tea by recycling their used cooking oil.

Figures for 2011 show that 8,020 litres of used cooking oil was collected at the county's household recycling centres (HRCs) operated by Hills Waste Solutions. That amount was sufficient to generate 30,075 kWh of green electricity.

Cliff Carter, recycling manager Hills Waste Solutions, said: "The carbon neutral electricity generated by recycling used cooking oil is helping to achieve renewable energy targets and slow climate change. Recycling this oil makes good use of what was previously a waste material."

Living Fuels, who are contracted by Hills to collect the oil from its HRCs, uses a patented recovery process to produce a sustainable bioliquid called LF100. It is this bioliquid which is used in combined heat and power facilities to generate green electricity.

Toby Sturgis, Wiltshire Council cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "The council's 11 household recycling centres are a key part of Wiltshire's very successful drive to turn waste into resources and reduce the amount sent to landfill.

"They are helping considerably with our plans to recycle 50 percent of household waste and reduce landfill to less than 25 percent by 2014. The new collection services will enable residents to recycle more at the kerbside, and we will be working with Hills to extend the range of materials that residents can recycle at the household recycling centres.

"Cooking oil is one of our more recent successes, along with household batteries, and we will seek more new opportunities in the future."

To find your nearest HRC and opening times visit www.recycleforwiltshire.com

To learn more about the oil recycling process, visit www.livingfuels.co.uk.



Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Dogridge, Orchard Gardens, Waterfield, Ringsbury Close, Restrop View*. 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.

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 **EASTER MARKET STALL**

outside the Pavenhill shops
on Saturday 7 April
9.30 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 Evening WI **Soup & Sweet Lunch**

£5.00
Monday 16 April
12 noon to 1.30 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

Coffee Morning & Plant Sale

Saturday 26 May
10 am to 12 noon
at Silver Threads Hall

Purton Age Concern **3 B'S EVENING**

at the Silver Threads Hall
with bingo, bangers and beans
on Friday 13 April at 7.30 pm.
Tickets £6 to include supper
Buy your bingo tickets on the night
Tickets from Ron and Heather Harris
on 770850
(sorry no tickets on the door)

Souper Soup Lunch

for Christian Aid
Come to Souper Soup lunch
at 20 Hoggs Lane
Friday 30 March
Between 12noon and 1.30
£2 a bowl of soup
Let [Libbie](#) know
if you are thinking of coming

St George's Day concert **Cancelled**

New date for your diary
Jubilee Concert
with Chedworth Silver Band
Saturday 26 May
at Village Hall
Further details next month

Singalong-a-Film Night

for Christian Aid
Last year it was 'Mamma Mia' Sing along
This year it will be something just as exciting!
So please save Friday evening 18 May
for a special singalonga treat for Christian Aid funds
All will be revealed in the May magazine!

**The Royal British Legion
Purton Branch**

Presents their

ANNUAL CONCERT

at Bradon Forest School
Saturday 21 April at 7.30pm
with

The Cricklade Band
and

Thamesdown Ladies Choir

Price £5.00

Tickets available from Legion committee
members or at the door.

Raffle and Light Refreshments

Collectors' Market

Saturday 5 May

10.30 - 4 pm

at Village Hall

Details and Enquiries: 770251

Jumble Sale

Saturday 12 May

2 pm

at Silver Threads Hall

Details and Enquiries: 770251

Christian Aid Quiz

Yes ... the moment you've all
been waiting for!

Copies of the Quiz will be
available Friday 30 March
£1 in the usual shops

Meal at the Maharajah

for Christian Aid

This year the Christian Aid Curry Night
at the Maharajah will be
on Tuesday 15 May

Please reserve the date in your diaries
and book tickets early
from Wendy Johnson
and Kate Robinson
as the tickets go quickly

Tel: 771749 or 772930

£15 ... same price as last year!

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

OFFERED: Large white uPVC patio table and 4 chairs, tel 01793 770805.

OFFERED: Glass-fronted bookcase/display cabinet, tel 01793 770805.

OFFERED: A new adjustable dog harness, suitable for small to medium dog, tel 771479 (Ruth)

OFFERED: 14" Mountfield electric mower. Old but in good working order. Tel: 772928

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

ShelterBox



To raise funds for ShelterBox, Terry Williams (*pictured below*) of the Rotary Club of Swindon North, lived in a ShelterBox emergency tent, in public, for a whole week during February.

On a damp Saturday morning, 18 February, Terry erected his temporary home in the Market Square, Highworth. Scores of visitors came during the week, including school children and Cubs, and the Swindon North Rotary Club held its meeting alongside him on the Market Square. A full English breakfast was delivered to Terry daily by a nearby café, another brought his lunch, and dinners were provided by various Highworth eateries. He gave daily interviews on BBC local radio, the Swindon Advertiser published several articles, and SwindonWeb.com made a video diary and posted it on its website.



Fortunately the weather was fairly clement and, apart from 2 nights, Terry slept very well. On the first night, a Saturday, Terry discovered that the pubs around the Market Square make it a very noisy place and it was much the same on his last night, being a Friday.

Terry's target was to raise £3,000 for ShelterBox and £1,000 for Rotary International's *EndPolioNow* ... but he actually raised over £7,000.

On returning home he said the second best thing was to have a long soak in the bath. The first was the welcome from his wife, Christine.

ShelterBox (www.shelterbox.org) is an international charity providing shelter, warmth and dignity to thousands of people, all around the world, who have been made homeless by natural and man made disasters. Each ShelterBox costs £590 - the Rotary Club of Swindon North has supported ShelterBox for many years.

A ShelterBox tent



Church Floodlighting

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



- 8 April St Mary's Church will be floodlit on **Easter Day**, to celebrate the most important day in the Church's calendar
- 9 April St Mary's will be floodlit for **Leslie Holland's** birthday.
From all the family.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

Purton Open Gardens

We now have 19 gardens participating in the Purton Open Gardens during the weekend of 14/15 July. It is not too late if you would like to join us.

As we mentioned last month, we have given donations to various village organisations in the past so if you know of a group, club or organisation who would benefit from a modest boost to their funds for a particular project please let us know. We can't make any promises but we will do our best.

If you would like more information please contact our Chairperson Nick Yerbury: email: the.yerburys@btinternet.com

Former Lower School Site

There will be an Open Meeting on Friday 30 March from 6 pm to 8 pm at St Mary's Church of England Primary School at which officers from the Diocese of Bristol (Department for Children and Young People) will make available information about plans for the future of the former lower school site, and address questions which may arise.

Everyone welcome.

St George's Day Concert ... Cancelled!

Regrettably, we have had to cancel the Concert on 21 April due to a clash of dates with the Royal British Legion concert at Bradon Forest School.

Fortunately, we have been able to secure the Chedworth Silver Band and the Village Hall on **Saturday 26 May**. We are renaming the concert as **The Jubilee Concert**.

Further details and tickets later.

DOREEN FREEGARD
Purton St George's Day

We Record ...

Baptisms

4 March Tabitha Ellen Bevington

Funerals

17 February Ann Howse

24 February Violet Eatwell

In Memoriam

29 April Remembering John Cook on what would have been
Sue and John's 45th Wedding Anniversary

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 ...



Exhibit of the Month: 3 Cookery Books

This month I have found a set of three books of household hints and recipes. These are the *Best Way Book* compiled from pages of the *Woman's World* and *Home Companion*. The first 2 volumes are signed on the flyleaf by the owner "M Miles 1912" so are 100 years old or so. Book 3 doesn't have a date but refers to Wartime Economies so may be from late 1914 or so.

The original volume (let's call it Book 1) has a red cover which proclaims it contains 850 "practical and tried recipes and household hints" and has the strap line "The cheapest Cookery Book in the World". It was priced at 6d (2½p). Book 2 with a yellow cover has a further 1000 entries. The blue covered Book 3, although still 6d and containing 1200 entries, has perhaps been undercut in price since the strap line has changed to "Every Home should have this Book." By this time, the source material has been extended to the *Family Journal* and the *Weekly Friend*.



Adverts inside are for some products still familiar to us today (Brown & Polson's cornflour, Atora shredded suet, Bird's custard) and others that have fallen by the wayside (Symington's pea flour and Icilma *Fluor Cream* guaranteed to clear the skin without hair growth while preventing sunburn, chapping and washday redness).

Recipes include a breakfast dish of Brain Rissoles (Book 2, page 51): take the skin off some calves' brains and simmer for ½ an hour, then cut into slices and dip in egg and breadcrumbs. Mix a saltspoonful of mixed herbs with the breadcrumbs. Fry to golden brown in boiling fat.

"An Inexpensive Dish" from Book 3, page 13 suggests you boil some sausages in their skins for about 20 minutes, just covered with water, then remove the skins. Line the bottom of a pie dish with mashed potatoes, put in a layer of sausage meat, then a layer of sliced tomatoes seasoned with salt and pepper. Repeat until the dish is full but the top layer should consist of potato. Mark with a fork and bake in a hot oven until golden brown.

Household Hints from Book 1 include how to clean a tiger's skin rug with water, a clothes brush and some benzoline and Book 3 has a lemon juice, glycerine and borax anti-freckle lotion.

Book 3 also suggests rubbing the lead of a pencil (graphite) against the joint of a squeaking door hinge ... this one at least should work! Also a topical tip on how to renovate a feather boa: if a feather boa gets limp while out in the damp, curl it as soon as you get home by shaking it over a bowl of boiling water in which a handful of salt has been dissolved.

We hope that these tips will be of assistance ... but please don't use benzoline on your tiger's skin rug!

Remember you can visit our 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

Diamond Jubilee

Our fund raising Rock Night at the Village Hall on 10 March turned out to be a huge success. We had three bands playing, *The Mangarrs* started the evening getting everybody warmed up and into the right mood, followed by a brand new girl band, *Nova* who were performing their very first gig, and very well they did too. The *Graham Mack Rock Band* took us through to the end of the night. All these bands gave their services for free so we had very few expenses. There was a lovely atmosphere with about 150 people in the hall with ages ranging from the quite young to the quite a bit older and everybody enjoying themselves and people of all ages up rocking towards the end of the night. Not only was it a good night, we also made £1083 as well ... a good night's work I reckon.

This money is to go towards fireworks for the Village Diamond Jubilee Celebration which will take place at the village centre on Sunday 3 June. I've mentioned all this before but I mention it again so you all know what's going on. This is a free event for Purtonians, their families and friends. Bring your picnic, drinks, tables, chairs, blanket etc to the village centre where there will be entertainment through the afternoon and into the night including various bands, acting, dancing etc. There will also be story telling, free cups of tea, archery, sword fighting, penalty kicking, face painting, tennis, bowls, and an art project which you can get involved in amongst other things. There will also be fireworks, now that we have some money, to finish off the evening.

We do need some cakes for that day. We are planning, at some point during the afternoon, on giving out free cups of tea and a slices of cake. So if you fancy making a cake, or some smaller cakes, and wouldn't mind donating them to us, we would be very grateful. You would need to get them to The Millennium Hall on the morning of 3 June. Please do not put them on your own plates or in your own tins, we'd have a right old job returning them. Put them on paper plates or cling wrap etc.

There are people that I have spoken to who have no idea about this Jubilee celebration. Obviously they don't read the Village Magazine so please spread the word. There's not going to be another Diamond Jubilee for years so it would be a shame not to make the most of a very special weekend. So tell everyone and let's all have a really good celebration, as good if not better than the Golden Jubilee.

TONY RICHARDSON

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

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

Purton Diary - April 2012

1	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
2	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
3	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads: Film Show by Mr Davies
		2.30pm	Songs of Praise at White Lodge
4	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
		10.00am	<i>to 10.30am:</i> Storytime at Purton Library
5	Th	10.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper at St Mary's Church
6	F		Good Friday Bank Holiday
		2.00pm	The Final Hour, at St Mary's Church
7	Sa	9.30am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Age Concern Easter market stall, Pavenhill shops
8	Su		Easter Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Easter Day Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Festival Eucharist at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
9	M		Easter Monday Bank Holiday
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
11	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill: our favourite hymns - a DIY afternoon
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
13	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Age Concern 3 Bs evening at Silver Threads Hall
15	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion with Baptism at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Healing Service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	M	12noon	<i>to 1.30pm:</i> WI Soup & Sweet Lunch, at Silver Threads Hall
17	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads: <i>WI Entertainers</i>
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI, at Village Hall: Resolutions Meeting
19	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School: Insp. Steve Bridge - <i>The Early History of Wiltshire Constabulary</i>
21	Sa	7.30pm	British Legion Annual Concert at Bradon Forest School

22	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
23	M		St George's Day
24	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Kate Robinson - <i>Promoting Local Food</i>
		8.00pm	After 8: <i>Newspaper Fun</i> at Gwyneth's
25	W	6.30pm	Holy Communion at The Cedars
29	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise at St Mary's Church

May

2	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery tour with tea provided
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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

○ 6 April	◐ 13 April	● 21 April	◑ 28 April
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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

Storytime at Purton Library

On the first Wednesday of each month from 10 to 10.30 am, pre-school children, parents and carers are invited to come along to the library to listen to stories, join in nursery rhymes and look at our lovely picture books. Sharing stories with young children is a fantastic way of developing a life long love of books and reading. There is no charge, all welcome and the first Storytime will be on **Wednesday 4 April**.

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**



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.



■ VASTERNE CLOSE

Re the article on Vasterne Close in the March 2012 issue. I would like to put the record straight.

The building started in 1959. My late wife Audrey and I were married on 19 March 1960, and we moved in to our new house on that date. We were the second residents in the close, the first being the late Cliff and Mary Wadmore. We were closely followed by Doug and June Clist, who of course like me still live there.

With regard to the tower which was a brick structure, this was built at the request of Mr Grindley, who was the Surveyor to the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council, who were at that time the Water Authority, because he feared that without a water storage tower the supply would be inadequate. The cost of the sixty building plots were increased by, I believe, thirty pounds each to pay for it. The irony was that the existing water supply was found to be adequate and the tower was never used. In later years it was taken over and demolished by its neighbour.

Another interesting thing is all the

original documents advertising the properties spelt Vastern without an 'e' on the end.

*Brian Broad,
Vasterne Close, Purton*

■ WORLD CHALLENGE FUND RAISING

A big thank-you to everybody who came along to support our Pop/General Knowledge Quiz on 9 March in the Village Hall. It was a fun night and very profitable for our funds to Morocco. The night wouldn't have been such a success without the quiz masters John & Jill Beattie and Stuart & Caroline Allinson who added a fun aspect to the evening, along with our families who did the bar, catering and work behind the scenes. This was our last fundraiser, so many thanks for all the support that Purton has given us to succeed with our challenge.

*George Griffin, Nathan Hiles
and George Dudman*

Royal British Legion Purton Branch

The lights on the cenotaph were switched on during 12 and 13 February in memory of **Frank Glass** who looked after the grounds of the cenotaph for a number of years and also worked for the Princess Margaret Hospital until his retirement.



Purton Historical Society

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19 April at St Mary's Primary School at 7.30 pm. Inspector Steve Bridge will be telling us of "The Early History of the Wiltshire Constabulary". Wiltshire was the first County to establish a police force in 1839. In fact we beat Gloucester by just a few hours.



The Wootton Bassett Historical Society will meet on Thursday 12 April in the Civic Centre at 7.30 pm. They welcome back Martin Way back for the 3rd part of "A Glimmer in the Dark" when he will deal with arrival of the Vikings and the decline of the Saxon way of life. He is a brilliant speaker, so don't miss his talk to us on 17 May when he will talk on "God for Harry, England and St George".

The Swindon Society will meet at the Broadgreen Centre at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11 April when Gordon Shaw will be posing the question "Why Guppy Street?"

We welcome new members and visitors to our meetings.

EVE BOOY, Secretary

The New Forest & Hampshire County Show 24-26 July

Best of British at The New Forest Show

In keeping with the Jubilee celebrations this year, the New Forest & Hampshire County Show (NFHCS) theme this year is 'The Best of British'. They already highlight local goods and produce but this will be extended to encompass every part of Britain, and will include a brand new 'Best of British' Pavilion dedicated to demonstrations and interactive events. We are also delighted to announce that Alan Titchmarsh is our president this year and will be touring around the Showground on all three days.

If you have any agricultural memorabilia please get in touch with the Press Officer, Jackie Neylon now at Jackie@neylon.co.uk or ring 07767 252531

Agricultural Shows are famous for their livestock and rural activities and of course this remains the central attraction, especially as the Show is particularly famous for its horse competitions including international showjumping. Over 3000 animals will be at the Show, 75 traditional crafts shown and cooking demonstrations and wine tasting 'live' on the showground.

This Show's aims are so much more than just agriculture, offering the opportunity to learn about everything in the countryside but also to provide entertainment for all ages. Attractions this year will include the exciting Shetland Grand National, Solent Dog Agility displays, Sheepdog herding and much more. Remember there are also over 600 trade stands providing one of the most varied and unusual goods and produce – definitely the place to get that special purchase.

You can get 20% off advance tickets on-line until 11 July at www.newforestshow.co.uk, or on 10590 622409

JACKIE NEYLON

Just a Thought ...

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy afternoon.

Susan Ertz

On The Lighter Side

Out of Office Reply

A local businessman's phone rang the other day. It was his boss. He asked "Is everything okay at the office?" "Yes" the man replied, "It's all under control. It's been a very busy day, I haven't stopped."

"Can you do me a favour?" the boss asked.

"Of course!" replied our man, "What is it?"

He said, "Hurry up and take your shot, I'm right behind you on the 7th fairway."

Surprise

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the 'Chicken Surprise'. The waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot.

Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid rises slightly and she briefly sees two beady eyes looking around before the lid slams down.

'Good grief, did you see that', she asks her husband.

He reaches for it and again the lid rises a little, and he sees two little eyes looking around before it slams down.

Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation.

'Please Sir', says the waiter, 'what you order?'

The husband replies, 'Chicken surprise.'

'Ah! So Sorry,' says the waiter, 'I bring you Peeking Duck!'

Confidential Reports

More actual examples from the Services

- The Head of Department is the sort of chap who likes to eat his cake and have yours too.
- Captain A. has a difficulty for every solution.
- The new Midshipman is so insignificant he would get lost in a crowd of two.
- If this RAF Officer were any more laid back he would be positively supine.
- As Chief of Staff he has the perfect way of ending meetings; he tells all those opposed to him that they can always resign.
- There are so many 'Yes-men' on his staff that the headquarters has been nicknamed "The House of Nod".
- Having heard so much about him, I had rather hoped that Lt. Cdr. C. would not live up to his reputation, but sadly, I have been disappointed.
- Second Lieutenant N is a highly-polished chap, but in a slippery sort of way.
- I understand from the psychiatrists that he is totally psycho-ceramic – in other words a genuine crackpot.

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.org.uk



President Trisha Baker opened the meeting of 15 February with a sympathetic thought, on behalf of us all, for our Minutes Secretary, Joan Garlick, who has just endured her second operation in a few months. We wished her well and look forward to a rapid return to her busy life.

The young speaker, Adam Crosland, gave an illustrated talk on his training and career as an artist, plus a demonstration, and was enthusiastically received. His style was utterly modern and there were thoughts of investment for the future! He brought a new dimension to the word "Art" and his audience plied him with questions. We certainly have a great variety on our Speakers' List.

There had been a suggestion that we might enjoy a fish/sausage and chips supper at our April meeting – it shouldn't cost more than about £3. The board went round for the names of interested members and it appears that many of us are quite keen.

Future plans include a Soup and Sweet Lunch on 16 April, and a Cream Tea on 7 July. There will be serious times too, especially when we consider the national Resolutions for the 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!

On 18 April, we shall be holding the Resolutions meeting and the competition will be "A Russian Item". The new programme, which promises to be full of interest, will start with the May meeting. Meanwhile, if it is available to you, please don't forget to use the website – purtonevewi.org.uk

CONSTANCE REED, 771571

After 8

On Shrove Tuesday, 14 ladies from "After 8" met at 7 pm at 50 High Street, in Wootton Bassett.

No, this was not some mathematical challenge, but our late Christmas meal at the "Oriental Aroma". We shared a wide variety of dishes. Starters included chicken satay skewers, crispy seaweed, sesame toasts, honey roast spare ribs, mini pancake rolls and many more followed by Chinese-style pancakes, paper thin and served with crispy duck, which made a delightful change from tossed English ones with lemon and sugar. This was followed by a very large selection of main course dishes, chicken with cashew nuts in oyster sauce, king prawns with ginger and spring onion, beef and mushrooms and many, many more, chosen individually but shared by all.

The conversation flowed, along with a little wine, water and jasmine-scented tea. News was exchanged, ideas and plans discussed and a merry evening was had by all.

MARY SMITH

Our next meeting is *Newspaper Fun* at Gwyneth's on Tuesday 24 April.



Chris Thomas: The school community was extremely saddened at the passing of Chris Thomas in February. Chris had been undergoing treatment for cancer for some time and his untimely death at age 34 was still a shock to staff, students and parents. Chris started his teaching career at Bradon Forest in September 1999, and was an excellent Mathematics Teacher and Tutor. He specialised in taking upper school groups and was very popular with the students. Due to the support and kindness of colleagues and friends of the school, over 35 members of staff were able to attend his funeral in Bristol.

Students were supported on their return to school and a memory wall was set up in the school hall which proved to be an excellent way for the students to celebrate and remember Chris as a teacher and a person. The memory wall was used to form part of the condolence books that were organised for staff and students. Reverend John Railton came into school to offer his support to members of staff and families affected by this very sad news. A large number of ex-students have contacted the school wanting to express their respect and appreciation for Chris as a teacher, tutor and all-round “good guy”. A number of Chris’s close friends on the staff will be organising a remembrance day of activities to which former students will be invited. Chris’s parents and family will be joining us on the day. The event will be focused on celebrating Chris’s contribution to Bradon Forest and raising money for the charities his parents have nominated. These are Prospect Foundation and the Bristol Hospital Oncology Ward. (Students and ex-students will be informed of the date when finalised.) I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the Purton community for their kind messages of support.

India Link Update: The India Link group are working hard making their final preparations for their visit to India which starts on 28 March accompanied by Miss Shelley and Miss Beet. In early March a number of the Indian Principals/Headteachers visited the UK and spent a day at Bradon Forest. Their visit was completed with dinner at *The Maharajah*, Purton, with the Bradon Forest staff and a number of colleagues from St Sampson’s who they also visited. Many thanks to Khalique for hosting the evening and for the excellent meal. This visit meant that the students had the privilege of meeting a number of the Principals of the schools that they are due to visit whilst they are in India.



Following a fundraising evening at the *Bombay Lounge* in Peatmoor the India Link students and staff ran a Valentine’s Disco for Years 7 and 8. In addition the Art Department are running a six-week after-school project for the gifted and talented Key Stage 3 Art students. They are producing art work that the India Link team will take with them to share with the schools and students in India.

NB: World Challenge Morocco – a group of Year 10 students are going out to Morocco for two weeks at the end of the summer term led by Mr Lemin and Mr Heathcote.

School of The Week BBC Radio

Wiltshire: Many of you may have heard Bradon Forest students being interviewed by Graham Mack on his BBC Wiltshire/Swindon breakfast show in the first week of March. Mr Winward was interviewed live in the studio at 7.45 am and Graham Mack came into school later in the morning to record discussions with a number of our senior students which were broadcast



Tuesday to Friday. He even recorded the students singing impromptu radio jingles. (Not many of the students are members of the Bradon Forest School Choir!) The morning went well and Graham is very keen to do follow-up interviews with our students on their return from India and later in the summer, Morocco.

Drama News: *Waiting for Dave* – Mrs Purcell Arts Manager reports:

“On Thursday 26 and Friday 27 January, the Bradon Forest Theatre audience were treated to the first ever public performance by *In For a Penny Theatre Company*. The young company consists of three friends who met whilst studying Drama at the University of



Aberystwyth; Adam Elliott, who plays Peter, David Reeves playing Chris and Philippa Bradfield who directed the piece. Philippa has been a regular at Bradon Forest since March 2010 when she came in to volunteer with some Drama classes and get some experience needed for her PGCE. Philippa graduated in 2009 with a degree in Drama. In May 2011 she worked with our Drama Club to devise a very



special performance called *The Importance of Being Arty*, a subject that was very close to the hearts of the students! Philippa who started her drama PGCE at Aberystwyth in September. said: “Working in Bradon Forest has inspired me to become a Drama teacher. I’ve experienced that working with young people in Drama can change their lives and I liked it!”

Waiting for Dave has been devised by the three over just two weeks of intensive rehearsals. The story is based roughly on the play *Waiting for Godot*. Two actors turn up to the first rehearsal for the play. But alas! There is no director. They then spend the next hour amusing themselves with various props and costumes while they ‘wait for Dave’. There was a variety of amusing characters, including a pirate, a dancer and an obnoxious father who are all created to help the ‘detective’ character find out what has happened to Dave. The two actors incorporated some comical physicality which really engaged the audience in to the story. I particularly enjoyed the ‘hat-off’ and ‘dance-off’. Everyone loves a good dance-off!

Midsummer Night's Dream Review: In the January magazine we reported on the success of the student production *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The production ran over five days to very appreciative audiences. The students and staff should



be delighted with their success. When we read John Papworth's article in *Purton Today* which he edits we thought it worth sharing (John is a regular visitor to our theatre supporting both visiting professional shows and our student productions).

"I loved every minute of it. To stage a Shakespeare comedy is quite a challenge even for a professional theatre, but for a troupe of teenagers it might be thought to be daunting beyond measure. A history or tragedy play involves the players acting out events as they go along, and here they triumphed! It is tempting to start selecting names for commendation from a cast of nearly thirty, but it would lead to being impelled to name them all! For this was a first-rate effort, which was backed by staging, lighting, music and production management of professional standards which made for a first-rate evening's entertainment. Bradon Forest School have rightful claim to be proud of their work here and the standards they achieve."

LEN SPIERS, Headteacher

Cricklade Country Market

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

Christian Aid Week pre-preparations

Christian Aid week is approaching rapidly (May 13-19) and we are delighted that our prayers for extra people to help distribute and collect up Christian Aid envelopes in and around the village have been answered.

We have several new offers of help and we are really grateful to everyone who takes up the envelope challenge!

As usual there are all sorts of activities planned for Christian Aid week this year. Please keep an eye out in Purton Placard for the announcements.

There will be the usual quiz (available from the end of March) plus a special Christian Aid service, Film Night (come and sing along again!), a meal at *The Maharajah* and later in the year, a concert.

Please support Christian Aid as much as you can; we have to try our hardest to help people to obtain the basic necessities of life ... fresh water, a meal a day and reasonable sanitation.



Purton Historical Society Summer Outing

Our outing this year is on Saturday 16 June and takes us to Attingham Park (*right*), near Shrewsbury, built for the 1st Lord Berwick in 1785. It is an elegant house set in parkland designed to impress with a recently restored walled garden. A short distance away is the stunningly beautiful medieval town of Much Wenlock which is our destination in the afternoon. It is the birth place of Dr William Penny Brooks the



inspiration for the modern Olympic Games movement, and indeed Wenlock is the name of one of 2012 Olympic Games mascots. Visit the Wenlock Priory (*below*), Guildhall, museum or take a gentle stroll around this historic town with its traditional shops and many watering holes!

We shall leave Purton at 8 am and return to Purton about 6.30 pm. The cost will be £15 for National Trust members and £23 for non-members which includes a full guided tour of Attingham Park. Booking forms will be available at society meetings,



from In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill, or you can download a form from www.purtonmuseum.com and look for the outing link. You don't have to be a member of the Society to join us. For further information ring Helen Dixon on 01793 770648.

STOP PRESS . . .

Our tour of a local town or village and its environs will take place on Saturday 21 July. More information next Month.



Carnival: 15-23 June 2012

Theme: OLYMPICS

Well! Have you been thinking about what you are going to do in Carnival Week? Time is getting near and we hope you are planning to get involved. The Entry Forms are ready ... are *you* ready? Do not delay; time is flying.

If you have any queries or want forms please contact Pauline Ward (Secretary) on 01793 770251.

Here's hoping for some response **soon**.

PAULINE WARD, Carnival Secretary

At last spring is here and the days are getting decidedly longer – and so far, warmer and brighter! As you know, if you have been following what we do, we have been playing indoors over the winter period. But at the beginning of April we shall move outdoors and hope for wonderfully non-wet weather! Starting on Friday 7 April our mixed social sessions will begin at 6.30 pm. These are open to all members and anyone who would like to come along and have a ‘taster’ will be most welcome and when darkness falls we will hope to keep playing under the newly installed floodlights! I would also like to remind you that this year we have introduced a ‘social’ membership of £60. Please contact Steph Brown for details of all membership options. – on 07920 210784. Hope to see you around!

CAROLINE McLEAN

Centenary Celebrations

On Saturday 25 February seventy past and present members gathered at the Millennium Hall to celebrate the centenary year of Purton Tennis Club, including 97-year-old Alice Shailles. They enjoyed an evening of reminiscing prompted by a display of old photographs and newspaper cuttings put together by honorary member, Nicola Gardner. A cold buffet was also on offer and the splendid spread took everyone back to the days of ‘tea for two’ after the weekend matches!

Purton Tennis Club was formed on Tuesday 20 February 1912 when 23 people attended a meeting to discuss the possible formation of a club in the village.



Mr Drew presided, the Rev J Pugh moved and Mr Whitlock seconded that a Tennis Club be formed and the motion was carried.

The Cricket Club offered to provide and maintain two tennis courts on part of the cricket field. The groundsman would erect the nets, roll the courts and the pavilion could be used by the tennis club. The subscription, after long discussion, was set at three shillings, and the first match was played against Cricklade Tennis Club.

During the First World War the Tennis Club lapsed and was restarted in January 1919 when another meeting was held at the school to reform it. It was felt necessary to increase the subscriptions to five shillings and to limit the membership to 40 but to admit any



returned soldiers who wished to join. This rule, however, does not seem to have been enforced as in 1920 there were 65 members, which rose to 71 in 1921.

By the original court on the cricket pitch; founder member Ivy Woodward is in the centre of the top picture.

*Members from the 1980s
at the party in February*



The arrangement with the Cricket Club continued until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, when Purton found itself in the centre of a line of defences intended to stop the expected invasion of the German army. This consisted of a series of concrete pill boxes and a deep anti-tank trench which, when it reached the cricket field, avoided the cricket pitch, but was dug right across the middle of the tennis courts.

After the war was over three grass courts were established at the Red House and were tended with great dedication and authority by the groundsman, Edgar Ovens, who alone decided when the courts were fit to play on.

In 1965 as part of Purton Parish Council's plan for development three hard tennis courts were laid on the present site. Later that same year the County Council declared that they had a road-widening scheme for Church Street and Church Lane which would destroy the three grass courts.

In the late 1970s, early 1980s the Tennis Club experienced booming membership numbers as West Swindon was developed. This explosion led to Chairman, Derek Ward heading a plan to build two new courts 'over the road' by the cemetery. The Parish Council agreed to lease the land to the tennis club and this project was successfully completed in 1981 when the President of Wiltshire LTA, Basil Hutchins, officially opened the courts. 1981 proved to be an incredible year for the club on the courts with the Ladies, Men's and Mixed teams all recording doubles by winning both the Wiltshire LTA County Cup and Division One of the Swindon and District Tennis League. Indeed the 1980s proved to be the most successful for the club to date.

The club has continued to improve its facilities over the years with the addition of a practice wall and last year they received the 'Clubmark' status, an award that recognises good standards of child protection, coaching, equity and good management. Recently a grant to help in the installation of floodlights has been secured and by coincidence the workmen moved in to start the project just two days before the Centenary celebrations. This will enable Purton Tennis Club to offer year-round coaching programmes for juniors and increased playing time both in the summer and winter months for the senior membership. All this should mean a flourishing club equipped for the next one hundred years.

NICOLA GARDNER

Congratulations to the Tennis Club on their hundred-years celebrations. It was a lovely evening with reminiscing about days gone by, or should I say years gone by. I had the honour and pleasure of escorting a lady, Alice Shailes, to these celebrations. Alice actually played for Purton Tennis Club when they played at the end of the cricket field in the 1930s, but the war came and a trench

Alice Shailes with Tony Price

– a tank trap – was put right through the middle of the courts, so that was the end of playing tennis there.

Interestingly, Alice still has her clothes that she wore for tennis in those days. I tried to encourage her to wear them that evening – she is still sprightly enough and I am sure she would do them justice. Anyway Alice – it was lovely to take such a knowledgeable lady who gave a lot of answers to a lot of questions during the evening.



Many thanks to the Tennis Club for their kind invitation to share in their centenary celebrations. I expect they were more than happy with the way the evening went – we certainly enjoyed it and the buffet reminded me of the teas we used to get playing matches – all home made and delicious. I expect now they play their matches first and eat after – it was a bit uncomfortable playing after eating halfway through. Congratulations to all on achieving one hundred years as a Club. It has not been easy with all the different moves they have had over the years but it goes to show what determination can do. Well done.

TONY PRICE

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



Having recently attended the tennis club's centenary celebrations, I was fascinated to hear the reminiscences of Alice Shailes who remembers the club when the courts were situated on the edge of the cricket field, until they were dug up at the beginning of the second world war to accommodate a 'tank trap'. One of the highlights for Alice was the arrival of the local baker, Mr Gardner, with his famous lardy cakes. When I showed Alice a photograph from around 1902 she was able to tell me about the players who included her father John (Jack) Shailes.

Cricket in 2012 starts early at Purton with friendly matches against Wootton Bassett on 7 April and Marlborough on 14 April.

From the Archives – Club Minute Books

17 Jan 1967 – Committee Meeting. The finance committee reported to the meeting that 90 tickets had already been sold for the forthcoming dance ... At this point the chairman offered a bottle of whisky as first prize for the raffle.

5 Dec 1969 – It was decided that the following should be invited to become life members of the cricket club because of their services to PCC:- Mr A Smith, Mr G Lloyd, Mr C Jones, Mr R Hancock, Mr D Evans, Mr R Crouch and Mr H Barnes.

JOE GARDNER

Planning Alert! - Our Neighbourhood Plan

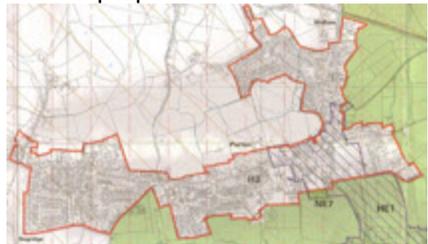
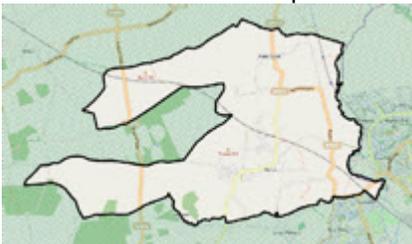


As you may know, Ps and Qs has a long term programme (Transform Purton Parish) to look at the sustainability of the parish (incorporating population, climate change adaptation, water, food and energy security, housing, waste management and so on). In anticipation of the Localism Act coming into force this month, Ps and Qs has been considering what *our neighbourhood* could look like. This is important because the Neighbourhood Plan is being proposed in the Act as the defining plan for future housing (in contrast to the Parish Plan which is merely for guidance and will carry little material weight during any formal planning exercise).

Simply Googling "*neighbourhood definition*" produces nearly 25 million references in 0.15 seconds. So, you would think that we might have a clear and unequivocal view of what a neighbourhood is? Apparently, not ... Trawling through some of those 25 million documents, one gets a sense that a neighbourhood is generally considered to be a living area, a place of work and a social environment where we find people interacting for utilities (e.g. grocery, butcher's, post office, surgery *etc*) support or mutual aid (e.g. Age Concern, Lunch Club, Parish Council) or for pure socialising (Historical Society, Gardeners' Guild, WI, The Angel *etc*).

It seems to be a space that *we learn to recognise by moving through it* while carrying out social and economic activities such as visiting friends and shopping. Neighbourhoods appear to overlap in relation to one's needs, the whole being centred on the residence. Moreover, the scale of a neighbourhood differs between urban and rural areas, where notions such as distance or local are different. A rural neighbourhood, for example, could cross a village or parish boundary because the social dynamic and public services sharing could be very high between two or three different places e.g. Bassett's supermarket, Cricklade's Vale pub and so on.

Beyond these considerations many problems remain: where does one draw the line? What features are important? And, what is a proper scale?



Already the boundary of the Parish of Purton (left) and the Framework Boundary (right) are different, but are either "true" neighbourhoods?

The use of borders, established more or less arbitrarily, can generate serious disillusion, frustration and injustice, and reduce validity creating problems for both subsequent use (e.g. planning) where the definition will intimately shape the findings (e.g. locations for housing) and also in comparing with other areas.

Unfortunately, there appears to be no magic formula that could bring together all relevant elements of a neighbourhood to create an all-purpose spatial grid.

However, Ps and Qs believes that the two categories; the features and the scale, are particularly relevant for, say, defining a neighbourhood in relation to housing for Purton Parish.

So, in order to produce a neighbourhood description as close as possible to the way it seems in real life, Ps and Qs has been working on this and hosted a preliminary discussion at last month's Local Day. The findings are on the web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk. There is still much work to be done but a key message (as one might expect) is that Our Neighbourhood has to reflect the common good and, most of all, the neighbourhood's people. If you would like to be involved please email advice@purtoninfo.org.uk or call Jacqui Lay on 770704.

Compiled by Richard Pagett for Ps & Qs
Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities
Valuing Community Life - campaigning for resilient communities
New members are always welcome
Contact: Jane Smith (772422) Jacqui Lay (770704)
or via our web site: www.purtoninfo.org.uk

Wiltshire Golf News

The US Masters starts on 5 April and suddenly the golf season is well and truly under way ... and to make it as easy as possible for those interested in either returning to the game or simply giving it a try, Golf Clubs across the county are organising starter sessions and other events to help you do precisely this. This activity will start during the week of 9-15 April (branded South West Golf Week) and will run into May and beyond for those who return to or take up the game. Families, young boys and girls are particularly welcome.

If you are interested, the first starting point is your local Golf Club. Otherwise, available Wilts-wide information will be published at www.wiltshiregolfpartnership.com for whom Joe Goulding will help you if requested at wiltscdo@live.co.uk or 07789 813268.

Champions of England!! After two days of full-blooded battle against



Warwickshire and Lancashire over the glorious links of Ganton in North Yorkshire, our boys contemplated their very own High Noon on Sunday 25 September. Nursing a deficit in the morning session, a mountain called Surrey would have to be overwhelmed in the afternoon if they were to claim Wiltshire's first ever national golf title. Five hours later, the scoreboards read Surrey 1 : Wiltshire 5, the boys had become men, our tractors (in the car park that is) suddenly looked more functional than their Bentleys, the last giant had been slayed, and Wiltshire were astride the pinnacle of England's golfing peak !

The "Pride of Wiltshire" above are: (back row) Jordan Smith (Bowood), Josh & Ben Loughrey (Wrag Barn), separated by Ali James (Cumberwell Park); (front row) Ben Stow (Rushmore), Kevin Phillips & Tom Burley (Broome Manor).

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Our well-attended February meeting enjoyed a talk by John Sutton on 'New Herbaceous Perennials'. John has a long career in horticulture, was a lecturer at Pershore College for many years. He is the author of two books, *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Salvias* and *The Plant Finder's Guide to Daisies* and for the last 15 years has written for *Commercial Greenhouse Growers* magazine. In 1966 he was asked to write a report on new varieties of flowering plants and in the course of his research visited Holland and many other countries. To give us a better understanding of the task involved, John highlighted the 'RHS Plant Finder Guide 2010-11'. It records over 3000 new varieties of plants of which probably about 500 are herbaceous perennials.

The slide show that followed highlighted a selection of new herbaceous perennials introduced since the Millennium. Among those shown were *Doronicum* 'Leonardo' with its bold yellow daisy-like flowers, Iceland poppy 'Spring Fever' with flowers of red, white, orange or yellow and aquilegia 'Blue Angel' and 'Clementine' both of which were bred to provide upward-facing flowers as opposed to the normal downward-flowering varieties.

For the 2004 Chelsea Flower Show, nursery men were looking for a digitalis (foxglove) with specific characteristics. It needed to be fast growing, with large flowers that should be outward facing from the spikes and in a range of colours. Breeders introduced the 'Camelot' variety. It fitted the bill perfectly and its display at Chelsea proved to be the largest exhibit in the marquee for that year. *Heuchera* 'Caramel' with its glowing apricot leaves fading to soft amber and 'Crème Brulee' with its peachy bronze leaves have proved to be very popular, their colouring in marked contrast to the traditional purple leaved varieties.

Chrysanthemum 'Broadway Lights' is short stemmed when in a pot but once in the ground will grow to 18". Its petals are cream with yellow centres. It's an easy-to-grow specimen and sells in large quantities. Another favourite of nursery men!

Helenium 'Chelsey' is named after the daughter of a cameraman who was killed in Iraq. The Dutchman, who bred this new variety, requested that all royalties from the sale should be given to the British Red Cross in memory of the cameraman and over £10,000 has been raised in royalties to date. Other new varieties included *scabiosa* 'Grand Stone', a lovely cut flower, *campanula* 'Avalanche' with black stems contrasting with its white flowers and globe thistle 'Arctic Glow' with stunning red stems and white flowers. Not to be forgotten are two new varieties of *veronica*, 'High Five' and 'Fairy Tale' and *astilbe* 'Heart and Soul'.

Judging by the number of members noting down the names of the plants, it wouldn't surprise me to see at least some of them blooming in Purton gardens in the coming years. Tracey Rapson proposed a vote of thanks for what was an informative and colourful talk.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to join us, we meet on the 4th Tuesday each month with guest speaker, raffle and competition. Visitors and new members are assured a warm welcome. At our 24 April meeting, we welcome back Kate Robinson talking on 'Promoting Local Food'. The competition is 'A spring arrangement'.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary) & DIONNE CHILD (Chair)

A TO Z OF PURTON

X is for ... xerophyte

... a plant which is adapted for life with a limited supply of water. With the prolonged periods of low rainfall that we have been having, reservoirs are at a 30-year low level and it would seem that hosepipe bans are inevitable by April in many areas. Purton Open Gardens is over the weekend of 14/15 July this year and those who are thinking of entering might well be thinking of drought resistant plants. Visiting these gardens will show which species survive best in dry conditions! (See [page 19.](#))

Y is for ... Yacht Club

Purton Yacht Club was founded in 2000 following a letter by David Schofield in a Purton Magazine in late 1999, calling on people interested in sailing or other forms of boating to form a club at The Angel. There was a large number of people from the village and surrounding area who joined and have been meeting at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month ever since.



While it is obvious that you don't need to live next-door to a Post Office to collect stamps, it may seem less so that you can have a Yacht Club as far from the sea as Purton lies. Many of the members past and present have boats berthed on the south coast ... Plymouth, Exmouth, Dartmouth, Fowey etc ... others sail at the Cotswold Water Park, which is much closer to home, while yet others merely share an interest in the subject and occasionally crew on other members' boats.

Early on, under the Commodoreship of David Schofield, it was decided that the Club Constitution merely stated that there wasn't a Constitution. With no club house, no marina and no other club costs there aren't even any membership fees.

If you would like to join us, come along to The Angel on the 2nd Tuesday of the month or, if you prefer, ring Bob Stimpson beforehand on 01793 771315.

Y is for ... Young Farmers Clubs

Are you aged between 10 and 26 ... interested in the countryside ... looking for fun and to make new friends ... ready to learn new skills? If so, then come along to Purton & Cricklade Young Farmers Club – a youth movement for the countryside. We meet every couple of weeks at our Clubhouse in Purton Stoke and also travel to other Clubs in the county for competitions and sport. You don't have to be a farmer!

If you are interested, come along to one of our meetings or visit our website www.purtonandcrickladeyfc.co.uk or contact Vanessa Collins (juniors aged 10-16) 07889 885776 or Margaret 07584 062200 (seniors).

Y is for ... Yoga

Yoga may not be something you immediately associate with Purton, so it may surprise you to know that dozens of Purtonians have been attending classes and practising over the last 36 years! Yoga was developed in India some 4000 years ago and is an acknowledged system for promoting physical and emotional well

being. It does this through stretching and strengthening asana (postures), pranayama (breathwork), meditation and relaxation.

In 1976 Muriel Bolton taught Yoga in the Methodist Church room. Thea Marchant was a student there and soon qualified to become a teacher herself. Thea initially held classes in St Mary's School hall around 1980, moved to Ashton Keynes but eventually returned to teaching in Purton in 1989, using the Village Hall on Wednesday mornings. Around this time a lady called Lucille taught Iyengar Yoga in the dining hall of St Mary's infant school.

I (Carolyn Blackburn) started going to Thea's classes in 1991 when my youngest son started school. I eagerly awaited each class, everyone was so friendly and I seemed to have an aptitude for Yoga. I found Thea's calm confidence so inspiring, I decided to train as a Yoga teacher, so undertook the three-year BWY (British Wheel of Yoga) teaching diploma.

I started teaching in 1998, initially at Wootton Bassett, Haydon Wick and South Marston. I was pleased to be able to help Thea keep her classes going in Purton and Lydiard when her husband Basil was in hospital. I began teaching Yoga at the Millennium Hall Purton in April 2001. Thea eventually finished teaching in 2003, ending a very successful career that brought joy and good health to many Purtonians.

I later qualified to train Yoga teachers and have run one course (20 students) at Purton Village Hall. I am delighted that one of my student teachers came from Purton, and Maria Looker now teaches close by. Yoga has traditionally been passed from teacher (guru) to student (yogini/yogi) so it is wonderful to maintain that continuity in Purton.

I still teach at The Millennium Hall on Thursday mornings and evenings. Several of my students have been practising Yoga with the various Purton teachers, almost continually since 1976. They are exemplary, youthful in appearance and attitude and I have learned so much through teaching them. Thankfully Yoga still appeals to young people so my students currently range in age from eighteen to mid-eighties and come in all shapes and sizes. Most are female but the men that attend say that Yoga helps them unwind, keeps them going in retirement or compliments other sports they practice.

As far as I know all the Purton teachers except Lucille trained with BWY. This body ensures competency, maintains standards and should enable teachers to safely adapt lessons to suit most people, sometimes in specialised groups or one to one. So if you've never tried Yoga, give it a go. It's survived all the crazes from Aerobics to Zumba so must have something going for it. And besides, it's now become a village tradition!

Many thanks to Anne Sweet and her diaries for providing names and dates.

Z is for ... Zebra Crossing

Purton's first zebra crossing was installed opposite the Silver Threads Hall in the last few years. Especially now that the new St Mary's school building is fully operational, the crossing has been beneficial both for traffic calming and pedestrian safety purposes. Indeed it has been seen as sufficiently successful that a second zebra crossing is to be considered further up the High Street, particularly to help pedestrians reach the Doctors' Surgery.

Oh yes it was ...

One of the best pantos yet, so someone said, but I wouldn't know, I didn't see it! Not from the auditorium anyway. However I did turn up twice most weeks from October to February for rehearsals, and the caste certainly had more fun in all the practices than during performances – but only just! I marvel at the ideas on how to improve the show that bounce around the PADS members, only to be told to “shut it” by the director. And how some methods of learning lines involve leaving it all till the dress rehearsals. AND the dual tasking exhibited by younger members who take direction and respond to cues whilst immersed in texting. And the best piece of advice I received from Dominic Waldron was “overact”, which takes a bit of practice. Not a lot!

I quietly observe how much effort by a crew of dedicated behind-the-scenes chaps and chapesses goes into a successful production, and I must mention names, only to apologize to those I have omitted. The script by Tony Richardson, based on YEARS of experience, was the key to fun and entertainment. Many people commented on the superb scenery depicted by Rod Waldron, with members of the caste painting the smaller side panels etc. How does he get that 3D effect? Phil and Sandy Keen were dressed all in black making the scene changes, whilst we hampered them by getting in the way. Lighting is a tricky business, expertly practised by Duncan Jocelyn, as is sound/electrics by Tony Webber, and special audio effects by Colin Littler; except he played motorbikes instead of escaping horses (accidentally on purpose). And the whole production was directed firmly but fairly by Sue Richardson. Never again I hear her cry! And the bar was (wo)manned by several volunteers cajoled by Wendy Johnson. And what I saw of the dancers from the wings was superb. See you all next year?

Special for me was that all 4 grandsons (under 4 years old) attended the matinee and got on stage for the singing. When I first appeared and one shouted “it's grandpa” I had them trained to respond to “Oh no it's not ...”, but unfortunately I did not hear the shout. When I was dragged on having been shot, a shout rang out “what's happened to grandpa?” Very amusing for those nearby, but sadly I did not hear that riposte either.

Panto is specially performed for children, but I was heartened to learn of an adult friend who cried with laughter. That makes all the effort worthwhile. Want to join the fun? Contact someone from PADS and come to auditions!

NICK YERBURY aka Lord Blessus

It seems a while ago now that we had our annual entertainment by our own local pantomime cast – ‘Way out Western’. What a great show it was – I say every year that it's the best yet – that's probably because my memory is not so good, but seriously you would not get better entertainment anywhere and the scenery was equally as good to match the show, and what was nice, they appeared to have some fresh faces and younger people as well. It was quite different from the normal pantomime but it doesn't detract from the excellence of the show, so congratulations and thank you to all concerned and we look forward to the next one.

TONY PRICE

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Seasonal activities have featured this month: 2nd Purton Brownies and the Guides made pancakes, although the Guides decided they could be improved with food colouring ... blue pancakes aren't traditional but apparently still very tasty! Rainbows made paper daffodils for St David's Day and the Guides have made Mothers' Day cards. 2nd Purton Brownies have now moved on to the Spring section of the *Four Seasons* challenge. They have held an indoor treasure hunt organised by Lauren, one of their Young Leaders, made kites and walked along Church Path to look for signs of spring. They were delighted to find that the bulbs planted for the guiding centenary in 2010 were coming up and that some were already in flower!

1st Purton Brownies held a very successful fundraising evening in aid of the Blue Cross. It was organised by the eldest Brownies and included a fancy dress parade, cake stall, quiz, craft and refreshments. Families and friends attending were very generous, raising a total of £132.98.

Celebrations have taken place too. 2nd Purton Brownies held a promise celebration for Emma, Georgie, Rianna and Laya whilst 1st Purton Brownies had a meeting organised by Taya, who was celebrating her time in Brownies before moving on to Guides. Guides are busy preparing for their birthday celebrations.

The big celebration for all ages was an event held in Wootton Bassett. World Thinking Day is on 22 February each year and a time when we think of other members around the world – an opportunity to learn more about each other from each other. We joined with other members within the Division for a service on the theme of friendship, both on a local and global level, before each age group moved on to different halls in the town for an afternoon of activities based on the five guiding world regions. The Rainbows' favourite activity was the making and eating of pizza. Amongst other things the Guides tasted Indian food and made African clay pots. The Brownie activities included trying on saris, decorating biscuits to look like flags from Arab nations and camel racing. With around 175 girls taking part, it was a great opportunity for them to see a very small part of the worldwide guiding family which numbers more than 10 million members in 145 countries.

Purton Rainbows got into the international mood beforehand thanks to Yenuri's mum and her sister Emma, who visited the unit and taught them a Bollywood style dance. The Rainbows enjoyed dressing up with pretty flowing scarves and bangles and were very good at the dance.

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

Did You Know ...

- The first product to have a barcode was Wrigley's chewing gum.
- The King of Hearts is the only King without a moustache.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.