

# Purton Magazine

October 2012



*Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith who will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's Church on 17 October - see article on [page 14](#).*

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
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

### **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](mailto:john.railton@btinternet.com)*

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

*Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770375*

*Alan Woodward, tel 771572*

*David Nettleton, tel 772298*

*[www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton](http://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

Traditionally autumn is a time for reflection and celebration. The first celebration in your magazine this month is the arrival of Ian Tweedie-Smith, the new Priest-in-Charge at St. Mary's. We are pleased to feature a photograph of Ian on our front cover this month so that all readers will be able to recognise him and give him and his family a proper Purton welcome.

After nearly three years without a permanent vicar, many are looking forward to his licensing, by the Bishop, at 7.30 on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – everyone is welcome and there will be some light refreshments available for more social introductions after the service; more details are on [page 14](#). There will also be a “back to church” Sunday on October 21<sup>st</sup> when everyone is also invited to attend whichever of the services they prefer.

The whole nation has rightly been celebrating everything Olympic and Paralympic – long may that warm glow of national pride persist. Quite apart from the mountain of memorable medals that placed the country 3<sup>rd</sup> in both tables and the ex-Bradon Forest student who swam in the 400m relay race, there has been so much more to celebrate. The Olympic Park itself will be a terrifically tangible legacy for many years to come, regenerating a run down area of London.

Perhaps even more importantly, the country and our community can benefit hugely from the intangible legacy created by the Games Makers. Those 70,000 vital volunteers became the public face of the games, eliciting the best compliments from the competitors and the biggest cheers at both closing ceremonies. They have also had a great time themselves, often with many personal achievements and benefits.

Volunteering is not new. The pulse of Purton is usually primed and pumped by volunteers as evidenced by the contributions to (and the distribution of) Purton Magazine. Most months we are pleased to publish several little ‘thank you’ messages from people who have received some extra care and support in times of tragedy and/or personal need. However, we also know that so many more voluntary good deeds continue unannounced because numerous visitors are continually commenting on our caring community.

Many have already recognised that giving is more rewarding than receiving. Wouldn't it be a wonderful local legacy if future editions of your magazine could include details of even more local voluntary contributions together with some descriptions about how the volunteers themselves have benefited.

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Golden wedding anniversaries being celebrated  
– see [pages 16 & 19](#)

**17<sup>th</sup>**

October is the date for licensing the new Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's  
– see [page 14](#)

**71%**

of Bradon Forest students achieved 5+ A\*-C grades  
– see [page 29](#)

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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

Typeset & Printed by: **In Touch Services**

**Advertising enquiries and copy for contributions**

*by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, please*

to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB  
tel & fax: 01793 772954 email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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## Parish Council News



**Widham Farm Inquiry** – The Inquiry started on 21 August and lasted for three days, which included a site visit. The Parish Council representative Cllr Michael Bell, Unitary Cllr Jacqui Lay and Dr Richard Pagett were all present to speak against the development and they are to be congratulated on the contribution they made at the Inquiry. The outcome of the Inquiry will be unknown for some time. We will however keep you informed through the magazine of any updated news.

**Tadpole Bridges** – Work is continuing and the river bridge should have been completed by 15 September. From 17 September, as some may have already found out, there will be no through access along Tadpole Lane. Cyclists are being diverted along the National Cycle Route 45 (Berrimans Lane). Given the poor surface of the lane the Parish Council has asked Swindon Borough Council if it can make some improvements.

There has been a change to the railway bridge embankment stabilisation due to the unknown presence of counterforts in the embankment, which were installed in the 1940s. In October the Parish Council will be meeting with various parties to discuss the loss of the tank traps which sadly occurred at the early stages of the project.

**The Fox** – You may have noticed that at the end of July a metro count was put across the road at The Fox for seven days. This was done as a result of local residents complaining about the speed of traffic using the road. The result of the count is as follows:

A total of 11,280 vehicles were checked. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 37.6mph (the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below).

Wiltshire Council has certain criteria and in a 30mph speed limit such as The Fox the following criteria is applied;

- 30 to 34.9mph 85<sup>th</sup> percentile = No Further Action
- 35 to 38.9mph 85<sup>th</sup> percentile = eligible for Community Speed Watch
- 39 to 42mph 85<sup>th</sup> percentile = eligible for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme

Therefore The Fox will fall into the Community Speed Watch option. The Parish Council will be liaising with local residents about this to see if any of them want to participate in a Community Watch scheme.

It is unfortunate that local residents have to go to these lengths when speed restrictions are in place and should be adhered to by motorists.

**The B4553 – Bremhill Bridge, The Pry** – the Parish Council is asking the Area Board Transport Group (CATG) to look at improving safety on this bridge given its narrowness and the fact that this is a designated lorry route, either by means of traffic lights or a priority scheme, also to look at reducing the speed limit to 40mph along this section of the B4553 and other sections of this road.

**Mud Lane Inquiry** – the Inquiry is scheduled to be held in Purton Village Hall on 13 and 14 November 2012.

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**The following Planning Applications were approved by Wiltshire Council:**

N12/01699/FUL 18 Waite Meads Close, rear and front dormer

N12/01779/FUL Greenacres, Purton Stoke, partial change of use and southern extension of building to form office

N12/01965/FUL 15 Vasterne Close, garage conversion & front extension

**The following Planning Applications have been refused by Wiltshire Council:**

N12/01219/FUL & N12/01347/CAC 4 Church Street, demolition and replacement of boundary wall

**How to contact the Parish Council:**

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email address: [clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk)

Website [www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/purtonparishcouncil](http://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.

## News from the Trustees

At the moment our thoughts and prayers are with a fellow Trustee, Fred Boswell, on the loss of his wife Shelagh and with their daughter Tracey and son-in-law Ray Thomas, who is also a fellow Trustee. Shelagh has battled bravely with illness for the last few years. She was a sociable and very kind lady, especially to the residents of Hooks Hill and there was one particular lady that Shelagh was always there to meet when she returned from the Cedars Day Centre. She would make her a cup of tea and help her get something to eat – perhaps this is only a small thing to most people but when you are not in the best of health it means a lot. At Christmas time she would invite some residents from Hooks Hill down to her bungalow for a little party. In fact she was almost a part of Hooks Hill with the kindness she showed them. She would be invited to their parties and it was no good trying to sit down when music was on because she would get everybody who was able up and jigging around. We offer Fred, Tracey, Ray and their family our condolences and I am sure the people of Hooks Hill will miss Shelagh and remember her for all the joy and pleasure she brought into their lives.

I spoke last month about the vandalism at the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre. We have had a meeting to sort out the problems. It might seem slow moving at the moment but one thing that has been put into place is that the Police are patrolling the area more often. As far as I know no one has rung 101 to complain about issues at the Centre lately so let's hope the trouble has died down.

Do not get the wrong idea that we are sitting back, hoping the trouble will go away because we are not. People must realise we are a Charity in a conservation area and everything must be discussed first and, of course, there is the financial side which is the biggest stumbling block, as the Charity relies on the money it receives from rents etc. We will do our best with the resources we have.

This piece was ready to be sent to the magazine when we have heard of vandalism at the Village Centre this weekend (8 September) – I spoke too soon!

*TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees*

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## Purton & District Age Concern



I had just finished my piece for the magazine when I heard of the death of a lady for whom I had the greatest respect – the lady's name is **Jean Haines** of New Road and I hope, with modern technology, this can be transferred to the front of my piece to show the respect she deserved.

Jean was a person that a lot of you would not know as she didn't come up into the village a great deal, especially in later years. Jean was born in Nannygoat Terrace into a large family by the name of Huntley. I think there were about twelve in the family so things were not easy as most of Jean's growing up was during the 1939-45 war. I said she didn't come up into the village a lot but in those days she would have come to school and, on leaving school, I am pretty certain she went to the Saturday hops in *The Angel*. Later on she married Fred Haines, still living in New Road. Her husband Fred worked for Hills at the brickyard – in fact he had some position like foreman. After a while they moved to the house that was the other side of the crossing – the brickyard side, roughly where Paul Booth operates from now. When Hills had the four new houses built in Nannygoat Terrace, Jean, Fred and their family moved there, like going back to base for Jean, but that meant she never moved out of New Road.

Why I have the greatest respect for Jean was the way she got on with life, never moaning and groaning about things and, believe me, she had a hard life in many ways. When she left school at fourteen she worked at the Dental Factory (as we always called it then) but now it is Associated Dental Products. She must have worked there for well over twenty-five years on and off and what was more amazing is that she would walk there and back every day. She couldn't ride a bicycle because of a deformed foot that she was born with.

I suppose one of Jean's treats was when she would take the children out for a walk, call back in the Workman's Club and have a shandy and a packet of crisps though this was only occasionally. This was the time when ladies and children were not allowed in the bar and there was a special room with no bar in it – the men would buy the drinks and bring them through. I do not suppose she had much time to socialise as she was bringing up her five children and then caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as doing the garden when she was a little younger. Mind that gave her a lot of pleasure and a little relaxation. I would think she loved her garden, not only flowers but vegetables as well and, from what I have seen, she was very successful at it.

In January 2008 the family held a surprise party for her at Purton Workman's Club. I bet that was a bit emotional because Jean would not think she was worthy of such an occasion, but it was a fitting tribute from her family to their mum, grandmother, great-grandmother and let's include the rest of the family and, of course, Jean's many friends. Goodbye Jean – you were an example to us all with your attitude to life, the way you worked and cared for others. I offer my sympathy to family and friends – she will be sadly missed.

It is sad that I have to report a distraction burglary in the village – the biggest

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problem is that you are all too trusting. This is what happened – a person called on a gentleman and said that the neighbour whose garden joined his wanted to cut the trees down between the properties at the bottom of the garden. This gentleman was quite pleased about this and said, 'That's good', so the caller asked, 'Would you come down and have a look?' which he did. Whilst they were looking at the trees the accomplice went into the house and a considerable amount of money was stolen – SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL – *if you go anywhere outside the house, out of sight of the door, make sure you have locked the doors and the same applies if you are inside the house, upstairs or watching the tv etc., – lock the doors.*

Here are a few other tips – if you have window locks, make sure you remove the keys to a safe place. Don't leave keys in door locks and do not leave them hung up close to the door. Do not leave valuables in sight of doors and windows. Activated external lights are good to illuminate dark areas around your property. If you go on holiday, ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property and to take the post in. Time switches on a couple of lights are a good idea, but please be careful.

I think from the remarks I have heard that Weston is the most popular destination for a day at the seaside. It is the only place by the sea that we can get to without a stop. Any ideas for a half-day trip and a whole-day one would be welcome. We are already looking ahead to next year. Our September mystery tour was enjoyed by all. It was a glorious day weather wise and the views were stunning. The trip took in Cirencester, Bibury, Burford, Stow-on-the-Wold, Toddington and Dumbleton, where we stopped for tea. My word it was some tea – sandwiches with various fillings, scones with jam, cream and a strawberry on the top and plenty of home made cakes, but the icing on the cake was the lovely cup of tea – none of this wishy-washy stuff and with it all there was as much as you wanted. We had a lovely warm welcome and all the ladies of Dumbleton WI seemed pleased that we had gone there for tea. Sue, the lady with whom I made the arrangements was so helpful – it could not have been easier. Our last trip of the season will be a mystery tour with lunch. If you haven't already booked, there might still be room so give me a ring on 770696.

We are still looking for people to do some befriending. What it boils down to is to visit someone for about an hour, or longer if you choose, have a chat – perhaps a cup of tea – it would brighten their day and yours we would hope. On the other hand, would you like a visit? It is no good having befrienders if they haven't got anyone to visit.

We had a very good jumble sale so our thanks to all you kind people who brought us items to sell, especially the gentleman who gives us new items. These are always a great attraction and sell really well. We also had two kind donations, one from a man who came in late when we were clearing up and it was too late to buy anything and one from a lady who could not make it to the sale. Of course we must thank all you people who came to buy – all these factors made an excellent day to the tune of £333.95.

Our next fund raising event will be our annual Antiques and Collectables Fayre at the Village Hall on Sunday 21 October, 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Refreshments will

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be available and anything for Jenny's stall would be greatly appreciated. Of course, if you would like a stall, there might be room. Give Jenny a ring on 01793 770339. See you there.

We have been told about a guitar free to someone keen to learn to play with instruction books and a CD, preferably for a junior. Give me a ring for further details on 770696.

My word what a heart-warming and uplifting spectacle the Olympics and the Paralympics have been. It makes you feel proud to be British. From all reports the organisation of it all was superb and the athletes matched it – they gave it their all so many thanks to all concerned for making it such a memorable occasion to go down in British history. As Lord Coe said in his final speech it was 'Made in Britain'.

*TONY PRICE*

## Shelagh Boswell

### **Excerpts from her Tribute (from Roy Thomas)**

Shelagh's childhood began in a world some of us associate with chirpy cockneys, pub knees ups, legendary criminals and the Dickensian underworld. But beyond those myths reveals stories of a loving and supportive community, hardships, kindness, resilience and humour.

Born Shelagh Stella O'Leary on 17 November 1936 in Bermondsey, London; she was the youngest of four children to her mum Rose and her dad Ted, who she was always very close to.

Owing to the relentless bombing raids of the capital city, Shelagh, her brothers Ted and Pat and her sister Audrey were all evacuated. Shelagh and Audrey went to a farming area called Tolgarth in Wales and stayed with the headmaster of the local school.

Shelagh always spoke fondly of those times, indeed she would, in years to come, return to Tolgarth to reminisce and remember those years.

Fortunately, with the end of the war, Shelagh and all her family were once again re-united back in London where she went on to complete her education.

On leaving school she began working as a bought ledger clerk; until she came to Swindon, after marrying Fred, in June 1957.

Shelagh and Fred met at a New Year's Dance in Woolwich; and just 6 months later they were married; the start of some 55 years together indicating an enduring marriage that, like most, had its ups and downs, but showing an understanding of each other's demands.

In Swindon Shelagh worked in Plessey's until starting her family with the birth of Paul and Tracey who recalls, "mum wasn't just mum to me; she was also my best friend."

Now although Shelagh's life revolved mainly around hard work she did not neglect her family and it didn't prevent her from living life to the full; she had always worked hard all her life, from Garrard's to her return to Plessey's; Shelagh not only coped with managing the demands of family, home and employment; she managed

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them all with consummate ease that only a special woman can, and Shelagh was special.

With those qualities, Shelagh was the ideal person to be working as a nursing auxiliary at the Stratton Hospital.

Shelagh took care of the sick; she valued her patients' dignity at all times and gave them respect as she toiled to make them feel better. Hers was the reassuring voice and the gentle arms that brought such comfort; but Shelagh knew that life was precious and spent many a waking hour preserving or improving its quality for others.

Indeed so proficient, one of the ward sisters suggested Shelagh might attend evening classes to qualify as a Registered Nurse which Shelagh did; the only problem ... the only course available was for teaching!

Grabbing the opportunity, Shelagh studied hard and gained the required training and qualifications to become a great teacher at Covingham Juniors and Nythe County Primary.

Shelagh's love of animals was forever present and the family small holding always had a variety of cats, goats, pigs, horses and even a cow.

Shelagh's was a versatile lifestyle and what makes that even stranger is the fact that she wasn't a country person ... she was a townie who came to the countryside and embraced it all.

Shelagh was an out-and-out successful breeder of a variety of dogs including Corgis, Westies and Shiba Inus and her favourite Tibetan Terriers, one of which went on to win the 1996 World Dog Championship. Shelagh's breeders affix was 'Ardgowyn'.

It was a shared interest with Fred who bred the larger breed of the Doberman dog.

Nevertheless, it wasn't just breeding, for Shelagh has won scores of rosettes and trophies for showing the dogs and went onto to qualify as a judge for Tibetan Terriers.

And with all this, she still found time to participate in her hobby of painting and art. She was talented with the oil colours, indeed some of her pictures were bought by her tutors when at university studying.

Shelagh has influenced and touched the lives of so many people through the years, including the residents of the assisted living homes of Hooks Hill, Shelagh brought so much joy and lightness to them.

Shelagh died at the Prospect Hospice on 25 August; I know she will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

A flame that once burned with such love, compassion and vitality flickered for just a short while and then quietly went out; leaving you all with the precious memory of just how brightly it burned and the warmth that it gave to you all.

## Record Library Visitor Numbers

On a normal Wednesday, Purton library averages between 45 and 55 customers with a previous highest visitor count of 69 in November 2011.

The last week of the Summer Reading Challenge 2012 and the monthly volunteer led Story Time session in the first half of September lifted the number of visitors to 89 – a new record for Wednesdays.

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## Ian Taylor (Postie)

**05.07.66 – 26.08.11**

For those who did not know him, Postie died suddenly in August last year, and with his passing, we lost a special son, brother, partner, friend and drinking buddy.

Among other things, Postie enjoyed his music, beer and having a good time, and this used to all come wonderfully together at the annual Fairport Cropredy Convention. He sadly missed last year's festival, and it was decided that he should not miss another, so at Cropredy this year, his ashes were laid to rest near the end of the bar. Hereby to be known as "Postie's Corner", and overlooked by an HGV with a bottle of Jack Daniel's on the dashboard, the Purton Cropredy Faithfull said our goodbyes to a truly decent bloke. The finale of "Meet on the Ledge" was never sung with more meaning.

"In the corner of a forgotten field in Oxfordshire, there is a part that will be forever Purton"

STEVE COTTON

## School Reunion Phone Number

The phone number for Kathleen Fuller (nee Kennet) is 01793 642981, and not as stated in the article on page 29 of the September issue of Purton Magazine.

The reunion is for former pupils of Purton School, and will take place on Friday 19 October, 7.30 pm at the Red House Club.

This is for those who left school at Christmas 1954 or Summer Term 1955. Their ages will by now be 72 or 73 years old.

As well as Kathleen, Vic Austin can be contacted on 01793 721495.

## Poppy Appeal

House to house collections for the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will take place from 27 October until 10 November.

Please support the 2012 Poppy Appeal.

*Mrs J E BERRY, Poppy Appeal Organiser*



## Coffee and Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits.

BOB TINSON

## Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

Your Magazine can be delivered free to your door every month for a £6 annual subscription 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](#).

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## Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

I've recently started at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust as Braydon Forest Project Field Officer, with responsibility for overseeing the management of the Trust's reserves in the north of the county. This includes the Trust's largest reserve at Blakehill Farm, part of which is located within the parish of Purton.



I'm re-launching a volunteer conservation group to assist with practical management of the reserve. The group will meet at the reserve car park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (except October 2012, when it will be on 13 October) between 11 am and 4 pm.

No experience is required and basic training, tools, hot drinks and biscuits will be provided. Volunteers should wear old clothes and sturdy footwear and bring a packed lunch.

If you have any queries, please get in touch. I'm keen to get local residents involved in our reserves and therefore hope to work with the Parish Council more regularly in the future.

*ELLIE JONES,*

*Braydon Forest Project Field Officer, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust*

Tel: 01380 725670 Mobile: 07713 201151 Email: [elliej@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:elliej@wiltshirewildlife.org)

### **Langford Lakes Nature Reserve Near Wiltom, New Wetlands Open**

Come and visit the biggest habitat creation scheme ever undertaken by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and see a real legacy for the future. We celebrate 10 years of Langford Lakes with a new wetland habitat by the River Wyre. Find out more at [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

## Bradon Forest Class of 1986

### **School Reunion February 2013**

For more information email Desmond Maxfield: [maximilian1969@yahoo.com](mailto:maximilian1969@yahoo.com); Lucy Lewis (née Cook): [peterluce@hotmail.com](mailto:peterluce@hotmail.com) or Alison Morrison (née Swatton): [alison.morrison@tesco.net](mailto:alison.morrison@tesco.net)



*LUCY LEWIS*

## The Lydiards and Purton Branch of The North Wiltshire Conservative Association

The Branch invites you to a luncheon to be held at Lydiard House on 18 November, 12.30 pm for 1 pm, when a two-course meal (choice of menu for everyone from three courses so as to accommodate dietary needs), plus coffee and mince pies will be served. A raffle will take place.

Tickets are priced at £17.00 and may be obtained from Mollie Groom (770 544) or Sue Cook (770 574).

We look forward to seeing you on 18 November.

*MOLLIE GROOM*

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## Children in Need



This is just a reminder about the our New Year's Eve Supper dance, (guess when it is) to be held in the Village Hall. It will be a race night followed by dancing till the early hours, raffle, song dedication and of course, a quality supper. Tables are for 10 people, but you can book a whole table or just buy individual tickets at £15 each. Lower age limit is 14, dress code is smart, no jeans or trainers please, ties are optional. It may seem a little early to think about this while some of you still have holidays to take but some tables have already been booked and we are limited to 13 tables.

Before that we have our walking Treasure Hunt on Sunday 14 October. Starting from the back of The Red House at 10.30 am it will follow some of Purton's many footpaths with clues to solve on the way. Suitable for families and dogs its a pleasant way to spend a Sunday morning arriving back in time for a burger and maybe a pint at The Red House. No need to book anything, just turn up.

In June of 2013 we are holding another Children in Need ball and once again we have already had interest shown in this event, It's too early to go into details at this time but one thing worth mentioning is that music will be supplied by the Graham Mack Band. If you saw them at the Jubilee Rock Night, you'll know why they are such a popular band.

For tickets and any information, phone Tony or Sue on 772581.

*TONY RICHARDSON*

## The Royal British Legion Purton Branch



Due to the very generous gift from Mrs Mabel Tuckwell on her death, the Branch has been able to purchase a new Branch Standard, as the old one is looking rather tired, and a combined laying up and dedication service of the Standards will be held in St Mary's church on Sunday 14 October at 3 pm.

This is a very important occasion to the Legion and we are expecting other Branch Standards and Legion members from around the county to attend.

We would also like as many Legion members from Purton as possible to attend and anyone else who would like to join us will be very welcome, especially ex-services and families.

Tea and biscuits will be available in the Red House afterwards and, of course, other drinks can be purchased.

Please come along and support us for this very special service.

### **Horticultural Show Committee 2012**

We would like to thank most sincerely all our sponsors, judges, advertisers, and most of all the exhibitors who took part on the day and made our show so successful.

Hopefully we will see you in 2013!

*HEATHER HARRIS (Hon. Sec.)*

## Wise Words

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

*Leo Tolstoy*

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## St Mary's new Vicar

Ian Tweedie-Smith is to be licensed as the new Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's from 7.30 pm on 17 October; all are welcome. After the service there will be an opportunity to mix socially, and light refreshments will be available.

This is an exciting time for St Mary's after a period of nearly 3 years without a permanent vicar and we hope you will be able to join us for our celebration and will support us with your prayers. The Church is an important part of our village and the arrival of a new Parish Priest is a significant event; an event at which we would like all parts of our community to be represented and welcome Ian and his family to Purton.

We asked Ian a few questions, some frivolous some a little more serious, so we can start to get to know him.

- **When were you happiest?** My first Christian summer camp as a teenager.
- **What is your greatest fear?** Forgetting my lines in School Plays.
- **What is your earliest memory?** Running to the front door to meet my grandparents.
- **Which living person do you most admire, and why?** Andrew Cornes - a vicar in Sussex - he really cares about people.
- **What's God like?** He is love and He showed His love by sending His Son to die for us.
- **What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?** When I am unrealistic.
- **What is the trait you most deplore in others?** Bullying.
- **What is your most treasured possession?** My Bible.
- **Where would you like to live?** Purton!
- **What makes you unhappy?** Selfishness.
- **What do you most dislike about your appearance?** My bald patch!
- **If you could bring something extinct back to life, what would you choose?** Mammoth.
- **What is the most important lesson life has taught you?** To trust God's promises.
- **Who would play you in the film of your life?** Rowan Atkinson.
- **What is your least appealing habit?** Last minuteness.
- **Why did you become a priest?** I and others believed I was called by God
- **What would be your fancy dress costume of choice?** Naval Officer in Nelson's time.
- **Cat or dog?** Cat.
- **Is it better to give or to receive?** Giving brings more joy.
- **What is your guiltiest pleasure?** Gadgets.
- **What is your favourite verse in the Bible?** Romans chapter 8 verse 28.
- **What do you owe your parents?** Support in education.

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- **What does love feel like?** Being accepted as I am.
  - **What was the best kiss of your life?** In a doorway with my future wife
  - **Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?** Arthur Wellesley (1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington), Horatio Nelson, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill, Queen Elizabeth II, Sean Connery, Judi Dench – though they might not get on with each other!
  - **Which words or phrases do you most overuse?** “Just about finished”.
  - **What hymn would you like played at your funeral?** Praise my soul the King of heaven.
  - **If you could go back in time, where would you go?** Battle of Trafalgar.
  - **How do you relax?** A long country walk or watching a good film.
  - **How would you like to be remembered?** As a man of God.
  - **Where would you most like to be right now?** Moved and settled in our new home.
  - **What is most important about your faith to you?** God has never, ever let me down.

*DAVID NETTLETON, Churchwarden, St Mary's Purton*

## Prayer for Purton

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

## Guest Speakers Available

Marie Curie Cancer Care in Wiltshire has speakers available who are eager to come and talk about the work of the charity and local Marie Curie Nurses.

If you are a member of a club, group or society please mention at your next meeting that we would be delighted to come and visit.

We understand that spaces at meetings for speakers are booked up quickly but do please contact us if you have a cancellation or for the following year's agenda.

For further details or to book a speaker, please contact Lucy Stockall on 01179 247 275 or email [lucy.stockall@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:lucy.stockall@mariecurie.org.uk)



## 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**.



## Church Floodlighting

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



- 15 September St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate the **GOLDEN WEDDING** of **Reg and Doris Wadsworth**. Congratulations and Best Wishes from all your loving family.
- 30 September St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **John Boast**, on the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Miss you and love you always. Wife Carol and all the family.
- Also in memory of **Shaun Adam Roberts**, our tiny Great Grandson, who was stillborn on 11 August 2007. Now cradled in the arms of Jesus. God Bless. And always in our thoughts.
- 6 October Congratulations to **Brian and Janet Cook** on their **GOLDEN WEDDING!** The church will be floodlit to celebrate 50 years Much Love Jose, George, Caroline, Kelvin, Louise, Rebecca and Simon.
- 10 October The Church will be floodlit to celebrate the **GOLDEN WEDDING** of **Jackie and Cyril Walters**. With love from all the family.
- 30 October The Church will be floodlit for **Jessica Mutter**, on her birthday. In loving memory from all the family.

*Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)*

*If the lights don't work, for any reason, we offer our apologies and, of course, we offer another floodlit evening for free, or your money back.. These things happen occasionally and it is really disappointing for all concerned.*

## The Merchant's House

The Merchant's House Autumn lecture on Thursday 4 October, will feature a debate with historians Michael Hart and David Du Cros, on the implications of 'The Norman Conquest'.

The venue is St Peter's Church, Marlborough at 7.30pm.

Tickets, £14 (£12 for MH Friends), are available from Merchant's House Shop.

All proceeds will go to The Merchant's House Appeal for the refurbishment of the historic house.

JEFFREY GALVIN-WRIGHT  
Hon Press Officer, 01672 519338  
[jeffreygw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jeffreygw@tiscali.co.uk)



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## Exhibit of the Month: Purton Home Guard

Most people today will only know the Home Guard from the BBC TV series, *Dad's Army*, where a group of men too old, too young or too infirm for the regular wartime services, or in reserved occupations, were enlisted to protect Britain on the Home Front after the miracle that was emerged from the disaster of Dunkirk in 1940. Originally called the Local Defence Volunteers



(LDV) they were soon renamed as the Home Guard. Our picture this month shows the officers and men of the Purton Home Guard on parade - there were clearly more men in a Company than was apparent from the 12 or so in the TV programme.

I am assuming that the photo was taken after the war or at least towards the end of it as, during the war years, there were far more important things to be done than having your team pictures taken. I also assume that the picture was taken on the lawn at Lydiard Park with the photographer standing on the balcony of the House itself. Maybe one of our readers can tell me?

We have several paper exhibits of the Home Guard in the Museum collection but nothing else. Most of the items are Special Notices and Weekly Order of No 1 Platoon, "I" Company (Purton) of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Home Guard dating from 1941 and 1942. Not all sheets give the name of the Commanding Officer of the Platoon, but those that do are given as Lt. D.G. Thomas. All are typed on whatever scraps of poor quality paper were available in those difficult days and as time goes on, the quality of the typewriter ribbon is clearly seen to deteriorate ... for the same reasons.

A few extracts are illuminating:

### 4.7.41: Special Notices

Shoulder Titles: These are to be worn on each sleeve of the battle dress, one inch below the shoulder seam. All H.G. and L.D.V armlets must be handed in.

### 12.9.41: Special Notices

SHOOTING. We have been unable to supply with rifles new recruits recently ... There are men (in the Company) who are known bad shots ... all these must take advantage of the facilities for shooting practice, or must be prepared to have their rifles withdrawn. H.G.'s who cannot hit a 6" square target at 25 yds. would miss a man at 50 yds, and although there is suitable H.G. duty for such men as stretcher bearers, messengers etc., they are certainly not entitled to hold rifles and ammunition.

Aug 5th. 1942: Weekly Orders

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Sunday Aug 9th. Firing on Open range at Chisledon. This practice will last into the afternoon. BRING YOUR LUNCH. Buses will leave Institute at 1000 sharp. Men will wear battle order, less Rifles and Gas Capes.

Weekly Duties at O.P. (Observation Post) Dusk 2130 - 2300; Dawn 0330 - 0500.

Note Carefully. Men on DAWN duty sleep at the Guard Room the PREVIOUS night. For example:- if you are on duty Wed. DAWN you sleep at the Guard Room on Tuesday night ready for O.P. duty in the morning.

The Home Guard was disbanded in December 1944 when the threat of any enemy invasion had clearly passed. Eventually their duties were to be taken over by Civil Defence and the Territorial Army.

However we also have some exhibits which show that the Home Guard members stayed together as a Comrades society. There are some receipts for printing and catering and coach transport to a Home Guard Supper in Wootton Bassett on 31 August 1946:

Invitations and reply slips by Swindon Press	15s 0d
Purchase Tax for above	£4s 6d
Transport by Fry's Coaches of Braydon	£1 5s 0d
Catering by A. Franklin 127 High Street Wootton Bassett	£7 0s 0d

The last 2 receipts bear 2d of Stamp Duty signed across King George VI stamps.

Papers from the Braydon Platoon include minutes of meetings in December 1959 and January 1960 deciding how to dispose of the balance of the Company's account with the Post Office Savings Bank. It was agreed to hand it over to the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion. R.J. Daniels signed the minutes as Chairman.

There will be copies of some of the papers on the Museum's web site at [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://www.purtonmuseum.com).

*RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer*

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

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

## Purton Guide Dogs

I did a Stall at the Swindon Mela in the Town Gardens on the Saturday of the Bank Holiday weekend, and took £76.22 in Trading Goods and Tombola tickets. Unfortunately the Cricklade Show was cancelled.

Many thanks for all your support.

*BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group*



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

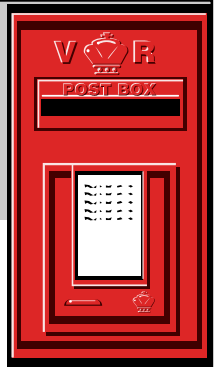
**OFFERED:** HP2510psc printer. A PC joystick. Also various suitcases (4 off). Telephone 01793 772350.

**WANTED:** Electric sewing machine for use by deaf people with additional needs, in their Workshop in Bath: Libbie 01793 771018

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

# 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.



## ■ LOCAL TRADESMEN

I wonder if someone can advise me where I am going wrong!

I have always believed in using local tradesmen for work on my property, have paid well, as and when required, and have even paid more than they have requested when they have come back to do more work. I have always done so to 'encourage' them to come back for those 'small problems' etc.

Why is it do you think, that when I need a small insignificant job done quite quickly, these local tradesmen ignore my requests of, "Can you call round and check ... so and so for me"?

I realise that they can be really busy trying to survive in this economic climate it seems, but why oh why do they lack the 'Common Courtesy' to help someone that has always paid well and considerately?

It seems that a small minority will just take your money and not worry unless they can make more out of you the next time!

There are those that pretty much have not deserved any more business from me based upon their, "I'll call you when it suits ME", attitude!

If there are any genuine Local Traders out there, I am moving away from those who I have used in the past, bar a good local plumber that is and he knows who he is!

*Chris Glead, Proud Close, Purton*

## ■ ROY HUNT

The family of the late Roy Hunt would to pass on their thanks for all the kind messages and cards that they have received since Roy's death.

Thank you to Revd Dr John Railton for a lovely service and for the donations received for Purton Age Concern Mini Bus Fund. A special thank you to Brain Moody and Terry Deacon for all their help given to Roy over the last few years.

*Stella, Jane Sue and David.*

## ■ THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you to all the neighbours and to Purton Age Concern for all the cards and flowers I received after my recent operation.

Also, thank you to my family and my wonderful carer, my husband Dennis.

*Gill Williams*

## ■ GOLDEN THANK YOU

Claire & Michael Housley would like to say THANK YOU for all the cards and good wishes received on the occasion of their Golden wedding on 1 September 2012.

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## Purton Diary - October 2012

2	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club
		7.30pm	Talk on Dementia at Purton Surgery
3	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
		7.30pm	Historical Society's Autumn Course starts at St Mary's School <i>(then on 10, 17, 24 October)</i>
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
5	F	7.30pm	PADS: The Government Inspector at Village Hall
6	F	7.00pm	Wessex Male Choir concert, Bradon Forest School (Christian Aid)
		7.30pm	PADS: The Government Inspector at Village Hall
<hr/>			
7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Parade Service St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
		8.00pm	After 8: Treasure Trail led by Avril at her house
10	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Rev. David Perkins
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		7.30pm	Quiz Evening at Bradon Forest School (PTA)
<hr/>			
14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church Anniversary Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Children in Need walking Treasure Hunt from Red House
		3.00pm	Royal British Legion Standard Dedication at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Lynda Warren
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
17	W	7.30pm	Licensing of Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith as Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Rob Millican - <i>My experience in the Fire Service</i>
18	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: Martin Collisson - <i>Georgian and Regency Drinking Glasses &amp; Decanters to 12.30pm</i> : Coffee Morning & Saturday market at Silver Threads Hall
20	Sa	10.00am	
		7.00pm	Murder Mystery Evening, Silver Threads Hall
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21	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	<i>to 4.30pm</i> : Antiques and Collectables Fayre at Village Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

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23	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild, Silver Threads Hall: Fred Swift - <i>Bee-Keeping</i>
27	Sa	10.00am 1.30pm	Shoebox filling at the Methodist Church Table Top Sale by Helping Hand at Village Hall
28	Su		<b>End of British Summer Time</b> - clocks go backwards
		8.00am	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
30	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: WI Entertainers

**Every week**

Tu	9.15am	to 11.30am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12noon: Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
W	7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Red House
Th	9.15am	to 11.30am: Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	11.15am	to 1pm: New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
Th	2.00pm	to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
Th	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

**Moon Phases**

 8 October     
  15 October     
  22 October     
  29 October

To put your Events in the Diary Pages, contact Purton Magazine  
 c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, or email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**We Record ...**



**Baptism**

August 18      Hunter Benjamin Elliott *at St Mary's Church*

**Weddings**

August 18      Bruce Benjamin Elliott & Magdalena Adamczyk  
*at St Mary's Church*

September 1      Wayne Daniel Matthews & Fiona Marie Lay *at St Mary's Church*

September 8      Dean Haines & Amy Megan Francis *at St Mary's Church*

**Funeral**

August 10      Ron Hunt *at Purton Methodist Church*

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

**Just a Thought**

Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors

*African Proverb*

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## Purton Historical Society

Paul Booy's next Autumn Course is on the emergence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its painful transition into modern Austria. Details are given below.

Our Society's next meeting will be on Thursday 18 October when Martin Collisson will tell us about Georgian and Regency Drinking Glasses & Decanters. We meet at St Mary's School Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Swindon Society's next meeting is on 10 October at the Broadgreen Centre Salisbury Street, Swindon when the subject will be Swindon BC Conservation & Urban Design ... some of us may feel that Swindon lacks design, so it could be an interesting talk!

HELEN DIXON, 770648

## Historical Society Autumn Course

### Tales From Vienna: The Habsburgs and After

A series of six weekly talks organized by the Purton Historical Society

Venue: St Mary's School Purton.  
Speaker: Mr. P. Booy B.ed. Hist. Hons.  
Dates and Times: See below  
Course Fees: £20 on the night, £18 if booked previously.  
Further Information: [Paul Booy](#)

Week 1: 3 October 7.30 pm

The siege of Vienna - Saving Europe -  
The Habsburg Empire

Week 2: 10 October 7.30 pm

The Ringstrass - An enemy gets close - Mayerling

Week 3: 17 October 7.30 pm

The Habsburg Empire - Hitler in Vienna

Week 4: 24 October 7.30 pm

Freud in Vienna - Sights and Sounds of Vienna

Week 5: 7 November 7.30 pm

The New Republic - Vienna in Agony -  
Civil War 1934

Week 6: 14 November 7.30 pm

Zones and Sewers - The Habsburgs: Gone but not Forgotten



*Austria's Parliament on part of  
Vienna's Ringstrasse*

## Purton Surgery Seasonal Flu Clinics

Call the surgery on 770207 to make an appointment.

A list of at risk people can be found in the September issue of *Purton Magazine*.

A special Saturday clinic will be available on **Saturday 6 October** which, as with all clinics, is strictly by appointment only.

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## Green Tips - A Year of Celebrations



Wow – what a year 2012 has been! The chance for the UK to host the Olympics and the Paralympics plus the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has bought out the opportunity for communities across the country to celebrate in many ways.

The strength of our community was shown at the events which Purton people took part in. Early on in the year on 1 May, Purton's Historical Society did us proud with their display on Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal, in the Area Board community tent at the Diamond Jubilee event which celebrated Wiltshire's heritage with medieval-themed activities at Salisbury Cathedral.

Purton people lined the streets of Royal Wootton Bassett to welcome the Olympic Torch as it started its journey in May. Wiltshire pulled out all the stops with the Olympic torch passing through twice, initially through the north of the county and then in July to the south which was followed by a huge community festival displaying musical talents from the county at Hudson Fields in Salisbury.

In Purton the Jubilee committee hosted a wonderful event for the Jubilee weekend, starting with the Parade of Banners down the High Street, and a free day of entertainment at the Red House Village Centre. Although the weather was not typical of a June day it was hard to dampen the enthusiasm, and festivities continued in the dry at the Village Hall. Purton's beacon at Pavenhill was lit as part of a national grid. An evening of fireworks was postponed but then was held later, in September, extending the celebrations into the year.

In Purton Stoke they kicked off their celebrations with a best-decorated house competition, then a fancy dress parade and procession of old vintage cars to *The Bell* where they continued celebrating with tea parties, games and stalls, dog show and pig roast – the community all enjoyed themselves and also raised a large sum of money.

Khalique Ali and Wendy Johnson put on an excellent British Tea Party with an Eastern Flavour at The Maharajah, raising money for a Purton Charity - Age Concern - and also an overseas charity - Umeed - which means Hope. This charity helps disabled children, in a rehabilitation centre in Udaipur, to acquire skills to enable them to earn their own living.

Also a brilliant 'Blooming Great Big Tea Party' in aid of Marie Curie was held at Purton Common, raising a large sum of money. Then we had Purton's traditional Carnival, starting with lots of events during the week leading up to the procession with floats going through the village and events on the fields at Bradon Forest School. Pauline Ward, who has during many years chaired the Carnival Committee, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her contributions to our community – Congratulations, Pauline.

### **Also, this year:**

Open Gardens – a chance to see some wonderful gardens around the village.

Ps & Qs put on a Local Day – showcasing Purton businesses and compiling a list of more than 150 small and large companies in the parish.

Residents from the village set up a steering group to start the Parish Plan –

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sending out in August a questionnaire to households. The Parish Plan is an important part of community-led planning and will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan. It helps us to determine what we value in our Parish and what we feel we would like the village to look like in the future.

Purton was represented at the Olympics with Grant Turner, an ex-Bradon Forest Student, swimming in the 400m relay race.

Will you be inspired to make a real difference to our community and join in to help events happen in the future? So what will the legacy of this year be for our community and also for Wiltshire?

- Keeping community spirit;
- Value of volunteers in a community;
- A sense of belonging and pride in our country;
- A feeling of achievement when raising money for charities;
- Joining in and taking part, getting to know each other and enjoying the company of friends.

I am sure that we all have our own special memories of this past year – and stories to tell ...

Compiled by Jacqui Lay 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](http://www.purtoninfo.org.uk)

## Calling Purton's Young Golfers

Entries are now open for junior golfers from across Wiltshire to take part in the 27<sup>th</sup> Hills Junior Golf Championships, to be held at Marlborough Golf Club on Thursday 25 October 2012.

Mike Hill, chief executive Hills Group said, "It is a great day for kids to come along and have some fun on the course. The competition caters for younger and older kids and there are a number of prizes to be won. We anticipate that the inclusion of golf as an Olympic sport from 2016 will inspire young Wiltshire golfers to take part in this type of competition where they can hone their skills for the future."

Players aged 10 and over will play the full 18-hole course, whilst those under 10 will play 9 holes. Entry fees, which include a light meal, are £4.50 for the 18-hole medal and £4.00 for the nine-hole medal. Tee-off will be from 10.30 am with prize-giving later in the afternoon.

You can obtain an entry form from Wiltshire golf club pro-shops, download one from Hills website [www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/community.html](http://www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/community.html) or call Monique Hayes on 01672 518941. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 10 October 2012.

Notable past winners of the competition who all went on to become professionals include Swindon-based European Tour and past Ryder Cup player David Howell (1991 and 1992), Gary Harris (1989), Gary Haugh (2003) and Richard Scarett (2004 and 2005).

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## Carnival 2013

We have started planning for next year's Carnival in June, so book 29 June in your diary for the Procession and Fete. Let us make it a super Procession to celebrate Helping Hand's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – quite an 'innings'. The rest of the Carnival Events are being discussed and planned – watch this space.

For your information, the result for the 2012 Carnival was given with one nought too many – it should have read £2,100.

*PAULINE WARD, Carnival Secretary*

**Correction:** The editors of Purton Magazine would like to apologise for this error caused by over-optimistic fingers and any confusion it has caused.

## St Mary's C of E Primary School

Come and visit us in our New School! Tours for Prospective Parents and Carers on Fridays 28 September and 5, 12, 19 October, meeting in Reception at 9.30 am.

No appointment is necessary at these dates but other visiting times are available by appointment. Contact: [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or phone 770239.

## Swindon Older Peoples Forum

The next open meeting and AGM will be on Tuesday 16 October (1.30 - 4 pm) at Gorse Hill Community Centre, Chapel Street, Swindon SN2 8DA.

Come and join in a discussion on "Isolation of older people in Swindon – let's make contact!" Refreshments are provided on arrival and transport is available for those with mobility problems.

To register interest or for more information, phone 01793 612037 or e-mail: [dave.abrown@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.abrown@btinternet.com)

## Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund (Registered Charity 1116986)

... Presents their annual **Christmas Craft Show** on Saturday 3 November, from 10 am to 4.30 pm at Purton Village Hall. Entry is free and includes a free tea, coffee or squash and biscuits.

Help us solve your Christmas shopping dilemmas! Crafts include glassware, Christmas decorations, pyrography, bags, clothes, preserves and cakes, scarves, jewellery, belts, watches, cards, candles, pottery, honey, hats, sock bunnies, cushions, baby crafts, soft furnishings, notebooks, soaps and more ...

There will be refreshments including sweets, light lunches and teas and a morning and afternoon raffle.

For further details please contact: Lynda Warren at [Lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk)



## Maxim for Life

I'll go through life either first class or third, but never in second.

*Noel Coward*

# PURTON PLACARD

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

**A Concert**  
at  
Bath Road Methodist Church  
by  
**ENCORE**  
Thursday 18 October  
at 7.30 pm  
Tickets £5 on the door  
All proceeds to  
**Breakthrough Breast Cancer**

**Back To Church Sunday**  
Whether you only come to church,  
once or twice a year,  
have never been,  
have stopped coming,  
or come regularly  
to St Mary's Church  
**please come and join us  
for the new vicar's  
first service**  
**Sunday 21 October**  
**8am, 10.30am & 6pm**

**BRADON FOREST PTA  
POP/GENERAL QUIZ**

Friday 12 October 2012  
Bradon Forest School  
Time: 7:30 pm  
**Licensed Bar**  
Maximum 6 Per Team  
£10 per team  
To book a team contact  
Helen Griffin

**A Performance by Award Winning**

**WESSEX MALE CHOIR**



**with guest choir 'JUBILATE'**

at Bradon Forest School, Purton  
on 6th October 2012  
at 7.00pm

Tickets available from:  
Bradon Forest School, In Touch Services  
Wendy 771749, Libbie 771018, Mary 770505  
Price £9.00; concessions £6.00

**All profits to Christian Aid**

**Christmas Craft Fayre**

Saturday 27 October  
11 am - 3 pm

**at Flaxlands Manor Farm**

Flaxlands, near Hook

Childrens activities

Spinning and Cooking Demos  
Cafe

**Local Charity Fundraiser for  
Motor Neurone Disease**

**Purton  
Helping Hand  
Ladies Night Out**

Thursday 22 November  
8 pm at Village Hall

**PURTON ARTISTS  
31<sup>ST</sup> EXHIBITION**

TO BE HELD AT  
**THE VILLAGE HALL  
LOWER SQUARE, PURTON  
NOVEMBER**

**FRI 9th** 6pm-8.30pm  
**SAT 10th** 10am-4pm  
**SUN 11th** 10am-4pm



St Mary's Church  
will be holding a  
**Murder Mystery Evening**  
on Saturday 20 October  
in conjunction with PADS  
in Silver Threads Hall  
at 7 pm

Tickets £10  
to include a two-course meal  
(bring your own drinks)  
Tel: Sandra 770157, Sheila 770970,  
Val 771201, Gladys 770375

Age Concern  
**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES  
FAYRE**

Sunday 21 October at the Village Hall  
10.30 am to 4.30 pm

Admission 50p  
Refreshments available  
Raffle and many interesting  
stalls to browse round  
Further details – Jenny Barnes 770339

**Purton Age Concern  
T'AI CHI**

Come and experience  
this gentle exercise  
on Thursdays from 2 to 3 pm  
at the Millennium Hall  
£3 a session  
Further details from Mick Hull  
772453

**PADS  
The Government Inspector**

a comedy by Nikolai Gogol,  
directed by Dominic Waldron,  
on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 October  
(two nights only)  
at The Village Hall, Purton  
Licensed Bar available from 7.30pm  
Tickets available from The Best One  
or Sue on 772581, Lindsey on 771890  
cost £6 (sorry no concessions)

**Whist Drive**

on  
Wednesday 7 November  
at  
**Silver Threads Hall**  
in aid of  
**Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

**Purton Silver Threads  
Jumble Sale**

17 November – 2 pm  
Silver Threads Hall  
Raffle  
Bargains  
Refreshments

**MORE PLACARD  
OVERLEAF**

# PURTON PLACARD

- plus -

Journey of the seed!  
**Harvest Celebration**  
for all ages  
something for everyone  
**BRING AND SHARE** lunch  
in church after the service.  
All welcome  
**Sunday 7th October**  
10.30am  
St Mary's Church,  
(Gifts of food are  
welcome for the  
offering)



**WELCOME**  
Come & welcome the new vicar  
**Ian Tweedie-Smith**  
to Purton!  
St Mary's Church  
Wednesday 17 October at 7.30 pm  
Everyone is welcome  
Service with the Bishop  
Refreshments served

**Barb Jung**  
*Sings Bob Dylan*  
Brinkworth Village Hall  
Saturday 20 October  
Bar Opens at 7.30 pm  
Show Starts at 8 pm  
For ticket prices and more info  
Contact Yvonne on 01666 510545  
or Jo on 01666 510045

**Purton Helping Hand**  
**Table Top Sale**  
27 October at 1.30 pm  
at the Village Hall  
Table £6  
Tel 770251 to book  
Admission 20p  
Children FREE!  
Raffle and Refreshments

**Purton Silver Threads**  
**Coffee Morning**  
& Saturday Market  
20 October  
10 am - 12.30 pm  
at the Silver Threads Hall  
Miscellaneous Goods For Sale  
Raffle and Tombola

## Group for Patients: Purton and Green Gable Surgery

### **Talk on Dementia** by Dr Simon Manchip

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry and Memory Problems

Tuesday 2 October 7.30 to 9 pm at Purton Surgery.

Also present will be Heather Wannell, Legal Executive specialising in Wills, Probate and Elderly Client Affairs

Free event but tickets are required due to limited seating.

Tickets from Purton Surgery, tel 01793 770207



## Summer 2012 Results Report

We were very pleased that 71% of the year group (235 students - 55% boys and 45% girls) gained 5+ A\* - C grades with over half, (52%) gaining 8+ A\* - C grades. 26% of the year group gained at least 3+ A\*/A grades. Our top performing GCSE students this year include Hope Steadman 5A\*/6A (pictured left) and Leah Hayden 9A\*/2A. Leah also obtained a grade A for her GCE A Level Philosophy and Ethics Extended Project qualification (unfortunately Leah was on holiday and we will get a photograph at a later date).

11 A\*/As: Leah Hayden (9A\*/2A); Hope Steadman 5A\*/6A; Alexander Hutcheson 3A\*/8A; Charlotte Densham 11A; 10 A\*/As: Gemma Perry 6A\*/4A; Halene Somal 6A\*/4A; Alec Baker 5A\*/5A; Lauren Stannard 3A\*/7A; Tina Mander 2A\*/8A; 9A\*/As: Daniel Davey 2A\*/7A; Sarah Searle 1A\*/8A; 8A\*/As: Iona Hudson 4A\*/4A; Emily Tidball 4A\*/4A; Kai McWhirter 3A\*/5A; Victoria Egerton 8A.

On results day, large numbers of students came into school to collect their results and members of the local press were also present, interviewing and photographing very happy students and proud parents.

## A Level Success News

Early indications from both Cirencester College (CC) and New College (NC) are of yet another very successful year for ex-Bradon Forest students, with large numbers going onto degree courses. Particular congratulations to two of our 2010 Year 11s: **Harley Viveash** (NC) who achieved two A grades and an A\* in English Literature, Drama & Theatre Studies and Ancient History. Harley is going to Oxford University to study English. Harley was Deputy Head Boy and our top performing student in 2010 gaining 10A\*s. **Chris Deeley** (CC) achieved an A\* in Geography, grade As in Chemistry, Economics and Law and is going to Cambridge University to study Law. Chris did very well at GCSE at Bradon obtaining 9A\*s/1A. *(There have now been more than twelve ex-Bradon students who have gone to Oxford and Cambridge during the past 6 years.)*

## Bradon Forest 'Olympic News'

It is fantastic that Laura Halford, Year 11, is featured as the face of Rhythmic Gymnastics in the A-Z of sports in the official 2012 souvenir programme; a superb photograph and a fantastic honour that is well deserved! Laura is an international gymnast with a very bright future. As a school we worked with Laura and her family to support her gymnastic career especially with the international training camps and competitions.

In addition to studying for her GCSEs, training and her international sports career, Laura was also a terrific Head Girl plus she achieved 6A /4B grades at GCSE.

Grant Turner, ex-Bradon Forest, was a member of the Team GB 2012 Olympic

Swimming Squad. We worked with Grant to dovetail his studies with his swimming career. Grant went onto Loughborough and Australia, gaining a relay Silver medal at the Commonwealth Games. Grant was a member of the 100m Freestyle squad. They sadly missed out on progressing to the final but it was a real accomplishment to perform at 2012.

Year 8 Paralympics trip: On 4 September 2012, two Bradon Forest mini-buses left at 7.30 am to go to the Olympic Park. 30 Year 8 students were starting school a day earlier than their peers and had an opportunity to experience the London 2012 Paralympic Games first-hand. Mr Hartley, Mr Matthews, Miss Pratten and Miss Hall accompanied the trip to see two blind football matches. The challenge for both students and staff was to remain silent so that competitors could hear the ball. This was the second Bradon Forest visit to the Games as we also distributed 36 free tickets to see Team GB play at the Olympic Games in Cardiff in July.



### End of Year Awards Assemblies

This year over 1000 parents, relatives and friends attended over the four days! Due to the awful weather all week we were unable to use the field as a car park, however our new prefect team did a fantastic job using the playground and the assemblies/parking caused no inconvenience to the running of the rest of the school. Our Awards Assemblies are a special event for both students and staff, with guests invited each year to present awards.

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

Year Group	Students		Student of the Year	Sportsman of the Year	Sportswoman of the Year
	receiving award(s)	Tutor Group of the Year			
Year 7	104	7T	Georgia Samrai Stephen Hoy	Luke Jones	Eleanor Phillips
Year 8	133	8T	James Keen	Patrick Whittaker	Ayren Walker
Year 9	136	9W	Lauren Field	Cameron Shaw	Kirsten Harris
Year 10	126	10R & 10S	Elliot Gunton Emma Hobbs Elliot Willoughby	Adam Bradley	Polly Whinfrey Laura Araoye

### World Challenge Trip to Morocco July 2012

The 2012 Bradon Forest School World Challenge team had to face every challenge that was presented to them as a team ranging from the 50°C heat while working in Goulmima (it was not much



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cooler when trekking up) to the Moroccan versions of campsites where we often spent several hours trying to hammer pegs into solid rock: the preferred campsites seemed to be rocky boulder fields only inhabited by biting ants! The team overcame these obstacles together and overall had a tremendously successful expedition. The trek phase in the Atlas mountains was completed successfully and we achieved our objective of climbing the 3,230m high Tizi N'Tacheddirt mountain pass together on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the expedition, as part of a marathon day that started at 4 am and had the team walking for over 13 hours. We then travelled for 12 hours into the heart of the Sahara Desert to a small town called Goulmima. Here we stayed and worked in a small primary school. The team worked solidly to renovate the site: this included stripping and painting two classrooms, repairing and decorating the toilet block and washing facilities, and producing a mural to welcome the students to the school and remind them of us. All in all we used a lot of paint (much to the amusement of the locals) and even managed to mix and use plenty of our own signature –“Bradon” green! Many thanks to Mr Lemin and Mr Heathcote for this report and for running our 2012 trip. (Plans are underway for the India Link 2013 and World Challenge 2013 trips.)

### **UKCA National Schools' Cheerleading Championships 2012**

Last term 37 girls from Bradon Forest School's Cheerleading and Pom Dance Squads performed at the UKCA National Schools' Cheerleading Championships at the Manchester Velodrome. In the KS3 Level 1 Cheerleading category we finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place. In the KS4 Level 3 Cheerleading category we finished 4<sup>th</sup> and in the KS3 Pom Dance Level 1 we finished 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Swindon Champions - Boys Year 9 Football:** Final score: Bradon Forest 7, Wootton Bassett 2. A fantastic result, topped off with captain Luke Neves being awarded the 'Man of the Match' trophy. Overall it has been a superb season for the boys. They have worked incredibly hard, shown great determination and ability, along with a fantastic attitude towards their teammates and the opposition, and in the process played football the “right way”. This enabled them to proceed to the finals via a couple of “giant killing” performances against Kingsdown and Highworth (last year's runner up and winners respectively).

### **Continuing Basketball Success– 2011/12 Season Overview:**

Overall it has been another fantastic year for Bradon Forest in the Swindon schools, county and national competitions. It is a huge testament to the lads' attitude, effort, commitment and ability. A total of 64 boys have represented the school this year and each one of them has been excellent, as well as fantastic ambassadors for the school. They should all be hugely proud of their achievements. The final standings for the season are as follows:

- Year 7 Unbeaten (No Swindon School or national competitions at this age group)
- Year 8 Swindon Schools winners (No County or national competition at this age group)
- Year 9 Swindon School winners, County winners, National Cup last 32 in country
- Year 10 Swindon School winners, County winners, National Cup last 32 in country

*LEN SPIERS, Headteacher*

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No problem discovering the whereabouts of the meeting of 15 August – you could smell those roses, lilies, carnations – and a particularly good white rose called “Avalanche” – outside the Village Hall, and then and before our very eyes a demonstration of how to arrange flowers into a magnificent display (and for ham-handed me, nothing short of a miracle). We hope that the welcome visitors to that Open Meeting think that we are all adept at the wonderful craft of flower arranging, as demonstrated by the brilliant Anne Bartlett. Somehow it wasn't just flower arrangement that she taught us, but confidence in our own abilities, too. “Have a go – you can do it!” seemed to be her catchword, and she suggests that joining a flower club when you first move into a new home is a most sensible way of making friends. (This seems a good idea, to be added to “Join the WI” as well!) We certainly enjoyed a truly lovely evening. And the many lucky raffle winners received the flowers as prizes. As ever, a great evening at Purton WI.

We have now paid for our WI calendars and diaries, and can soon start filling them with fun to come. For example, bookings for “Aladdin” at the Wyvern on 3 January were racing away and if we can get to the 1 pm show, there will be time to go for tea afterwards at *Blooms*. And Helen Dixon has another jolly winter idea – Bangers and Mash lunch on 18 January, 12.30 till 2 pm. So you see, you need those diaries, and don't forget to have cameras at the ready for a picture of “Water in Wiltshire” for the 2014 Federation Calendar. Snappit now, before we start moaning about a drought again.

The speaker for the meeting of 17 October will be Mr Rob Millican, on “My Experience in the Fire Service”. No question of the importance of this talk as there will undoubtedly be a description of the sort of unthinking mistakes we all make at some time or other. In Social Time we shall be given a Quiz on Fire Safety. This is going to be one of those really important and useful evenings – the serious side of WI.

And while you are there, do pick up a copy of our latest fund-raiser – a Quiz, £1 a copy with a prize of £20, and we have until December to complete it. And when you collect your own copy, perhaps you would be good enough to take copies to sell to your friends and neighbours? It is amazing how the pounds build up into a decent amount that can be used for the benefit of all, and the £20 prize could buy the winner a really nice Christmas present! Let's see – 3 bottles for £10 ... you can work it out for me!

CONSTANCE REED, tel 771571

*[Ed. The Quiz sheets are available at WI Meetings, from Committee Members and are also on sale at Best One and In Touch Services.]*

## Cricklade Country Market

The next Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 26 October from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Following the retirement of several of our members we are desperately in need of some new producers and helpers to continue this longstanding and valuable local asset.



let's just concentrate for a minute on Purton Tennis Club. On Saturday 8 September the club hosted its annual Miller Cup tournament. This year with more couples than ever taking part, with two barbecues sizzling away most of the day, and with a record £1055 made at the close of play, Purton can be very proud of its club. The money raised will be divided between the Prospect Hospice and Hasag, who are a support group for sufferers and the families of people who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma cancer, also known as Swindon disease! The day was blessed with glorious sunshine, the children had a bouncy castle and 20 pairs of players enjoyed a wonderful day which ran from 10 am to 5.30 pm. The tournament was won by Graham Read and Becki Poole of Swindon, who beat Purton's Jason Stevens and Hilary Coates in a very high standard final, with the score 6-3. In the evening a disco and raffle took place at the Red House.

The club would like to thank our local *Maharajah* Restaurant for donating a prize to the raffle and also the people of Purton for their great support of this special event. The club would also like to thank Justin Miller for running the tournament so effectively and for all the effort he has put in to generate enthusiasm for the club and the game of tennis in particular.

Nicola Gardner, who coaches young members of the club and encourages them to play "for real", reports that The Annual Junior Singles Tournament, held on Saturday 1 September, was again a great success with 9 competitors impressing with their improved tennis and great sportsmanship. The winners were Daniel Horsell in the Senior Boys, Oli Madsen in the Junior Boys and Daisy Kendall in the Junior Girls. Well done to all who took part.

In the Adult section our congratulations go to the Mixed A team for winning against Swindon, with the match ending on a nail-biting tie break. Thanks to Paul Day, a well-used reserve. Congratulations to Shane Horsell and Jo Adams, Justin Miller and Ange Baldock for a tremendous effort throughout the season and well done, too, to the Men's A, who put in a stupendous effort to be runners-up in Division 1. Men's B were winners of Div 3 – Shane & Daniel Horsell, Bob Pimble and Marc Cox, congratulations! This means that Purton will have 2 trophies to lift at the presentation evening which we are hosting in the village hall on Saturday 17 November. It should be quite an evening of celebrating – and partying!

And finally a reminder that social tennis is well under way, with Tuesday evenings from 6.30 pm being Ladies Night and Friday evenings are for mixed players. With our floodlighting operational we can carry on if necessary – and weather permitting – till 10 pm.

The club always welcomes new members of any standard of play and we would advise anyone planning to come back to the sport or to start (no age limit!) to visit our website, [purtontennis.net](http://purtontennis.net), for up-to-date information on our activities. We look forward to seeing you around!

CAROLINE McLEAN

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## Purton Cricket Club [purton.play-cricket.com](http://purton.play-cricket.com)



On Saturday 20 June 1953, a few days after the Coronation of Elizabeth II, Purton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI travelled to Wroughton. It was to be a day fifteen-year-old Don Gleed was to remember. At 44 for 4, he went in to join a more mature player, Graham Miles. They took the score to 196 when both were dismissed; Purton declared at 196 for 5. The stand of 154 became a Club record and it has stood to this day.

Don now lives in Australia but he is kept in touch with club news by Club President, Dave Bisset. It was therefore a great pleasure for me and Purton CC when, with Lou and Brenda Hanks, he visited the ground recently. He commented on the changes and improvements he had observed and was able to recount old times when he identified most of the 16 players on the photographs from the 1950s.

A full summary of the Club's 2012 season will appear in the November issue of *Purton Magazine*.

### **From the Archives: Cricket's funny old game - 16 July 1991 - Purton v Goatacre**

Purton scored 95 and, at the start of the last over of the game, Goatacre were 91-6. The last over, bowled by Nick Manton, was one to remember. His first ball was hit for 2 (93-6). The second ball resulted in a catch (Neil Pack) and the third ball had the same result (Mark Gardner). Needing 3 runs from 3 balls, panic set in. The next 2 deliveries resulted in the batsmen being bowled. Purton won by 2 runs with one ball of the match remaining. Four wickets in four balls – well done!

JOE GARDNER

## Purton Bowls Club: Finals day 1 - 2 September

### **Men's results**

- Singles: Winner: C. Baker. Runner-up: D.Hall.
- Two-Wood: Winner: C.Baker. Runner-up: D.Hall.
- Mixed: Two Wood: J.Williams. Runner-up: C.Baker.
- Pairs: P.Berry, C.Baker. Runners-up: A.White D.Mitchel.
- Handicap: P.Boyles. Runner-up M.Crouch.

### **Ladies results**

- Singles: A.Fail. Runner-up: J. Fish.
- Two-Wood: C.Mitchel. Runner-up: S.Williams.
- Pairs: A.Fail J.Nolan Clark. Runners-up: D.Gingel, K.Fuller.
- Mixed Triples: J.Fish, C.Mitchel, J.Blackwell. Runners-up: K.Gardener, H.Gardener, A.Davyie.
- Mixed Pairs: A.Fail, M.Crouch. Runners-up: A.Davyie, K. Fuller.
- Novices: P.Hudson. Runner-up: B.Compton.

This was a nice weekend, the weather being kind to us, refreshments being served to Bowlers and spectators both days. Several club friendly matches are yet to be played: Smithy Trophy, Andy Rudden Trophy and Bartlett Triples. The Club Tour is from 14 September and the Presentation Evening will be on 13 October.

BARBARA WOOLFORD

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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

For our 28 August meeting, Duncan Coombs from Pershore College paid us a welcome return visit to talk to us on the subject of 'Autumn Colour & Interest in the Garden'.



Duncan had intended to base his talk around a slide show but a problem with the projector as the lights went down meant a sudden change of plan. This was but a momentary disappointment, for what followed was an extremely informative talk, presented by Duncan in an entertaining and amusing manner, albeit at the expense of some of our members. They know who they are!

Duncan explained that as weather is the determining factor for the length of the seasons, autumn can start as early as the end of August, lasting well into November, with early frosts and warm sunny days producing some of the best autumn colour. Over this period colour and interest in the garden can be provided by four main planting types - flowers, trees, fruits and bulbs.

**Flowers:** Duncan highlighted a number for particular autumn colouring and interest.

Hydrangea '*preziosa*'. This is a purple-leaved variety. Its flowers start off green, then turn to pink and then red. It likes a sunny position and will flower for months on end.

Fuchsia magellanica '*gracilis variegata*'. The flowers of this hardy, variegated fuchsia are red/purple and bloom through to October with a few lingering blooms in winter.

Penstemons are one of the most valuable late summer flowering perennials. They bloom profusely and come in a good range of colours. Duncan informed us that the smaller the leaf, the hardier the plant. For that reason it is advisable to propagate fresh stocks of larger-leaved penstemons by taking cuttings. Always cut just above a node, stripping the lower leaves. Cuttings will root easily in multi-purpose compost – five cuttings to a 3" pot. Water well and cover with a polythene bag. Cuttings should root within 14 days and can be over wintered in a cold frame.

Salvia microphylla '*desert blaze*'. This variety of salvia has variegated yellow and green leaves with bright red flowers that bloom over a long period.

Caryopteris '*heavenly blue*'. This is a late summer flowering plant bearing deep blue flowers against grey/green leaves. '*Worcester gold*' is a golden leaved variety with lavender blue flowers.

Hardy plumbago with its striking blue flowers, the violet blue spires of perovskia (Russian sage), lavender '*willow vale*' with its yellow green leaves and deep violet flowers and finally Japanese anemones completed Duncan's list of flowers for autumn colour in the garden.

**Trees:** Some of the most striking autumn colour is provided by the foliage on trees, in particular by acers. Duncan advised that we should always take account of the position of the autumn sun to determine the planting of Acers. At Westonbirt Arboretum, Acers are grown in glades to provide shade and protection from frost. Acer palmatum '*dissectum atropurpureum*' and Acer '*dissectum*' are two notable specimens for providing autumn colouring, the former has eye catching red foliage,

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while the latter has green summer leaves turning to rich shades of yellow in autumn.

*Cercis canadensis* 'forest pansy' produces clusters of pink flowers on bare branches in early spring, followed by purple leaves that become red and translucent in the autumn. Duncan informed us that Spetchley Park Gardens in Worcester have taken advantage of this by planting a line of this species either side of a pergola that runs from East to West in the gardens. In the autumn, visitors walking through the pergola are treated to a stunning display as the sun illuminates the leaf colour.

**Fruits:** *Malus robusta* 'red siberian' produces cherry-like hard, red fruits that remain on the tree throughout the winter. There is also a yellow fruiting variety, 'yellow siberian'

**Bulbs:** Duncan suggested cyclamen and autumn crocus for autumn colour along with amaryllis 'belladonna'. Its leaves are produced in late autumn lasting through to the following summer when they fall. At the point of flowering the plant is completely leafless hence its common name of naked lady.

Duncan recommended planting dual purpose plants, plants that will flower and then produce good autumn colour. *Viburnum plicatum* 'mariesii' is a prime example. It produces horizontal branches clothed in dazzling white flowers in spring, followed by beautiful autumn leaf colour.

Throughout his talk Duncan fielded many questions from members, always answered informatively but always with that element of humour much enjoyed by those present judging by the laughter

The winners of our August competition, '4 Vegetables', were 1<sup>st</sup> David Herbert and 2<sup>nd</sup> Janice Simpkins.

At our next meeting, on 23 October, Gordon Cottis will be joining us for a talk on 'Plants for a winter garden'. Our competition will be 'A vase of autumn leaves and berries'. New members and visitors can be sure of a friendly welcome so do join us.

MARGARET GOODALL (*Secretary*) and DIONNE CHILD (*Chair*)

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## How True!

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.

Henry Ford