

Purton Magazine



Spa Lane, Purton Stoke around the 1970s
photo: Jim Caslaw - see [page 31](#)

January 2013

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
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	Maurice Card	770338
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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Priest-in-charge: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, tel 770077

[email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)

Assistant Curate: Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627

Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770375

Alan Woodward, tel 771572

David Nettleton, tel 772298

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

Recently the village has been hit with the news that the development of 700 houses at Ridgeway Farm has been approved after appeal, despite opposition from all the Councils concerned. This decision seems unreasonable because it relies on an outdated, even revoked, housing strategy. It seems irrational because, whereas this Inspector did not find a five-year supply of housing that might suggest that this development was simply not needed, other Inspectors did find such a supply for North Wiltshire – both cannot be correct. A further key complaint against the finding is that it seems irresponsible because the Inspector readily acknowledges that the decision also relies on the Government's economic growth policy being kick-started by construction – which is simply not proper planning.

While local disgruntlement will probably rumble on into the New Year, Christmas is a good time to be thankful for living in our caring community. Yet again, this issue of your magazine contains several thank-you messages for increasingly different ways of helping others.

Most years, Christmas can create lots of cheerful and colourful accoutrements but soon afterwards, when their reason has been run, just throwing them away often seems rather wasteful. This month on [page 32](#) you will find helpful suggestions for re-using and recycling many left-overs.

Christmas is also a traditional time for church-going and our new vicar, Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith is offering a Taster Evening to introduce a Christianity Explored course starting in January; details on [page 15](#). Also, St Mary's church is seeking a part time Parish Administrator to support the Vicar and Curate as well as providing general office duties for the Parish.

In a lovely reminder of the origins of Christmas, a baby was recently born in most unusual circumstances – in the Shetland Coastguard helicopter some 1,000 feet up in the air. A doctor on Unst, the most northerly inhabited island of the UK, called for assistance in the early hours, long before the first ferry. The baby boy will have a very interesting 'place of birth' on his certificate – it is thought that it might be a navigational fix rather than either the place of take-off or landing. The pilot also had to increase the number of passengers on the flight list from his initial report when taking off – much to the amusement of flight control.

We hope that your Christmastide is just as exciting, if not quite so dramatic.

5 (now 6)

electric sewing machines
donated from
Purton
– see [page 19](#)

2013

Purton Directory
calling for
updated entries
– see [page 21](#)

£6,871

raised for the Poppy
Appeal by Purton Royal
British Legion branch
– see [page 6](#)

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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

Parish and Neighbourhood Plans – the Parish Plan is now progressing well, having had its first feedback meeting on 12 December. This is an important project and the more people that get involved the better as the end result needs to reflect the views of as many people as possible within the community.



As you may be aware we are also starting work on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Purton. The overall plan will include some other parishes within the Northern Area Board boundary. It will be interesting to see what shared problems there are across the parish borders. Purton has always had close links with the Lydiards given their closeness to Purton so this joint approach will hopefully prove to be beneficial and will also give a better insight into some of the villages that lie further afield. The group is called the North East Wiltshire Villages (NEW-V). One major bonus with this joint project is that it is being funded by Central Government and Wiltshire Council as part of what is called a frontrunner Vanguard Scheme. What we need to ensure is that local people take an interest and get involved with the development of this plan.

The Parish Plan work will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan and given that the information in the Parish Plan is up-to-date it will be very useful. The Neighbourhood Plan will become an important planning document. Before it can be adopted however it will need the support of local residents through a referendum. Fifty percent of those who vote in the referendum must support the plan for it to go the next stage which will be a public inquiry. A Planning Inspector will then determine if the plan can be adopted. As you can see this is not a piece of work to be entered into lightly. The involvement of the Community is essential, therefore you will be invited to attend a workshop on Saturday 23 February 2013 in the Village Hall. More details will be included in next month's Magazine report about this event. We hope that as many people as possible will attend to give their support to the project.

Cllr Nick Simpkins – sadly we said goodbye to one of our Councillors recently, namely Nick Simpkins. who has moved away from Purton. We hope Nick and his wife have now settled into their new home.

There will be a Parish Council election in May 2013, however if anybody would like to join the Council before then to get an idea of what is involved in being a Purton Parish Councillor, you can write to the Council including details about yourself and the Council will consider your application at its next meeting. If you would like to know more you can get an information pack from the Council Office.

Ridgeway Farm Appeal – no doubt you will have already heard that the Planning Inspector has approved the outline planning application for around 700 dwellings at Ridgeway Farm. The Parish Council is bitterly disappointed with this outcome as it will have a significant impact on our community particularly with increased traffic both through the village and on the rural roads across the parish.

Projector, Screen and Laptop – The Parish Council has been successful in securing funding for a projector, screen and laptop for use by the community. If you

would like to hire these items then please contact the Parish Council office.

Purton Cemetery – If you have visited the cemetery lately you may have noticed that our groundstaff have been working in the Garden of Remembrance. At the moment the area is looking rather sad as we have removed the grass and dug over the borders but it will not be too long before it is rejuvenated and we hope it will prove to be a very worthwhile project providing a pleasant, peaceful place for people to visit.

Wiltshire Council has refused the following planning applications:

N12/02189/FUL *Kempsters Court, High Street*, Conversion of barn/cart shed to dwelling (resubmission of 12/00886/FUL)

N12/01288/FUL *Setter House, Church Street*, 2-storey extensions to front and side, including extension to roof to provide loft conversion and provision of solar panels including solar panels.

N12/02216/FUL *Malfords, Locks Lane, Purton*, First floor extension to bungalow to form two-storey dwelling.

N12/02351/FUL *Hafaway, Hoggs Lane*, Replace single storey garage with two-storey extension.

The following planning applications have been taken to appeal by their respective applicants:

N12/02351/FUL *Hafaway, Hoggs Lane, Purton* – Replace single storey garage with two-storey extension. The appeal will be determined on the basis of written representation.

N12/01862/FUL *Caerhays, The Hyde, Purton*, Detached dwelling and garage with formation of new access at Caerhays.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

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

Between Christmas and New Year the Parish Council office will be closed, however in the event of an emergency a number will be provided where the Clerk can be contacted.

The Parish Council would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year.

Poppy Appeal 2012

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal in Purton and Braydon. The grand total of £6,871.52 has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal, which includes monies raised by the Purton Royal British Legion Branch during 2012. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work again this year.



JOYCE BERRY

Purton United Charities

The distribution of the charity funds will be made on
Saturday 26 January 2013 at Purton Village Hall
between 2pm and 3pm

Qualification to receive the Charity are:-

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

If you are unable to attend on the day due to **illness or disability only**, you may apply in writing by no later than 20 January 2013 to:-

Christopher New, 52 Byron Avenue, Wootton Bassett SN4 8HA or
Neil Miles, 5 College Road Purton Swindon SN5 4AR
Or any other Trustee.

CHRISTOPHER NEW, Secretary, Purton United Charities

Remembrance Service

We were very lucky with the weather when we gathered at the Cenotaph for the Remembrance Service to pay our respects to the men who had fought, with so many losing their lives, to make our country what it is – a great place to live, which we thank them for. It was a very fitting tribute to these men – there must have been well over two hundred people taking part in the service, led by our new Vicar Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, assisted by Revd Judith Wells. They did an excellent job and it was a little introduction for Ian into Purton and its characters.

The Cricklade Band, as always, was excellent and let's congratulate Lynda, Malcolm and Christopher Warren for the sound system. This was really tip top, the best yet, so many thanks to them for all their hard work, especially the setting up. These thanks also extend to the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion who organise the programme and Helen Griffin, from the Parish Council Office, who sorts out the road closures, the Police etc. Also let's not forget the Police who enforce the road closure – it makes such a difference to have an uninterrupted service. Could I also, on behalf of the Parish Council, thank the working party of Roger Lawrence, Ron Saunders, Bob Stevens, Geoff Tappern, Ernie Paish and Bruce D'Arcy Masters, who maintain the Cenotaph all the year – with help from John Lilley and Steven Hazell, who kindly do the hedges for us, so very many thanks to you all. It is a credit to you all how nice it always looks.

Cllr TONY PRICE

Maxim for Life

Only the weak are cruel. Gentleness can only be expected from the strong.

Leo Buscaglia

Swindon Dial A Ride & Community Transport - A Lifeline Service!

Swindon Dial A Ride provides door-to-door transport for people of any age who are unable to use existing public transport due to a temporary or permanent impairment or disability. Community Transport provides a vehicle hire service for local community groups.

Our fleet of fully accessible minibuses travel throughout the Swindon Borough including Purton and the Lydiards. The Dial A Ride Bus service can be used for a variety of purposes, such as traveling to work or training, going shopping or social activities like the cinema or bingo. The service runs Monday to Saturday 9 am to 5 pm; to book a journey simply call at 10 am the day before you would like to travel.

To use Dial A Ride you will need to register with us. For a FREE registration pack or further information please telephone 01793 616050 after 12 noon.

Community Transport has a range of wheelchair accessible minibuses that any voluntary or community group in the local area can hire. Perhaps you run a scout group or a senior citizens club? The minibus would allow you to take your group on a day trip or longer, maybe to the seaside or for a cream tea at the local garden centre.

Additionally, we have an Access Car available for hire to individuals, small groups or families where one member has a disability. It is particularly suitable for people who need to travel in their wheelchair. The hired vehicles can be used to travel anywhere in mainland Britain and could mean that a family member or friend can join you on a weekend break or summer holiday.

For further information about Community Transport vehicle hire please call 01793 617828.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Wiltshire Good Neighbours has grown! The scheme has proved to be very successful over the last 2 years and from January 2013 everyone living in rural Wiltshire will have a Good Neighbour Co-ordinator to call on. This has meant a few changes and the Co-ordinators are now based around the Wiltshire Council Area Board areas. I now cover the whole of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area – hence the change of contact details – see below.

For the magazines, I try to do a topical theme and in spring was foolish enough to talk of how to keep cool in the summer – did I jinx the weather? In the hope of a similar effect now, I am thinking of winter weather with snow and ice etc. You never know, it may not happen, but if it does ... are you prepared? It's good to keep a list of emergency contacts close, eg friends and family, local tradesmen, electricity, oil and gas suppliers etc. Also a good idea to have a "kit" handy including some long-life food, a torch, matches, candles. But most important is keeping warm. Make sure that you have easy access to blankets etc. If you are concerned about your safety in extreme weather conditions, call me for more information or to be part of the "Winters Journey" scheme. My number is 07557 110414 or email me at crickladerwbgncc@communityfirst.org.uk.



ELLEN BLACKER

Purton & District Age Concern



It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the loss of Mrs **Stella Hunt** of Witts Lane. She has not been in the best of health for the last eight years after suffering two mini-strokes when husband Roy became her main carer. As you know, Roy died a few months ago and you do not know how people react to such news, especially when they rely on that person so much. Although the whole family were very caring with love and attention to Stella, as much as they tried, they were no substitute for Roy.

Stella was born in Reading then the family moved to Leckhamstead, Berks, a little later where she enjoyed life, making her own pleasures one of which was cycling. I do not mean cycling around her home town but cycling to places like Leicester, North Wales and Southampton. She was also a very talented lady performing in local concert parties around various halls, singing and dancing. You do not think about people doing things like that when they were younger, but when you consider the type of person Stella was I bet she was the star of the show. It makes you think back to one's younger days – I can remember in Purton there were three such parties, like Sid Spiller's party – he was also heavily involved with the Recreation Hut and was a special constable. Mrs Webb of the Peak had a very talented family group who entertained – her eldest daughter Muriel eventually took over the running of this group. Mrs Purnell, who later became Mrs Sheppard and was Matron at the Childrens' Home in Restrop Road (or was it Wootton Bassett Road in those days) also ran a concert party. Believe it or not, I was in one or two of these parties at times! Sorry I got carried away with my memories.

Stella met Roy in 1954 and they were married in 1956 at Brightwalton, coming to Purton in 1962 by which time they had two daughters. Stella started work in Littlewoods but you know what they say about new surroundings, new house, well it happened to Roy and Stella – David came along. Later on Stella returned to Littlewoods where she stayed until she retired. On her retirement, she loved doing the garden – you could tell that when going past the house – the garden was always neat and tidy, then she would relax with a good book for a well earned rest I would think. After Stella suffered her strokes, our minibus was her source of transport to the doctors etc. The drivers all said what a pleasure it was to take her. She coped very well really with losing Roy and the family were very good, taking her to their homes and giving her loving care but, as I have already said, you cannot make up for a husband as hard as you try. To the family I would say you all did your best and our thoughts are with you all. You certainly put a smile on your mum's face.

We are so lucky in Purton to have a lady such as the person whose picture was on the front of last month's magazine. Sheila and I had the honour of being invited to **Pauline Ward's** presentation of her richly deserved award of the MBE by the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Pauline's one thought in life is trying to help other people and make their lives easier, never thinking about herself. It was a lovely village occasion, held in the Red House Club, where everyone was made most welcome. We saw people we hadn't seen for years socially and it was good to have

a chat and catch up. Pauline was able to socialise and speak to everyone as did the Lord-Lieutenant – a very gracious lady – who had a word with all the guests. What a great ambassador she will be for Wiltshire.

Pauline did have the chance to go to Windsor Castle to receive the honour and was offered transport and an escort but she chose to be presented with the award in Purton amongst her friends. I am sure she will look back on it with pride. Pauline has got a lot of good friends who put on this celebration for her and could I thank you all on behalf of the guests – you put on a buffet fit for a queen, which in our eyes Pauline is. The organisation was perfect – I am not going to mention names as it is easy to forget people but thank you – you did her proud!

The parties we have held appeared to be enjoyed by all – the first one was the 'less able' party in the Silver Threads. We decorated the hall the night before and we leave these decorations up for all to enjoy over the festive season. It looked really lovely, especially when the tables were all laid and decorated. The only down-side was the weather but, once inside the hall with a glass of sherry, it was all warm with a lovely cosy atmosphere, good food and entertainment by *The Jolly Roger*. What more do you want except perhaps a visit by Father Christmas if he wasn't too busy. Well, he did arrive, gave everybody a little present, entertained them with a game of bingo with a difference and everyone went home happy. Very many thanks to all the carers who kindly came along to assist.

On the morning of 24 November we put the Christmas tree up on the wall of the Institute, or should I say some young friends of Purton Age Concern put the tree up. It wasn't a very nice morning but the atmosphere was electric, with plenty of complimentary remarks floating around (I don't think!) but they were all great, especially the way they went up the ladder. Our thanks go to Ian and Adam, our stalwarts, and Lance (he's a new recruit – I hope he realises, now he's in the net, it'll be an annual job!) Could I add Nick Webb to the thanks – he was excused this year as he was abroad working, also thanks to John Butcher who kindly tested the lights for us. We mustn't forget our old hands (and new ones) on the committee for their input also.

It is amazing – the Christmas tree is put up annually as our thank-you to the village for the way they support us through the year, then what happens, Robin Gough kindly gave us the tree again and we were expecting to pay for the new lights but a local firm, Robert and Lawrence, kindly gave them to us, so many thanks to Lawrence Marchington. Along with our thanks go our best wishes to Lawrence and his partner Nicky, who are expecting a new arrival in the new year. All this means we make money from our tree – Mr and Mrs Orr-Ewing sponsor our tree but will not dream of having their money back when we have one given us. The gentleman who gave us a generous donation towards the new lights told us to put the money in our funds when they were given to us. All these lovely gestures mean such a lot – we are so lucky to have such support behind us.

The next item on the agenda was the 'able' party in the Village Hall, where our guests were our minibus personnel – we invite them as a little thank-you for all the marvellous work they do. Everyone was welcomed with a glass of sherry or fruit juice at their tables, which were beautifully decorated, as was the hall, then

tea followed with Geoff Walters playing Christmas tunes on the piano. After that we had PADS entertaining us with a very clever impression of the first radio broadcast of the Goon Show, with the likes of Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan. It certainly brought back memories to a lot of us. Then we were entertained by *Encore* – Geoff Walters is their director – up to the interval, when tea, coffee and hot mince pies were served and went down well. After the interval *Encore* entertained again, with carols and Christmas songs we could all join in. They were a joy to listen to – Geoff is very much involved with music in the Swindon Area – in fact he was playing to accompany the massed school choirs at the Oasis that Sheila and I have just had the pleasure of listening to. Could I thank all the ladies and gents for their hard work at this party. When you consider they were on from 10 am in the morning, it's a long day, but here again we were reinforced with some younger people who made our lives a little easier – special thanks here to these young ladies – Jane, Suzanne, Alison and Julie – who introduced a man into their team this year – Kevin – who come along every year to do the washing up for us and make the interval tea and coffee so that our people can have a breather. (They all seem to enjoy helping as you can hear their laughter in the kitchen).

Another success story was our market stall – why was it a success? Well it is all down to peoples' kindness. Thanks first to the shops in Pavenhill for allowing us to be there, then supporting us like they did, especially Andrew for giving us all those lovely sausages to cook for people to sample, and included in this I'd like to thank Robert Collis for loaning us all the cooking facilities – makes my mouth water writing about those sausages. It never ceases to amaze me what lovely things people give us to sell and their generosity, like the person who gave me £10 for two raffle books which actually cost £2, saying 'put the money in the funds'. Also the people who gave donations telling us to put the money in the funds although they didn't want to buy anything. When I tell you that we took £429 you can see why I am a bit overwhelmed by peoples' kindness.

I spoke earlier on about talented people like the PADS and *Encore*, well on Sunday 9 December we went to a concert at Cricklade – *A Festival of Christmas* – and it was a really enjoyable evening provided by amateurs, although you would not think that with the performances they gave. There was a choir of sixty, plus a silver band, a flute group and a compère. How did it all come together? you might ask. Well it was none other than Graham and Mary New who brought together all this for us to enjoy. It was made extra special for us when we saw a lot of the musicians that play in the band for our carols under the tree at the Institute on Christmas Eve and who brings them together for us – Graham and Mary New, the very same talented and inspirational leaders. So come along on Christmas Eve at 7 pm, join in the singing, enjoy the music and sample our hot punch and mince pies.

With all this Christmassy talk I mustn't forget to remind you about our Burns Night and Ceilidh which is on Saturday 26 January at the Village Hall, 6.30 pm for 7 pm. There is a licensed bar, a live band and caller and tickets cost £20 from Ron and Heather Harris – telephone 770850. The haggis will be piped in and there will be a wee dram for all to celebrate!

Before I finish I would like to thank our street wardens who are there for you. We know we give them a lot of work at Christmas as they lead very busy lives, but they get on with it. Don't forget, on top of the newsletter your street warden gave you with your voucher, you will find his/her contact details. If you want to know anything, contact your street warden with the details and, if they cannot help, they will get in touch with us and, if we can't, we will get in touch with Age UK Wiltshire or pass you on to someone else who can help you.

Finally very many thanks for all your letters, cards and verbal thanks we have received for our Christmas vouchers and may I wish you a happy and peaceful new year.

TONY PRICE

The Late Charles Joseph Hibbard

Charles, who was affectionately known to most people as "Pim", passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, in Great Western Hospital on 13 November 2012, aged 85 years.

His funeral service took place at St. Mary's Church on Thursday 29 November followed by cremation at Kingsdown and interment at Highworth Cemetery. St Mary's Church was floodlit that evening in his memory.

He and his late wife May lived in Purton for the majority of their married lives and raised their family at 22 The Fox. They were both active members of the village during their lives, helping on a voluntary basis with many different causes. They treasured the love of a large family and many friends.

Pim's children; Claire, Jane, Mark, Tracy and their families would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral service. It was comforting that so many people held Pim in such high regard. Special mention must go to The Reverend Judith Wells whose care and compassion helped Pim and his family through a most difficult time.

The most generous donations, in lieu of flowers and in memory of Pim, were made to St Marys Church PCC, The Prospect Hospice and Contact the Elderly, which is a charity offering lonely people, over the age of 75 years, regular social meetings with afternoon tea. This is a charity for which Pim volunteered, as a driver, in the last 7 years of his life.

We Record ...

Baptisms

2 December Chloe Alice Evans
 Emily Lucy Evans

Funeral

29 November Charles Joseph (Pim) Hibbard

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 ...





Carnival Procession 2013

Things in Purton are beginning to stir! I have had agreement to take part in the procession from the Wednesday Zumba group and St Mary's bellringers and definite interest from 2 others (when they confirm I'll give more details!) So, probably 4 down 46 to go!!

I know that one of the things that puts some people off entering is the wait at the beginning for an hour for the judging to take place. So this year we are changing it and the judges will be standing on the steps outside *The Angel* and will judge as it all goes by. People will obviously still have to get there before the start time (more details closer to the time), to get into the correct order, but the wait will be significantly reduced.

So, PLEASE talk in your groups/streets and with your friends to discuss entering. We can't have a procession without you! If you are willing to enter please let me know on marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk and I'll give another update next month.

MARY NETTLETON

On The Lighter Side

Lecture

An elderly man was stopped by the police around 2 am and was asked where he was going at that time of night.

The man replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replied, "That would be my wife."

Health & Safety

Mum used to cut chicken, slice eggs and spread mayonnaise on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't get food poisoning. She also used to defrost mince-meat on the kitchen sink AND I used to eat some raw sometimes, too. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper, in a brown paper bag, not in icepack coolers, but I can't remember anybody getting E.coli.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the river or local pond instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring).

We all played sport, and also did PE ... and risked permanent injury with a pair of plimsolls (only worn in the gym or the sports ground) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built-in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened, because they tell us how much safer we are now ...

How did we ever survive?

News about St Mary's Church

In September 2011 St Mary's applied for the temporary removal of two pews at the front of the nave to be made permanent. Some in Purton objected to this and the issue was sent to the Chancellor of the Diocese of Bristol for adjudication. The Chancellor has now agreed a compromise solution. This is that the two pews and associated panel currently in storage will be returned to the church and modified to make them removable as and when necessary, a heater currently sitting in a cut pew at the front of the nave will be re-sited and the pew restored, and the front of the nave will be re-carpeting. We will now appoint contractors to carry out this work. The Chancellor has also agreed to the provision of a plaque to mark the grave of Sir Nevil Maskelyne.

Those in Purton who have attended services recently will know that the sound system has become unreliable. The Parochial Church Council asked a specialist consultant for advice and he has designed a new audio/visual system for the church. This will enhance the quality of the amplified sound and reduce the risk of feedback. The design retains the hearing loop and has the option of plugging in additional equipment to enhance its capability to meet the needs of worship that includes instruments and singing groups. However, when this equipment is not needed it can be unplugged and stored away, so that it does not impact on the building. What will change is that the six speakers currently mounted around the nave will be replaced by four speakers high-up at the front of the nave. It is also planned to install a woofer speaker for low frequencies in a space behind the pulpit steps.

There is also a need to make provision for projected images in church. For example when Bishop Lee came for a confirmation service last year, he asked for a projector screen and we had to jerry-rig something. The consultant has provided us with good advice on how to provide a screen without it having a significant impact on the building. What is proposed is to mount a boom behind the north pillar at the chancel steps over the choir, which can be swung out when projected images are required. An electrically deployable screen is mounted on this boom that rolls up when not needed. So when not in use, all visitors to the church will see is a boom high up over the choir in front of the organ pipes; it will be painted in a neutral colour recommended by our architect.

In order to make these enhancements we need to apply for a faculty, just as we did for the pews discussed above. The first step in the process was to obtain a certificate for the work from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. This has taken some time as they have worked with us to obtain the optimum design. The certificate was issued in November and we will be applying for the faculty in January. A public notice will be displayed at the church and on the Parish Council noticeboard by the village hall and more information about what is proposed will be available in the church as the notice is posted. This is a significant investment for the church, it is likely to cost about £20,000, but it is necessary if the building is to continue to provide a quality place for worship for Purton.

DAVID NETTLETON, Churchwarden

A New Year Message from the Vicar

Each New Year brings new challenges and new opportunities, and for some folk there are New Year resolutions. I would like to invite you to take part in a New Year challenge, to come and to take a closer look at Christianity. For starters if you could meet God, and ask Him one question, what would it be? Maybe your question would be, "Who is Jesus Christ and why did He come?" or "Where can we find true security today?"

I would like to invite you to a meal and an introduction to the Christianity Explored Course. We are having a Taster Evening on Sunday 13 January 2013, at 7.15 pm at The Vicarage, Hyde Lane. And if you want, bring a friend. We will aim to finish by 9.30 pm. We will meet for a meal, a DVD presentation and a chat.

As this is just a Taster Evening if you decide not to come again that's fine. However if you would like to explore more about Christianity, then you would be welcome to join the course (dates, times and venue will follow). If you can't make the Taster Evening, don't worry, you would still be welcome to join the course, just let me know.

Remember, bring an appetite, and maybe a friend. If you need a lift, help with baby-sitting or are interested in coming, please call me on 01793 770077 or email via vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk. I look forward to meeting you.

Revd IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH

Part-time Parish Administrator Required

St Mary's Church is seeking a Parish Administrator to work two half-days a week in Purton. The role will provide administrative support to the Vicar and Curate and carry out general office duties for the Parish. The administrator will handle general Parish enquiries, some of which will require discretion. The role requires using office IT skills, and it would be helpful if candidates have some familiarity of the operation of the Church of England. Salary will depend upon relevant experience.

If you want more information about the post or wish to apply by 11 January 2013 by completing a short CV, please contact us at vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk.

Digital Champions

You may have heard that Wiltshire Council has set up a scheme to help people who currently have little or no experience of the Internet to get online or to improve their computer skills, or both. In the initial stages they are seeking help from volunteers who will act as Digital Champions. I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Cricklade, Purton and Royal Wootton Bassett and it will be my role to help recruit the volunteers and then to ensure that their skills are directed towards those that can most benefit from them. We are currently looking for volunteers in this area. You can either contact me on 07734 077604 or Jenny Wilcockson, the Digital Literacy Coordinator at Wiltshire Online, on 01225 793349.

ROGER HEAFIELD

Church Floodlighting

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



- 29 November St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Charles (Pim) Hibbard** on the day of his funeral.
Claire Jones, Mark and Jane Hibbard, Tracy Toomey and families.
- 18 December St Mary's Church was floodlit for all my wonderful friends and neighbours in **Waitemeads Close**.
Thinking of you and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Love, Carol Boast.
- 27 December The Church was floodlit in memory of **Denis Wood** who died on Dec 27th 1992.
20 years since I lost you but I still think of you every day.
With love from your devoted wife Barbara.
- 5 January The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Barrie Bunce's** birthday
For ever loved: and sadly missed
by Joyce, Karen, Kevin and families.
- 7 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Dale Herbert**.
Sadly missed by Mum and Dad and family.
- 8 January St Mary's will be floodlit for **Bob Wightman** MBE,
in celebration of what would have been his 101st birthday.
Love and best wishes from all the Wightman family.
- 14 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Val Davies**
on the 4th anniversary of her death.
For ever in our hearts.
Brian, Rebecca and family
- 20 January St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook**,
on the first anniversary of his death.
Very much loved and missed by
Sue, Emma, Lucy, Jonathan:
his grandchildren and all of his wider family and friends.

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.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery

Group for Patients - G4P

Group for Patients



Dr Evans Retirement

As many of you will now know Dr Evans retired from the practice at the end of September after 34 years as a partner. As this decision was made for health reasons we were unable to give Dr Evans the farewell we would have liked at the time. In line with her wishes we are hoping to mark her retirement properly in the spring when her health has improved. In the meantime we wish her a long and happy retirement. She will be greatly missed by colleagues and patients alike but she is pleased that the practice remains in good hands as Dr Bill Leggate becomes the new partner.

Surgery Computer Systems

Our current computer system has been very reliable and has served us well but it now has limited ability to meet the needs of the twenty-first century health service. It is now essential we upgrade our computer system. We ask all our patients to bear with us mid to late January whilst we get used to the new system. After the initial pain barrier we are confident that the new system will be much more efficient and fit for purpose to meet the demands of the modern National Health Service. In order to give maximum support to staff at the branch surgery (Green Gable), the surgery may be subject to some closures during this initial period.

Book Exchange

The book exchange in Purton surgery is now up and running; please put a donation of 50p in the box nearby when you take a book. Any donations of books will be welcome, please hand them to reception.

We are now on Twitter

G4P has now got its own twitter feed, the username is @PurtonSurgery. For those of you who tweet, please use it as a way of keeping up to date with the Surgery. However please be aware that we don't want Twitter to be used as a way of raising issues with the surgery, and we ask that communication with G4P is through the surgery or by emailing groupforpatients@gmail.com.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Purton Guide Dogs

We took £97.30 in trading goods and donations on our stall at the Christ Church Christmas Market. At *Christmas at Steam* we took £248.82 on the trading goods, and £168.50 on the Tombola. We wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Many thanks for all your support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



Just a Thought

If one cannot catch the bird of paradise, better take a wet hen.

Nikita Khruschev

It had been a bad drive through floods for many of us on the evening of 21 November (I thought I should have to be towed out of Manor Hill at one point), but it was well worth it – we entered the Hall to be met by an excited Committee and a new toy! We now have a fine projector which will show the minutes on screen throughout the meeting, and details of all that is and will be going on – an absolute mine of information taking up little space but ineffably useful. The cost of the computer was kindly met by the Open Gardens Committee and we are extremely grateful.

It's not everywhere that in the space of half an hour you can learn how to make your Christmas decorations, produce a picture using pastels, and refurbish your cane furniture! But, of course, it can happen with the WI. The Hall was divided into three sections and we moved in groups around the three demonstrators. And how good they were! Catherine Pier showed us how to use pastels on – would you believe it, sandpaper – and (with a few tricks of the trade) produce lovely pictures; we were also shown by Diana Jeremiah the skill of cane-working which is an elegant and comforting hobby, and then Mary Reed – who had most kindly come to the rescue when the demonstrator couldn't make it – showed us how to pick up just any leaves from the garden (but especially bi-coloured holly) and, with the aid of a spare piece of ribbon, produce a lavish bouquet for Christmas decoration. These could be hobbies to soothe, to learn in a reasonably short time, and, with practice, you could produce something beautiful that could also save a deal of money. These days this is not to be ignored, you must agree?

Just one sad moment in the evening when Veronica Garside said that after 25 years she has decided to leave us for activities nearer her home. Tears all round, but she now lives in Wroughton and I do believe that on these dark winter nights, only true loyalty kept her attached to our WI. We wish her all the best for the future and hope she will visit us from time to time.

Our first meeting of the New Year is on Wednesday, 16 January with a demonstration of Yoga for Beginners by Caroline Blackburn. The competition will be 'my tip for a healthy lifestyle' – mine could be 'Enjoy bangers and mash regularly!' as Helen Dixon has invited us to her home for a Bangers and Mash lunch plus a pudding all for £5 on 18 January.

January looks like being a great start to the Purton Evening WI year. I wouldn't miss it – see you there.

CONSTANCE REED, tel 771 571

DISCLAIMER

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It follows that opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors.

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

Five Sewing Machines from Purton

In the October edition of our Magazine I wrote a 'Wanted' appeal in *Purton Profferings* for 'an electric sewing machine for use by deaf people with additional needs, in their 'Workshop in Bath'.

To my delight and amazement I was offered FIVE machines and the photo shows that they are all now in constant use. So thank you very much indeed, Purtonians, for your generosity.



I thought you might be interested to know more about the Workshop.

The Bath Workshop is part of Action on Hearing Loss Educational Day Services, offering support to adults who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and those with additional needs. A variety of activities are available, including art, ceramics, music, woodwork, craft, card-making and more.

The Workshop welcomes donations of equipment and materials and the people supported produce a range of art and gifts that are on sale in the on-site shop.

It is the only Day Service of its kind in the country for Action on Hearing Loss and is situated near the centre of Bath, so that there can be participation in local artistic, cultural events in Bath, including Christmas Markets and local fairs.

Do ask me if you would like further information about services and products or please contact:

Kay Skipp, Action on Hearing Loss Bath Workshop

Telephone: 01225 336125,

workshopsales@hearingloss.org.uk or kay.skipp@hearingloss.org.uk,

sms 07753580397, textphone 01225 329668

And thank you once again for your Purtonian generosity

LIBBIE SHEPPARD, 771018

STOP PRESS . . . It's now SIX machines – thank you Purton!

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

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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](mailto:John.Creasey).

Purton Diary - January 2013

1	Tu		New Year's Day bank holiday
6	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus at the Red House: John Clark - <i>The Aqueducts of the Roman Empire</i>
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.30pm	Songs of Praise at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
9	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill.
10	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
11	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
13	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Junior Church at the Millennium Hall
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
14	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
15	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: Jan's New Year Quiz led by Jan at her house
16	W	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at the Village Hall: <i>Yoga for Beginners</i> with Carolyn Blackburn
17	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School: Mary Bedells - <i>A load of Cobblers</i>
18	F	12.30pm	W.I. Bangers & Mash lunch (members only)
20	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Junior Church at the Millennium Hall
		6.00pm	United Service for Christian Unity at the Methodist Church
22	Tu	10.00am	Bill King - Purton Probus at the Red House: <i>On Two Wheels - The Story of the Bicycle</i>
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: AGM followed by Norman Jeffery - <i>The National Garden Scheme and the gardens of Gloucestershire</i>
26	Sa	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm:</i> Purton United Charities distribution at Village Hall
		6.30pm	<i>for 7pm:</i> Age Concern Burns Night at the Village Hall
27	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church

10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
10.30am	Junior Church at the Millennium Hall
6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

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

 5 January
  11 January
  218 January
  27 January

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, let us know:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

Purton Directory 2013

It is some years since we last updated the Purton 'Yellow Pages' Directory with contact details of village organisations and clubs. In fact, looking at the front of the last issue it was dated 2009!

We hope to be able to publish it with the March issue of *Purton Magazine* but need your help to update it.

The range of organisations covered includes the churches, Parish Council, village services, emergency services including vets, youth organisations including scouting and guiding, charity organisations, sport and hobby clubs and societies, environmental groups, carnival ... the list could be almost endless.

If you are involved in one of these organisations, can you send us updated contact details including a name, phone number and where appropriate an email or web site address.

Please send this to Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DB or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk or phone 01793 772954.

Many thanks in advance.

RICK DIXON

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 25 January from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).



YEAR 9 FRENCH TRIP: During half term, 39 Year 9 students were taken on a whistle-stop sight-seeing tour to Paris. We arrived in Calais with time to watch a film before arriving later that evening at our hotel in Paris. The next morning we were on the bus at 8.45 ready for the sights of Paris. There was an audible gasp of WOW – look it's the Eiffel Tower as soon as one person spotted it from a distance. Students weren't allowed to take photos when they got off the bus as they were marched across to the best viewing spot. Several artistic photographers took pictures of them holding the tower and pushing it over. The entire group managed to make it to the top, despite the wind, fog and rain – seeing a proposal at the level of the tower! We then made our way to the Louvre. Mrs Marsh did a superb job 'navigating' which ensured we all saw the Mona Lisa. Once photos were taken it was time to get away from the crowds to enjoy the 'Da Vinci Code' moment outside by the Glass Pyramid. We still had lots more to see during our evening cruise on the Seine – magnificent views of Notre Dame and multiple photos later we made our way back to the hotel. The next morning was another early start, spending the day with Asterix and Obelix at Parc Asterix. The following day, we set off for Sacré-Cœur and Montmartre – our last visit of the trip before travelling home. A very enjoyable trip was had by all and it was such a success that Mrs Marsh and Mr Stiles have agreed to take another group of students in October 2013.



DRAMA/THEATRE NEWS BLACK'S MAGIC: Black's Magic was devised and written by Fleur Calder and developed with additional material from the cast. It was



largely directed, during workshops by the cast themselves with some mentoring and guidance by drama staff. This production involved students across both Key Stages.

Cast: Stephen Hoy, Ania Witka, Lydia Clayton, Sophie Harflett, Sophie Martin, Kirsten Harris, Bradley Williams, James Coupland, Fleur Calder, Freja Stevens, James Medcroft, Oliver Curtis, James McGlone-Fry, Lydia

Geronikolos, Genna Dell, Luke Neves, Georgia Cotton

Stage Management: Genevieve Thorpe, Verity Ellison, Sky-Anne Haley.

The performances were very enjoyable – the cast was excellent with imaginative effects and impressive lighting. Overall it was a first rate production and all involved should be very proud. Well done!

MUSIC NEWS: In December we were delighted to welcome Jordan Black into the Music Department. Jordan was a Woodwind Finalist in the BBC Young Musician 2012 competition and is currently studying clarinet at the Royal Academy of Music

in London. Jordan (*second from the left*) was able to work with all the current BTEC Music students, listening to each student perform and providing feedback on performance techniques. Jordan also worked with Miss Hedges and 10 woodwind students helping them prepare for the Christmas concerts.



SAFE DRIVE QUIZ: 13 Year 11 students went to Arval in Swindon to compete in the annual Safe Drive quiz.

The quiz was a follow-up from the *Safe Drive Stay Alive* road show that Year 11 had attended in September. It was a hugely valuable experience for the students who attended, with them testing and furthering their knowledge of road safety and the potential hazards of driving. The Bradon students formed into three teams to compete against a variety of Swindon schools. They did a fantastic job resulting in fifth, third and first place finishes out of the ten teams who were in attendance. The winning team of Oliver Smith,

Nicolas Crawford, Katy Smith and Nancy Smirnova each won two free driving lessons with the AA for when they start to drive and a day's training at Swindon Fire Station, where they will be able to experience real emergency situations such as cutting injured people out of cars and fighting fires. Well done to all the students who were fantastic ambassadors for the school and performed extremely well.



FOOTBALL Swindon Schools 5-A-Side Football Champions: The Year 7 team have been crowned Swindon Schools 5-a-side Football Champions. After easily winning through the preliminary rounds against Nova Hreed, Isambard and Swindon Academy the team travelled to St Joseph's to compete in the finals. Following a shaky start and a 2-2 draw with Kingsdown the team started to play some great football. A 1-0 win over St Joseph's and a 3-1 win over Lydiard Park saw the team through as winners. It was a great team spirit and all the boys played extremely well and deserved their success. As Swindon Area champions, the team will now play in the Regional Finals in Torquay in January.



English Schools' National Cup Football – Year 10 in the last 64 in the Country! The Year 10 team booked their place in the last 64 in the country with a thrilling 5-4

penalty win in the last round. It was an end-to-end game with both teams having chances to win the game in extra time. It eventually came down to penalties and keeper Lewis Spackman made a fine save and then went on to take the last penalty to secure the win. The team will now travel to Lord Williams School in Thame in the next round and hope to reach the last 32 in the country.

BASKETBALL U14 Girls Basketball: The U14 girls basketball team represented Bradon Forest at the Swindon Schools Competition held at the Swindon Academy. They played brilliantly, beating Kingsdown and Isambard schools in the first round and then defeating Lydiard Park in the final. They will now represent Swindon in the next round. Congratulations girls!



BADMINTON Swindon Schools Competition Key Stage 4 Girls: Last year the Key Stage 4 girls squad made it to the regional finals in Exeter. Helen and Polly, both club players, led the way in singles and had the experience of playing when they were in Year 10, and the three new team members Mair, Charlotte and Juliet played brilliantly in their doubles matches. The girls won 5-0 against Lydiard Park Academy and also won 5-0 v Nova Hreod. They were narrowly beaten 3-2 by Wootton Bassett and the eventual winners Ridgeway.

Swindon Schools Competition Key Stage 4 Boys: As Swindon champions, last year our KS3 team went all the way through the rounds to represent Wiltshire in the



South West Regional round of the Badminton England competition. This year they moved up an age group to Key Stage 4. The boys got off to a good start beating Churchfields 5-0. Their next game v Wootton Bassett was a lot closer, and with Russell winning his singles 21-20 the boys won 3-2 overall. Bradon beat Highworth 4-1 and met Ridgeway in their final game. The winners here would win the competition. Singles games were played and it was 1-1,

then the doubles games and we won two of them to eventually beat a talented Ridgeway team 3-2. The standard of play displayed by the boys was very high, and they needed to be on top of their game against tough opposition. Josh Musty led his squad to victory and managed the team very well. They now represent Swindon in the Wiltshire finals in January. Good luck boys!

PTA "ALL THINGS PROM" NIGHT Last term the PTA hosted an 'All Things Prom' night for Key Stage 4 students and parents. Local businesses which specialise in proms came along and gave the students ideas before the actual Prom next year. These included dresses, suit hire, vintage cars, hair, nails, make up and jewellery. The event was extremely successful with the highlight being the fashion show featuring Year 11 students and staff which was superbly compered by



Mr Hutchings. A huge thanks to *Gowns of Distinction* and *Moss Bros* who lent the models their stunning outfits and also to Trish Rawlins and *Hair by Val* who kindly did the make-up and hair for the catwalk stars. The evening raised £260 for PTA funds



and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show.

CHARITY UPDATE:

Children in Need: The money raised for Children in need included cake sales, wearing PJs, Mufti Day plus Mr Bray's Mud Run – over £1000 was raised on the day. Well done to all involved.

Romania – Shoebox Appeal: This year we donated 137 boxes. Well done to all involved.

On behalf of the Bradon Forest School community, I hope you have all had a very happy Christmas with your families and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

Christmas Shoebox Destination

On 16 November, our 392 filled shoeboxes were packed into a lorry (mostly by the children of the Playclose Playgroup) and sent off to the OCC warehouse in Melksham, for their official checking. Two days later a total of 7,048 boxes, including ours, were sent on their way to



Liberia in West Africa. Several thousand other boxes were being sent from Melksham this year to the Ukraine and Swaziland.

To those who are so supportive of this project, thank you. It seems we may have got a promotion!! I have been told that we can probably officially seal up our own boxes ready for shipment, next year. So here's to our OCC project 2013.

*SYLVIA FREEMANTLE,
Coordinator*

Something to Think about

Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.

Sir Winston Churchill

PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society
Forthcoming Pantomime
“**Sinbad the Sailor**”



At Purton Village Hall
Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 February 2013
Ticket prices: £7.50 Adults, £6 OAPs, £4 Children
on sale from late January
at Best One and In Touch Services,
or from Sue 772581 / Lindsey 771890
Evening performances - bar Licence applied for
Teas & coffees at the Matinee.

Purton Junior Church (3 - 11 yrs)

A New Year, A New Beginning
in the Millennium Hall
starting on 13 January
10.30 - 11.30 am
Sunday mornings in term time
see *Diary Page*

Everyone welcome
Contact: Mary Hodges 770505

St Mary's Church will be holding another Wine Tasting

Friday 15 March 2013
with Francis Young
of The Pear Tree Hotel
in the Silver Threads Hall
More info to follow ...



Purton Age Concern **BURNS NIGHT AND CEILIDH**

Saturday 26 January
at the Village Hall
6.30 pm for 7 pm
Licensed bar, live band and caller
Tickets £20 from Ron and
Heather Harris - 770850

Purton Age Concern
JUMBLE SALE
at the Village Hall
on Saturday 16 February
at 2 pm.
Lots of bargains, bric a brac,
books, toys, nearly new
and much more
Jumble can be left at the
Hall from 12 noon to 1 pm

PURTON POSTBAG

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



■ JOHN HEWER

We would like to thank everybody most sincerely for the numerous cards, flowers and kind thoughts, and also for their attendance at John's funeral.

Not forgetting the help, care and kindness given during John's long illness, with the last few months resident at The Cedars. Thank you so much.

Phyllis, Paul and Judith Hewer

■ DIAMOND WEDDING THANKS

We would like to say a big thank-you to all who sent cards and good wishes for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We has a lovely day with family and friends.

Ben & Rita Gough

■ DRIVING THROUGH FLOODS

Please can I make a plea that some people modify their driving when driving through flood water. A lot of people (especially 4x4 drivers) seem to think that they have to drive through as fast as possible. The problem with this is that it creates a bow wave (or two – one from front wheels and one from back) which threaten to flood the houses. The correct approach is to select a low gear, keep the revs quite high and drive slowly and steadily. So, PLEASE be considerate and keep your speed down.

Mary Nettleton

After 8

Tamara de Lempicka (1898-1980), the Art Deco artist, led a colourful life, and Brian Coe's talk on 6 November was very informative and interesting.



Born of wealthy parents in Warsaw, multi-lingual and well-educated, Tamara later adopted a free and sometimes 'Bohemian' lifestyle. Although living the 'high life', she also produced many works, sometimes painting five at the same time.

Biographers were often misled as she lied at interviews, and she often signed her work using a false name, leading to some inaccurate accounts of her life. However, she lived and worked in St Petersburg, Paris and later America, where her work was well-received. Her paintings included portraits of the rich and famous, (which commanded high prices), controversial nudes and artworks for *Harpers' Bazaar* and the German magazine, *Die Dame*.

Tamara de Lempicka's name may be unfamiliar, but her art epitomizes the Art Deco movement.

Many thanks to Brian for such an enjoyable evening about this iconic artist.

BARBARA GOSDEN

How True!

The impossible is often the untried.

Jim Goodwin

Recycling Bookworms

Along with reading, Wiltshire bookworms have shown that they are also keen recyclers.

Figures released by Hills Waste Solutions show that close to 50 tonnes of hard and soft covered reading books have been recycled over the past 12 months. That is enough books to fill an average sized classroom.

Over the past year book collection containers have been installed at all 11 of the council's household recycling centres and demand for the service has been high.

"The book recycling service has proved so popular, that some of the sites have more than one container to keep up with the volumes we are receiving," said Cliff Carter, recycling manager for Hills. "Wiltshire residents have shown once again that they are keen to recycle as much as possible and reduce waste to landfill."

The good quality of the books collected means that only a small percentage are sent for reprocessing. "The majority of the books we receive are perfect for reuse," says Ruth Derham of Recycled Reading, the company responsible for collecting the containers which she runs with her husband, Ian.

"Our partnership with traders across the UK means that many of the books we collect from the recycling centres go back into general circulation to be sold online and in a variety of retail outlets", explains Ian. "In addition, some of the books are sent abroad or to schools and nurseries within the UK."

Whilst this has been an impressive start, the volume of books Wiltshire recyclers are able to save is set to rise over the coming year, particularly in the south of the county where the containers have only recently been installed. "We have been amazed by the response to our venture and are frequently approached by members of the public while we are on site to be told how pleased they are to have this service", says Ruth. "We continue to be grateful for their support."

For more details on household recycling centres, including locations, opening hours and materials that can be recycled see www.recycleforwiltshire.com

MONIQUE HAYES

Local recyclers Juniper Bracey and Alexander Kirk Wilson making use of the book collection container at their local household recycling centre



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

Purton & District PROBUS Club

The club for retired **PRO**fessional / **BUS**iness people meets at 10 am on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the lounge of the Red House, Purton.



We have a warm welcome awaiting retired people who would like to meet others and enjoy a chat, friendship and an interesting talk in comfortable surroundings. We do not raise funds for charity, require anyone to take part in any event or even turn-up at every meeting. We are retired; we enjoy a laugh and, usually, have a speaker in to give us a talk on a subject of general interest. Sometimes the most interesting talks are given on a subject that our members have never considered. We have a full programme of events planned and published in our members' programme. If you think that this might be of interest to you, why not contact the club secretary on 01793 770 868

Coffee and biscuits are served at 10 am allowing us time to socialise until 10.30 am when we listen to a guest speaker. We finish at noon.

If you would like to come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club and to see if you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. Call today or come along with a member and open up a new interest in your retirement.

Our next meetings are on 8 and 22 January. See the Diary Pages of this Magazine for details.

LEON SLEE, Hon. Secretary

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

To celebrate our last meeting of 2012 members joined together for our annual 'American Supper' and an evening of entertainment on 27 November. The request for a 'plate of goodies' from each member on the night resulted in a sumptuous array of savouries, cakes and pastries and needless to say we all tucked in.



Our entertainment on the night was provided by the folk group *Chalice*. This was a welcome return visit and enabled members, once again, to appreciate their diversity of musical talent and singing. As this was the last meeting before Christmas the evening ended with a medley of Christmas carols and I think we all agreed a good time had been had by all. Thanks again to the brilliant *Chalice*.

Our first meeting of 2013 will be the Annual General Meeting on 22 January. We are looking for two members to join the committee so if you are interested please let us know. Following the business side of the evening there will be a talk by Norman Jeffery on the subject of 'The National Garden Scheme and the gardens of Gloucestershire'.

At our meeting on 26 February, Dr Bryan Lawton will be talking to us on the subject of 'The History of Windmills'.

New members and visitors are always welcome, so come and join us. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary), DIONNE CHILD (Chair)

Purton Historical Society



At our November meeting we welcomed Alan Kirton who told us about all the ups and downs of Brunel's *Great Eastern* – the challenges of the construction and the launch and ultimately the economic failure of the ship as a passenger vessel, cable layer and music hall! It was perhaps fortunate that Brunel died shortly after her maiden voyage and didn't witness the ill-fated life of his iron sailing steam ship.

Our Christmas social saw us well fed and watered and wonderfully entertained by the After 8 Singers. Our brain cells also had some exercise with Marion's London Underground quiz.

Our next meeting is on 17 January at St Mary's School at 7.30 pm when we welcome Mary Bedells from the Swindon Family History Society whose talk entitled 'A Load of Cobblers' will be telling us about shoemaking in general, and in particular Rushden, in Northamptonshire as well as her own family's involvement in the industry.

[HELEN DIXON](#), Secretary

Spring Course: The Age of Elizabeth 1558 - 1603

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

Venue: Silver Threads Hall, High Street, 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: Inez Gale, or
Paul Booy

Week (1) 6 February at 7.30 pm

Elizabeth comes to the Throne
Elizabeth's England

Week (2) 20 February at 7.30 pm

Europe in Elizabeth's Time
Plots and Counter Plots

Week (3) 27 February at 7.30 pm

Elizabethans at Sea
Drake's Circumnavigation

Week (4) 6 March at 7.30 pm

The Armada Sails
The Armada Defeated

Week (5) 13 March at 7.30 pm

The Tudor Housewife
The Spy Master

Week (6) 20 March at 7.30 pm

The end of the Elizabethan Age
Reflecting on Elizabeth



Elizabeth in her Finery

Purton Stoke

I was looking at some of my old photographs of Purton Stoke recently and came across one that dates to about the 1970s. It is a photograph, though it has been edited in *Photoshop* so it looks a bit more like a painting. [We've also used it for this month's cover picture. Ed.]



There are two features that make it special. It shows some of the elm trees that used to line the lane, and the leaning pine* is no longer there either. [*approximately centre at the top of the picture. Ed.]

Mr Neville told me that when his father took over the Spa in 1927 the first thing he did was to trim all the branches that were overhanging the lane. The whole tree was cut down in July this year, when measurements indicated that it was becoming a potential hazard.

JIM CASLAW

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

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

OFFERED: Suitcases (2), large, lightweight, flexible. PC monitor (14") PC joystick. 772350

OFFERED: Two stair gates, a travel cot, two bags of paperback books, generally in good condition. Donations to Carnival charity in exchange would be welcome. 01793 770726 or 07785 387580

OFFERED: Sturdy ironing board. Ironing surface 14"x 45". Good condition. Old, but with new cover. Barbara Gosden 770182.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Forthcoming Pantomime: "Sinbad the Sailor"

At Purton Village Hall Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 February 2013. Tickets will be on sale from late January at Best One and In Touch Services as usual, or from Sue (772581) or Lindsey (771890).



We have applied for a Bar Licence for the evening performances but it will be teas and coffees as normal at the Matinee.

Unfortunately, due to rising costs, we have had to put our prices up and this year we have three ticket prices: £7.50 Adults, £6 OAPs, £4 Children.

We would like to thank all those who support us in many ways, such as venues to rehearse in, places to sell our tickets, our Patrons, and not forgetting all those who come to our performances. We hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoy performing it!

Green Tips ... for Re-Use & Recycling after Christmas



1. Re-use cards for gift tags, for scrap booking, as postcards or for making craft items with children;
2. Re-use wrapping paper, ribbons and bows for next Christmas;
3. Recycle unwanted Christmas cards, cardboard packaging, and empty plastic bottles (with recycling numbers 1 to 3) in your blue bag or blue-lidded wheelie bin;
4. Take your real Christmas tree to be recycled for compost or wood chippings;
5. Remove all sticky tape from non-glossy wrapping paper and recycle in your black box;
6. Donate any unwanted small soft toys to *Operation Christmas Child* for 2013 Shoe Box Appeal;
7. Hang unwanted CDs in your garden to scare away birds wanting to nibble your fruit and vegetables;
8. Use Christmas tree needles for pot pourri or as an acid addition to your compost heap;
9. Re-use Jiffy Bags and Christmas card envelopes;
10. Don't throw away unwanted gifts. Give them to charity shops or to a local organisation's fund raising stall;
11. Remember, your unwanted present may be very attractive to or needed by someone else;
12. Offer larger/unwanted old toys to the local hospital, charity shops, playgroups, hospice or toy library;
13. Offer small, unwanted cracker novelties to those wonderful people who will fill shoe boxes for *Operation Christmas Child* in Purton for 2013.

...and finally, in case you have not heard, the most unwelcome Christmas present of all was given to Purton by the Government – the Ridgeway Farm development of 700 houses. This decision was unreasonable, irrational and irresponsible ...

Happy New Year to you all

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

Activity Week 2013

Now that Christmas is over, I know lots of people book their summer holidays. So, I thought I should let everyone know that Activity Week will run for the week beginning 12 August 2013. So you can all book your holidays for other times knowing that your children will have an amazing time at Activity Week for that week! Open to 7 - 11 year olds who live or go to school in Purton.

MARY NETTLETON



Happy New Year from Purton Tennis Club !!!

Having reviewed a great year, last month, it is now time to look to the New Year ahead. What a great time to start to get fit and healthy for the spring!

Dust off your racquet and trainers and come along and play! We are always around on a Friday night if you would like to have a go. It doesn't matter if you haven't played for a while or if you are just starting off. We have mixed abilities in the club and many supportive members. Our coaches and captains are also always happy to help.

It is membership renewal time and Mary Turner our membership secretary eagerly awaits your subscriptions!

Our web site purtontennis.net has had a spring clean thanks to Jordan Richards, one of our members. The updated web site makes a good read and keeps you informed of the social events, fee rates, coaching availability and match calendars.

If you are interested in joining or coaching please contact us at purtontennis.net or just come along.

STEPH BROWN

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

At the recent post season meeting of the Swindon evening Cricket league, the club was presented with a cup for winning Division II and at a club forum meeting organised by the Wiltshire Cricket board and an award was received for producing the best pitches in the Wiltshire League. Credit for this goes mainly to Elliot Hill, Dale Bowler and Mark Gardner, whose long hours and dedication in very difficult weather conditions produced playing surfaces the envy of other clubs. We're hoping that in 2013 our reputation for excellence will attract players and supporters to further promote Purton C.C.'s standing in Wiltshire Cricket.



With ambitious plans to enlarge the pavilion to provide separate accommodation for female participation and to improve opportunities for disability participation, we look forward to a busy and successful 2013.

From the archives

In common with other village organisations we welcome the Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith and his family to the Parish and invite them to visit us in the coming season. In the early years of the club's history we received great support from the gentlemen of the church. The club owes its origins to the Revd John Mervyn Prower when it was founded in 1820 and by 1864 no fewer than 60 reverend gentlemen appear on the list of members and some 40 of these were active cricketers appearing regularly in the two-day matches of the time.

JOE GARDNER

Alternative Lifestyle

Kids, you tried your best and you failed miserably. The lesson is, never try.

Homer Simpson - The Simpsons

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



2nd Purton Brownies enjoyed their sparklers at the second attempt; having failed to get them to light for their Bonfire Night celebrations, they were used for Diwali – the festival of light. The Brownies also made their own clay Diwali lanterns. Purton Guides had a Diwali evening too, organised by Kirstie, Isobel and Erin who are working towards their Baden-Powell Challenge Award. Having researched how Diwali is traditionally celebrated they played cards, sang a song, made rangoli patterns and tried on saris. Having celebrated light, the trio then organised an evening of in the dark games, by popular request.

At the request of the girls, 1st Purton Brownies held a talent contest one evening. Individual Brownies played a range of musical instruments: violin, keyboard, cornet and flute; there were magic acts, singers and a dancer so a diverse mix of talent. In keeping with the performance theme, the unit went to watch the Swindon Gang Show, together with Purton Guides, 2nd Purton Brownies, Minety Brownies and a couple of Purton Rainbows. We were pleased to have two of our members in the show: Erin from Guides and Becky, one of our Brownie leaders.

The Guides seem to have been particularly busy this month. They've been working on the craft badge so have made T-shirts into fringed scarves, made Christmas cards and done some glass painting. Eight of their members have just come back from a weekend away with Wootton Bassett and Lyneham Guides at Oxenwood Outdoor Centre, where they spent the weekend engaged in all sorts of challenges relating to the Communicator badge.

Other activities this month have included the Rainbows' traditional Christmas party, 1st Purton Brownies' bring a friend night, 2nd Purton Brownies' Thanksgiving evening which included turkey-shaped biscuits and dream catchers, and attendance at Remembrance and the December parade and family service.

Of course meetings in November and December wouldn't be complete without Christmas preparations. The Rainbows have made cards and stained glass window decorations. 1st Purton Brownies have made cards and bead tree decorations for the residents of Hooks Hill, as well as advent mice for themselves; the mice's tails are getting shorter and shorter each day throughout December. 2nd Purton Brownies have made gifts for the Lunch Club and cards for both Lunch Club and the residents of Ashgrove House. 2nd Purton Brownies delivered the cards to Ashgrove and went carol singing there whilst 1st Purton Brownies entertained the residents of Hooks Hill with carol singing and a Beetle Drive style game on a Christmas theme.

We're now looking forward to our Christmas break so that we're refreshed for a new year of activities which we hope the new girls joining our units will enjoy. For more information about guiding in Purton, either for girls joining or adults volunteering, please contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Exhibit of the Month: A Bentham Lane Resident Part Two

Following my Exhibit last month, Mrs Kathleen Fuller (née Kennett) was in touch with me. Although not living in Purton, she has Purton connections and has been researching her family tree in the area.

She informs me that the gentleman in the picture was William Kennett, her great-grandfather. The spelling of surnames has often changed over the years so the 2 spellings of Kennett/Kinnett below are not a typing mistake!



Mrs Fuller told me that William Kennett was born in Purton on 16 October 1826, the son of Joseph Kinnett and Elizabeth Mathews. He married Eliza Skeates in the Parish Church at Chilton Foliat in August 1854. In 1856 he worked as a gardener in Millfield Lane, Highgate, London. In 1861 he was back in Purton working as a gardener and by 1871 he was listed in the census as an agricultural labourer. She believes he was then living in Bentham Lane in a cottage which he owned. His wife died in 1898; he then lived alone until his death in 1911.

The photo we showed in the Magazine was scanned from a copy of *Purton's Past* and is not very clear. Mrs Fuller would be very pleased if anyone could offer access to a copy of the photo in better condition. You can contact her on 01793 642981.

Of course the Museum would be delighted to have a copy too. If you do have one, you could pass it to me at In Touch Services at 115 Pavenhill and I will arrange to have it copied and pass one on to Mrs Fuller.

As always there will be a (somewhat) clearer picture on the web site at www.purtonmuseum.com.

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

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

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

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Pavenhill, Upper and Lower Pavenhill and Paven Close*. If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd 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.

Maxim for Life

I will never be an old man. To me, old age is always fifteen years older than I am.

Bernard Baruch