

Purton *Magazine*



March 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 - 5pm)</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

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Priest-in-charge), tel 770077
email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk

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

As spring seems to edge ever nearer, this edition of your magazine contains the usual interesting and eclectic mixture of articles about local happenings, whether actual or anticipated. We are lucky to receive so many regular contributions every month although new readers could be misled into thinking that we might be a little too self-congratulatory about the quality of our community.

Objective confirmations that we are not deluding ourselves too much do arrive periodically from visitors and newer residents. This month we are pleased to include an article on [page 35](#) about life in our small village as seen through the eyes of someone who moved to Purton just a few years ago. But as we all know, change is the only constant and details of numerous changes in and around our community are also included in this edition.

But perhaps the biggest danger comes from complacency and the thought that as life in our community is generally not too bad, then the future changes won't be too bad either. There are now three Neighbourhood Plans being developed in our area with a series of events and workshops where we will be invited to provide our views and ideas – details are on [page 6](#).

These consultation periods may be inclusive (if very time limited) and we would feel even more powerless without them. But there is always one inherent overriding weakness. Whilst the issues of even the next five years are rightly the current focus, the danger is that some short term solutions could have a very detrimental impact in the long term. However, what might happen in the long term has often been crystal-ball territory – almost by definition.

The University of Cardiff has produced a web-based approach to dependency modelling. Ps and Qs have now developed that model to assess how new housing developments, for example, might add to or undermine the quality of a community in the future. As their long term legacy for the future of our community, they have produced a 140+ page report called *Transforming Purton Parish* which is the culmination of three years' work. A small extract appears on [page 30](#) together with the link where the whole report can be freely downloaded from the Internet.

Whilst a hard copy of the report can now be consulted in the library, future issues of Purton Magazine will publish bite-sized summaries of the key points.

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befrienders have already signed up to the new Age Concern service
– see [page 14](#)

≈ 60

young people now able to benefit from local scouting each week
– see [page 34](#)

140+

pages of detail now available to help transform Purton
– see [page 30](#)

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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.

Magazine Committee

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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

Annual Parish Meeting

Your Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 25 March 2013, starting at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall. You may be aware that Network Rail is going to redouble the railway line between Swindon the Kemble and this line runs through Purton. Because of this we have invited a representative from Network Rail to come to the meeting to talk about the project. The Police will also be present to give an update on policing in the parish and the Parish Council will present its annual report. There will also be an update on the Parish and Neighbourhood Plans. It should be an interesting evening so please come along.



Once again you are reminded that Parish Council elections will be held on 2 May 2013 and we would be happy to provide you with information about becoming a Parish Councillor. It is an interesting role offering the opportunity to get involved with local affairs. At Purton we also have the added responsibility of managing three of the village charities namely the Village Hall/Institute, Village Centre/War Memorial and Play Close.

Please contact the Parish Council Office if you would like to find out more.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following planning applications:

- N12/03058/S73A *55 Pavenhill*, Variation of condition 2 of 10/04414/FUL relating to the external appearance of the permitted seven dwelling houses and associated works.
- N12/03612/FUL *15 Ringsbury Close*, Single storey rear extension and loft conversion.
- N12/03704/FUL *10 The Pry*, New cattle fodder/straw store and provision of new access track.
- N12/03670/FUL *7 Church Path*, Two-storey extension.
- N12/03967/FUL *Key View, Stoke Common Lane*, Erection of conservatory.

Wiltshire Council has refused the following planning applications:

- N12/03478/FUL *Bray Farm, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke*, Retain temporary dwelling as a permanent dwelling in accordance with 07/01829.
- N12/03621/FUL *Coombfield, Restrop*, Two-storey side extension (Revision to N12/00383/FUL)

The following Planning Inquiry has been determined: *Hafaway House, Hoggs Lane* (N12/02351/FUL) – the Inspector has dismissed the appeal.

Neighbourhood Plans in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area

There are now three separate Neighbourhood Plans being prepared in the Community Area. Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett are preparing individual plans for their towns. A number of the rural communities are working together to

create a Neighbourhood Plan known as the North East Wiltshire Villages (NEW-V) plan. The three plans are now beginning various consultation and plan making exercises to help develop visions and proposals for sustainable development across the Community Area.

The first stage of a Neighbourhood Plan is to apply for a Neighbourhood Planning Area Designation. This involves a six-week consultation run by Wiltshire Council on behalf of the parish or town councils involved. Royal Wootton Bassett and the NEW-V area are currently out for consultation with comments needing to be returned to Wiltshire Council by 27 February. Cricklade has completed this six week consultation and Wiltshire Council is currently reviewing responses received. Details about these applications can be found at the following link: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/neighbourhoodplanning/neighbourhoodareadesignations.htm

Each of the Neighbourhood Plans now has a series of events and workshops where local people will be invited to provide their views and ideas to help shape and influence the future of housing, employment and facilities in their areas. More information about these events can be found at the following information points.

Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan

www.cricklade-tc.gov.uk/html/neighbourhood_plan.html

North East Wiltshire Villages Neighbourhood Plan: www.new-v.co.uk

Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan:

www.rwbneighbourhood.co.uk

If you are unable to access the Internet or have any other queries please contact Wiltshire on 01225 713223.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

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

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

Purton Library opening hours

A reminder that Purton Library will now close at 5 pm on Fridays. The library will remain open on a Tuesday evening until 7 pm.

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

Library hours are shown every month on the inside front cover of the Magazine.

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 22 March from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 or Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

News from The Trustees

Village Hall

Firstly could I thank all the organisations and individual personnel for their kind contributions towards the refurbishment of the gents' toilets at the Village Hall. It is not too late if you would like to give. We feel we have enough promises to send the application off for a grant. We haven't got the grant yet so keep your fingers crossed and if we don't get it we might have to cross our legs!

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

Dare I say it – we haven't been troubled by vandalism so much lately. The only trouble has been the weather. The Football Club has really suffered through this – the Tennis Club as well. We are waiting for quotes in for anti-vandalism devices to try and deter this at the Centre. When we have all the quotes in, we will have a meeting of the users and put the ideas to them.

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Neighbourhood Policing Street Briefing

The local NPT will be visiting the area of Purton Stoke on Tuesday 12 March at 1 pm, in the main street. A chance to come along and meet a member of your local team and discuss any issues you may have within the village.



If, due to any unforeseen circumstances that may be tasked to officers for any emergency, then this will not take place on this date.

Purton Poem

Purton is very peaceful, not many robbers about,
If you do have a robber, just give a great big shout.
Pick up your phone and dial nine, nine, nine,
And we will sort it out.

HOLLY NADIN, St Mary's School

[Thank you, Holly. However, do remember to dial 999 for emergencies only. For all other calls to the Police, you should use 101. Ed.]

Purton Luncheon Club

Miss Elizabeth Ward, on behalf of the Purton Luncheon Club, would like to thank Cllr Tony Price and his stalwart team for so boldly going out on the ice and remaining snow to deliver meals to the Luncheon Club members. They were so very appreciative of having their meals brought to the door when the weather was making conditions outside very difficult for them. We are all most grateful to them for their time and effort. We hope the winter is now over – but you never know! We may well have to call on them again. In the meanwhile – our grateful thanks.



How True!

The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.

Spike Milligan

Purton & District Age Concern



Sadly we have lost several people from the village – some better known than others but, none the less, they were all loved and respected by their families and friends. You think if you are husband and wife you would like to go together rather than there be one left to mourn, but it must be very hard for the family and friends left behind. This has happened in the case of **Mr and Mrs Royston Buckland** of Reid's Piece who died a day apart. They are together now, even though one was buried at Purton and one at Cricklade and I admire the family for respecting their wishes.

Roy was born in Cricklade and went to school there. He was interested in sport, especially football, playing in his younger days. In fact he was going to sign for a bigger club but unfortunately this did not happen as he had cartilage trouble and that put paid to that. **Joan** was born in Purton to a well known Purton family – the Huntleys of New Road – and she was one of twelve brothers and sisters. You imagine preparing food every day for fourteen – but mind everyone would do a little bit to help. Roy loved bikes of all kinds – he had a motorbike at one time but his love of bikes certainly paid dividends as, in those days, the teenagers would congregate in the Lower Square and Roy offered Joan a lift home on the bar of his bike, which she readily accepted but, unfortunately, a policeman caught them and they were fined five shillings each at Cricklade Magistrates Court. Anyway the bond was there – being fined together is really something!

Roy joined the RAF doing National Service, most of which was spent in Scotland. As I have said, the bond of being fined together stood them in good stead as they were married in 1951, living first in Cricklade before moving to Purton. Their pride and joy was their home, where Roy would do the painting and Joan the wall papering. I think they could have gone into business together as it was always done to perfection. Obviously their family were most important to them – they had ten children – can you imagine all the work feeding and clothing them? – but they were all always nicely turned out and a credit to Roy and Joan.

Roy worked at Plessey's, Howard Tenons and Metal Box and, on retiring, he found himself a part time job at the Dairy in Royal Wootton Bassett. Joan, on the other hand, worked at the Southern Laundry in Swindon and later on, when time permitted (I wouldn't have thought she had any with ten children – not quite as many as her mother) she worked on and off at the Dental Factory, or Associated Dental Products as it is now known, and Northview Hospital – what a hard worker! It makes one feel tired just writing about it but Roy and Joan still enjoyed life with their animals – I would think they had a mini zoo but, as with the children, they were all loved and well cared for. They especially loved Pekinese dogs and Roy was a familiar sight around the High Street, Reid's Piece area walking their little dog. They also loved gardening and their garden was immaculate. Sadly, in later life, Joan lost a leg but she would be up the garden in her wheelchair, giving her orders – I will rephrase that and say they consulted with one another – but whatever they did it was a very nice garden.

Another of their pleasures was horse racing and they would make a habit of

going once a year. Did the family take them and was it the Cheltenham Festival they went to? Why I say that is because all the family used to go to the Speedway together. Another of Roy's pleasures was Air Shows and he flew in Concorde. Joan didn't like flying but was persuaded to go on a Dakota at a show and loved it.

They haven't been well for the last couple of years and died within a few hours of each other. They were good neighbours and friends and excellent parents. Our thought and prayers are with the family, friends and neighbours and we would like to say thank you for donations in lieu of flowers being shared between us and the Cat's Protection League. I must say their funeral was one of the most stylish I have seen with the two horse-drawn hearses – I do not think I have seen anything like it in Purton before.

Another person who has sadly died is **George Knott** who was not a Purtonian but was born a cockney in Lambeth. He went to school there before and after he was evacuated to Barnstable during the war. On leaving school he had several jobs before being called up, when he joined the Army to do his National Service. On coming back into civilian life, one of his jobs was being a conductor on the London buses. You could imagine George all chirpy, bright and helpful, which seemed to come naturally to him. He could not settle to civilian life after the taste of the services, plus the fact that he was very interested in war history, so he joined the RAF and stayed with them for twenty-two years, finishing up in Lyneham and that is how he came to settle in this area. When he was demobbed he lived first at Royal Wootton Bassett then, fifteen or sixteen years ago, he moved to Norbury Court in Purton. Mind, on leaving the RAF, he couldn't lose all his connections, as he used to go and instruct the local ATC and that was back at Lyneham I believe. He would be an ideal instructor with his patience and understanding.

After leaving the RAF he went to work at Raychem in Swindon – I think they trade under a different name now – and he stayed there for fifteen years before taking early retirement at 59. George was very interested in transport and could tell you all the names of the planes that flew over. When Fairford Air Show was on George was in his element. Another of George's loves was art and he was quite an accomplished water colour artist. He was a committee member of Wootton Bassett Art Society also the Purton Art Group, always exhibiting at the Purton Artists annual show up until a couple of years ago. One of George's pleasures was belonging to Purton Probus which he joined soon after moving to Purton. He enjoyed the company of the members that meet at the Red House Club fortnightly – in fact he served a term in office as their President.

I would imagine that George's greatest pride was belonging to the Royal British Legion where, in Purton, he was membership secretary and very efficient too. He would call round, you would go the door and George's smiling face would greet you. He would say 'Yes Tony it's that time of the year again'. How could you refuse to renew your membership with such a gentleman as George collecting it. You knew George was so proud of our men and women of the Armed Forces and of those who served before. I do not think he missed any repatriations through Royal Wootton Bassett when they were held there. He would stand there with his beret on and his medals, showing those people the respect they deserved. Another place you could

always be sure George would be is at our local Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and, of course, he took his turn selling the poppies at Asda. I have said earlier on that George had many jobs in his time. I wonder if he had ever thought of house selling because it was through George a couple bought their property at Norbury Court. When they arrived to view George happened to be outside and the lady asked what it was like to live there. Well you could have filled this magazine with all that he told them and they purchased the property and, like George, became part of our village. As soon as they had gone the bush telegraph got working in Norbury and George was onto another great friend of his, Geoff Webb, to say they had a nice piece of stuff moving in! They say the older you get the nicer they look but it is true, she is a lovely lady – mind there was no mention of John.

George always appreciated the magazine and, as soon as it arrived, he would tick off the things that he and his wife Rose would attend. What I remember most about George is his kindness and generosity. Some of the projects I have been involved with I have written about in the magazine and he would turn up and give a donation, always wanting to keep it anonymous. His parting words would be 'If you want a bit more, get in touch' and you knew it was a genuine offer. Many thanks George for all your kindness and help – you moved to Purton and became part of it. To George's family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy and our special thoughts are with Rose.

The gentleman I am going to pay tribute to now is a man for whom I have long had great respect the same as his family – the gentleman in question is Mr **Tom Handy**. The way the family looked after him will give them great comfort, knowing they did all they could – I know the village admired them. Tom was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 1988 but still managed to enjoy everything – that was the type of man he was – he made the most of life and never once did he complain or say 'Why me?'. What an example he was to us all. Sadly he developed another tumour last year.

Tom was born at Little Faringdon before the family moved to Minety at Kemble Farm. Tom had the greatest respect for his parents, Tom and Jenny and he also appreciated his dad's advice but then I believe he had respect for everybody and I know that people who knew him held him in high esteem. He was taught how to hand milk when he was five and, after that, he had to help with the milking every day, often being late for school. He would go into the class and all the teacher would say was 'Hurry up and sit down Handy', – she understood the situation. Tom worked for his father before being called to do his national service in the RAF. I would imagine he got called up as there were other brothers to work on the farm. He had five more brothers and a sister. If you were the only one working on the farm you could claim exemption through the Farmers' Union.

After doing his basic training they intended to put him in the cook house but another vacancy occurred at Lyneham – to look after the RAF mascot, which was a goat – so the authorities, thinking of Tom being a farmer, felt it would be an ideal position for him. He wasn't too keen to start with but he got to like it. His dad certainly did as he used to come and help with the milking. I would imagine that he was on light duties because, when he was sixteen, he had two fingers straightened but unfortunately developed gangrene, so the operation wasn't successful.

Tom met Sylvia square dancing at Corston Village Hall and this was the start of a great partnership. Sylvia lived at Brokenborough – well once they met that was it. They got married at Brokenborough in 1958 and went to live in a tied cottage at Long Newton where Tom worked for Miss Wood – no relation to Sylvia as that was her maiden name. She wasn't the best of people to work for and Tom, being the cowman, had to bring the milk down a long drive to the milk stand, go in and have his breakfast and then take the empties back. Miss Wood complained about him taking too long so the next morning he drove like mad down the drive with the milk, didn't have his breakfast, waited for the empties, drove like mad back with the churns rattling all over the place and said to her 'Is that quick enough?' and she turned round and sacked him. From there he went to work at Vastern and here again he had a tied cottage, in fact their cottage is where the Club House is now on the golf course.

Tom and Sylvia moved to Pry Holdings and, of course, had Neil, Ian and Tim. To begin with they rented the farm from Mr Giles of Cricklade – I think Tom's mum helped a bit here as things were not moving fast enough and she went to see Mr Giles. He was a bit cautious as the previous tenant wasn't the best in the world. Mr Giles had bought the farm from John Scott who we in Purton have to thank for the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre. It all worked out well because they moved in. Does anyone know whether the farmhouse was a pub in days gone by called the *Red Cow* or *Cow Farm*, with the bar upstairs only? In early days when they moved in, they would get mail with that address on and the postman always knew where to take it (no postal code them!) Tom and Sylvia continued to increase the size of the farm, purchasing land from Col. Wilson Fitzgerald at Purton House and Ivor Lewis, who used to train race horses at Diana Lodge. Tom loved to watch horse racing on TV. Tom also rented land and became a very good farmer, both dairy and beef cattle, gradually becoming more interested in beef cattle for showing and then Tim did the milking.

One of Tom's joys was going to markets in Swindon, Chippenham and Cirencester, where he would meet with fellow farming friends. As he got more into showing, he went further afield to purchase suitable cattle or heifers he thought would be prize beasts when they grew up. This took him to places all over the country, as far afield as Scotland and Cornwall. Sometimes it would be overnight or a few days, often accompanied by his friend Richard Sweet. Richard has been heard to say that



Tom taught him all he knows about cattle. Sorry Richard, but I am told by farming friends of Toms that, to be in his league, it is bred in you. I am sure you would not mind being second place to Tom. Tom would show his cattle at Christmas shows, mainly at places like Andoversford, Cirencester, Devizes,

Tom & Sylvia with one of their prize bulls

Chippenham and Swindon and, of course, when he won, Tom always wanted to have supreme champion, which he often achieved. The beast would always attract the best price and, of course, the butcher who bought the beast would proudly display the certificate in his window. Talking about being bred in you, I would think Tim has some of his father's genes the way he is following in his father's footsteps, winning with his cattle. I am sure his dad was proud of him for keeping the family tradition going and, of course, Tim, along with Christine, are a vital part of Age Concern, being our street wardens for the Pry area.

When Tom was diagnosed with the brain tumour, Neil and Tim carried on the farming side, because they supplied that good butcher that used to be in Swindon – C. H. Palmer. With his knowledge Tom had been asked if he would become a judge for cattle, which is a very high honour because the committee feels you know all there is to know, but sadly Tom only judged one show then his illness became worse.

When Neil, Ian and Tim were young Tom and Sylvia bought them a donkey which they called Jenny. Tom put the donkey in with the cows and they sort of adopted her as their heroine. This was fine until the cows were put the other side of the road. Jenny, instead of going into the farmyard would go off up the road, over Brimble Bridge with the cows following. Tom was exasperated over this, which was quite unusual for him, but it was happening every time he got the cows in. One day, when the children had gone to school, he sold the donkey back to where he had bought it. The children seemed to get over it alright until they were on their way to Swindon. Going by the Nine Elms at Shaw they saw Jenny out in a field. There were tears all round, so what happened? – Tom bought the donkey back. She settled in alright until Tom had a message to say his cows were on their way to Swindon. Who was leading? – Jenny. That was too much for Tom and he took Jenny back to where he had got her from and sold her but the condition was that whoever bought her had to be outside the district!

Tom was a very hard-working man but he and Sylvia also enjoyed holidays – in fact, a year after the brain tumour in 1988, they were on a cruise going up the Amazon. This was the type of person Tom was – determined. They went on several holidays after that and, what was nice, Sylvia said they always had excellent service. Another nice occasion they both enjoyed was their golden wedding along with family and friends, celebrated at Pry Holdings in a marquee. That's what I admire about the family – they got on with life even though Tom was handicapped. Tom loved living in this area, well he loved life and what an inspiration he was to us all. One of his sayings which he practised was 'If you cannot speak well of someone, do not speak at all'. To Sylvia, Neil, Ian, Tim and all their family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy and thank you for sharing part of Tom's life with us.

A lady who has been part of the community, not so much in Purton but in Purton Stoke, has died in Ashgrove House Nursing Home where she has been lovingly cared for over the last few months. I am speaking of **Joan O'Leary**, a very interesting lady who came to Purton during the 1939-45 war when she joined the Land Army – what an asset these ladies were on the home front. She worked at Pond Farm in Pond Lane, Purton Stoke, the home of Tommy Ponting. Joan's home was in Manchester and, guess what, she lived in Stretford Road. In fact, on 6 February in

1958, when Mr and Mrs Sutherland (Joan's mum and dad) were down here stopping, Dick Scott called in to see them and Mr Sutherland was sat with his head in his hands. When Dick asked if he wasn't feeling well Mr Sutherland asked if he had heard the news about the Munich air disaster that had happened that day when so many Manchester United players were injured or killed. The Busby babes, like Harry Gregg, Jackie Blanchflower, Eddie Coleman, Roger Burns, Duncan Edwards, Tommy Taylor, Mark Jones, Johnny Berry etc, used to say 'Good morning Mr Sutherland' when they walked past his house on their way to the football ground.

Joan was a teacher and I have heard that she taught at Ferndale Road School but I do know that she taught at Prior Park school at Cricklade, rising to Deputy Head. In fact she carried on giving private tuition to pupils into her eighties, mainly in English. I believe Joan met her husband Joe when Blake Hill air field was built. I don't know what work he was doing there but he went on to own a furniture shop in Cricklade. He was a very talented man as he went on to build his own house which they lived in all their married life and where Joan continued to live after Joe passed away. The house was named Sutherlea. Joe and Joan had four children and they became very much part of village activities. Along with Mrs Arkell they used to hold children's parties in the Reading Room – yes it was the Reading Room in those days although now we know it as the Young Farmers' Hut. I think it was quite fitting that Mrs Arkell planted the tree to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in Purton Stoke and Joan planted one to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

As I have said, Joan was very much involved in Purton Stoke – she was on the village committee, secretary of the charity Poors Platt and on the board of Jubilee Gardens, also recommending other directors for this important work. I believe she was a Governor of Purton Stoke School but, of course, that was a long time ago. Joan loved the theatre, especially ballet – I expect that is because she danced ballet when she was young. She also loved opera, reading and – being a Land Girl – gardening. Our minibuses used to pick her up for Luncheon Club in the Silver Threads Hall which she enjoyed – she was a very sociable lady – but she did miss driving her car. She hated it when she had to give up her licence as she was a very independent lady. She was so interesting to talk to – you could listen to her all day about things she had done in the past. I know she was a very good neighbour and that was reciprocated as the neighbours were very good to her. That is why Purton Stoke is a nice place to live, so to Joan's family we offer our sympathy and thank Joan for sharing her life with us.

We had a very successful Burns Night and thank you to all who came and supported us – we hope you enjoyed it. Any comments are always welcome as feel sure we shall be having another one next year. I don't give our committee the credit they deserve but we could not do what we do without them. The Burns Night was a good example because, the week before, we had several key players pull out because of illness and I can honestly say the only reason they were missed was for their presence – our committee along with younger helpers did us really proud, so many thanks to you all.

Thanks to our magazine staff having the magazines out early I can still remind you about our annual auction, which is on Saturday 2 March, viewing from 12 noon,

sale starting at 1 pm and items for sale can be left in the hall between 9 am and 11.30 am. Our auctioneer, as always, is Mr Roderick Wightman. Following on from this we have our Easter Market Stall on Saturday 30 March at the Pavenhill shops from 9 am to 12 noon, with lots of bargains, bric a brac, books, home made cakes, raffle and much more, especially sausage tasting with Andrew's world famous sausages. Anything for these stalls would be greatly appreciated. Then there is our 3 Bs evening in the Silver Threads Hall on Friday 12 April – more details next month. Before that we have our first mystery tour of the year – Wednesday 3 April – with a 10 am start and lunch provided. The cost is £13, outsiders £14.50 – names to your street wardens by Monday 25 March.

We are having the launch of our befriending service at the Silver Threads Hall on Tuesday 12 March from 2 pm to 4 pm. You can come along and find out more about this during that time and have a cup of tea and a piece of cake and a chat. Transport can be provided – ring Maurice Card on 770338. All our befrienders will be DBS checked (this is replacing the CRB checks) and they all come under the umbrella of Purton Age Concern. I expect someone is saying 'Well the sort of people who want that sort of befriending would be unable to get to the launch'. Anyone who is housebound can get in touch with Vicki Fowler, who will be the co-ordinator on 772777 or Louise, our Secretary, on 772558 or, as with anything to do with Purton Age Concern, you can ring me on 770696. This is something we feel there is a need for and we have eight people who have volunteered so far. If you would like to join them (male or female) give me a ring and the same applies if you know of anyone who would like a visit – again male or female - give any of us a call.

Us 'eight o'clockers' had a treat because, after the service on 3 February, we were all invited back to the vicarage for a full English or perhaps a Purton breakfast – it was very nice whatever you want to call it. The hospitality was good as was the company – a lovely, sociable occasion, so our thanks go to our Vicar Ian and his wife Celia for such a lovely start to the day.

Let's finish on a high because that is how I felt after seeing *Sinbad the Sailor* at the Village Hall put on by PADS. It was well produced, excellent scenery, with artists to match. What was so refreshing was seeing so many new faces and they were up to the standard of past casts. When you stop and think about various actors and think he or she was good, then you finish up thinking how good the whole cast was, so very many thanks to you all. I certainly get the impression that we shall be watching pantomimes for many years to come with such young talent.

TONY PRICE

Purton Age Concern Befriending Service

Do you feel isolated or lonely? Would you like to see a friendly face, someone to have a cup of tea and a chat with? Come along to the Silver Threads Hall on Tuesday 12 March any time between 2 pm and 4 pm and meet the befrienders. If you are unable to attend and would like a visit or more information, give Vicki Fowler, the Befriending Co-ordinator, a ring on 772777, or Louise Tidman, secretary, on 772558.

Transport can be provided – ring Maurice Card on 770338.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery

Group for Patients - G4P

Group for Patients



Ovarian Cancer an information evening

to be held in Purton Surgery, Tuesday 12 March 2013, 7.30 - 9 pm
Two speakers have been arranged, one from Great Western Hospital and also someone who has been diagnosed with this condition.

As we need to know numbers you need to book to attend this event – tickets will be available in Purton Surgery and from Committee members. There is no charge.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

After 8

On a cold frosty evening members of After 8 gathered around the warm glow of Jan's woodburning stove. Our topic this evening was "Jan's New Year Quiz", which featured pictures with questions attached about events in the previous year. Two obvious topics, the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee, brought forth the answers "65 medals" and "The Spirit of Chartwell", although "knitted corgis at the Chelsea Flower Show" was also related. We had to recall such varied news items as Hurricane Sandy, James Bond films, Mrs Thatcher's clothes sale, David Hockney and Bob Dylan.



Here are a couple for you to try; (1) A picture of Andy Murray winning the US Open was accompanied by the question "When did Britain last have a winner and who was it?" (2) A picture of a cruise ship lying on her side had just three words written below "What and Where?"

After considerable debate, head scratching and laughter, the answers were revealed, together with murmurs of "Of course!", "I knew that really" and "I hadn't a clue". Some members departed the meeting with the resolution to take more notice of the news in readiness for next January's quiz.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5 March – "Holiday Anecdotes" led by Janet at her house.

MARY SMITH

(1) 1937 Fred Perry (2) Costa Concordia, Tuscany coast, Italy

We Record ...

Funerals

22 January	Joan Eileen Buckland	at St Mary's Church
	Royston Edward Buckland	at St Mary's Church
25 January	Francis James Nutland	at St Mary's Church
28 January	Tyler Mervyn Ray Harman	at St Mary's Church
5 February	Thomas Richard Gordon Handy	at St Mary's 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 ...

PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Age Concern

Annual Auction

At The Village Hall
on Saturday 2 March

Items for sale can be brought
to the Hall from 9.30 am to 11.30 am
Viewing from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Sale starts at 1 pm.

AUCTIONEER –

Mr Roderick Wightman

Royal Wootton Bassett
Orchestra

Around the World in 80 Days

A light hearted musical
narration of the story.

On Saturday 9 March

7.30 pm,

at Royal Wootton Bassett
Memorial Hall.

Tickets: £7.40 adults, £2.50
Under 16s.

Purton Guide Dogs

JUMBLE SALE

In the Silver Threads Hall
on Saturday 9 March
from 2 pm.

Tea Coffee etc. and Raffle
Donated items from 12 noon

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
Start 7pm prompt

Tickets £20

to include a hot meal and wine

Tel: Sandra 770157,
Sheila 770970, Val 771201



Lent Lunches 2013 13 February to 20 March

6 Wednesdays,
from 11.45 am to 1 pm
at Purton Methodist Church,
Playclose

Purton Silver Threads

JUMBLE SALE

In the Silver Threads Hall
on Saturday 16 March
from 2 pm.

Group for Patients - Purton and
Green Gable Surgery

Ovarian Cancer an information evening

to be held

in Purton Surgery

Tuesday 12 March 2013
7.30 – 9 pm

Mother's Day Market

at the Silver Threads Hall
Saturday 9 March, 10 - 12noon

Gifts, flowers, lovely cakes, crafts,
nail painting, games and lucky dip
Fun morning for ALL the family, but
especially Mums!

All proceeds for the new Scout
Centre Appeal Fund.

The Royal British Legion
Purton Branch
presents their

Annual Concert

at Bradon Forest School
Saturday 13 April at 7.30 pm
with The Cricklade Band
and Janice Thompson
Performance Trust

Price £5.00

Tickets available from Legion
committee members or at the door.
Raffle and light refreshments

Purton Helping Hand

TABLE TOP SALE

In the Village Hall
on Saturday 13 April
from 1 pm.

Tables £6 – tel: 770251 to book
Refreshments and Raffle

Purton Age Concern

EASTER MARKET STALL

on Saturday 30 March
from 9 am to 12 noon

outside the Pavenhill shops
Home made cakes, bric a brac,
books, toys and lots of bargains.
Come along and taste Andrew's
world famous sausages!

St Mary's Church

Oddments Theatre Company

Inspiring Drama

Family Service

Something for All Ages

Coffee & Croissants

Sunday 3 March at 10.30 am

Volunteer magazine distributor wanted

A volunteer is needed to distribute the Purton Magazine each month in the Reid's Piece area. If you are able to help, please contact John Creasey on 771520 or at john@creasey.org.

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: Dell Printer-Scanner A10/A940. Working order but needs new cartridges. Tel 01793 770477.

OFFERED: Motorised electric chair – Aquasoothe Travel Lite. Free to a good home. New Batteries required, (they are available from Aquasoothe Healthcare Tel 0800 281 271). Tel 01793 770620 or 771323 for more details.

On the bleakly cold night of 16 January with its ice and threatened snow, you might have thought there would be a low attendance at our monthly meeting, but no! Possibly the subject matter helped – who could resist a teaching session of Yoga, by Carolyn Blackburn? There was a creditable performance by some of our members, too; they obviously knew what they were doing. The odd thing was that although the movements are slow and calm, I felt much warmer having “had a go”. Perhaps we should all start the day with a little Yoga, especially in the winter, but then, we older ones wouldn’t remember to do it until lunchtime! (Speaking for myself, of course. Oh Memory, where are you going? Will you ever return?)

It was, as always, a most enjoyable evening, with a reminder by our President that the next (March) meeting will be the Annual General Meeting when we shall need a new Committee – as with almost every other organisation, we just cannot continue without one and, did you know, the Lydiard Millicent branch actually closed down permanently simply because no one would stand as Treasurer? This need for a Committee had also been impressed on us by a welcome visitor: Tanya Garstone, our Local WI Adviser, who brought us up to date with WI National business.

Partly because of the difficult weather and partly because our normally active Helen Dixon had been smitten by a beastly bug that seems to have attacked our area, a date change was announced: the Bangers and Mash event was transferred from 18 January to 22 March. Meanwhile, we wish Helen and other poorly people a rapid and full recovery.

Please don’t forget - if you haven’t yet paid your annual subscription (£33), you really must do so, as soon as possible; and then you could think on to 20 March, with the AGM – and, essentially, the need for Committee members to continue to make up a vibrant WI. Such a good group of members means that the Committee meetings and duties are well shared and are not onerous but can be enjoyable. For this particular meeting, after the business will be social time when you can share with us your favourite poems, and that can make for a truly lovely time, of interest, thoughtfulness, beauty, fun ...

I look forward to seeing you all on 20 March at Purton Village Hall, and trust that the winter illnesses will have passed over by then, leaving you immune from all disease for a year at least, and that you feel absolutely tip-top.

CONSTANCE REED

DISCLAIMER

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

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

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

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

Church Floodlighting

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



- 12 February The Church was floodlit in loving memory of **Tina Kinnett**, on her 70th birthday. So very sadly missed and loved always. Don, Donna, Gary, Paul, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
- 22 February The church was floodlit in memory of **Ray Suddaby** on the 17th anniversary of his death. Loved always by his wife Pat
- 7 March St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Raymond (Ray) Herbert** Dear husband and Dad. In our hearts, you're never far away. Jane and family
- 16 March St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Margaret Joan Wells** who died in 2004. Lovingly remembered by all the Wells family.
- 19 March **Bob Totterdell**: it will be the 4th anniversary of Bob's death on 19 March. Forever in our hearts and minds. Loved by Jean and all the family
- 21 March St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Charles James Wells**. Lovingly remembered by all the Wells Family.
- 29 March The Church will be floodlit for Dearest Dom (**Dominic Tovey**) on your 2nd anniversary. Always in our thoughts and hearts. Mum, Dad and Leah.

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.

Children in Need

It's not long now till our *Children in Need* Rock Night to be held at The Village Hall on Saturday 23 March.

There will be three bands, S-Hit 5 will be headlining. Tickets are £5 each, doors open at 8 pm. There will be a licensed bar and burgers on sale for the peckish.

For information or tickets, contact Tony or Sue on 772581.



TONY RICHARDSON

A Terrible Mistake or Job Done!

The Vicar writes:

As you read this Lent will be under way, Easter will be in sight but what does it all mean? For some in our society Lent is only remembered for what goes before and the number of pancakes consumed on Shrove Tuesday. For others it is a time of prayerful reflection and preparation for Easter. For this year I would propose that everyone remembers three words "It is finished". These were words Jesus spoke on the Cross and I believe they can help us to use Lent more effectively and to give us a greater reason to celebrate on Easter Day (31 March).

Jesus did not end up on the Cross because he just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and unfortunately fell foul with the Jewish and Roman authorities. Jesus went to the Cross because he had decided in advance there was a job for him to do there. He went to pay the price for all the wrong we have ever done in our thoughts, words and deeds, for every time we have not kept God's perfect standards. When he cried out "It is finished" he was not saying "I'm finished - I've had enough" but "It is finished - I've finished the job I came to do, I've taken the punishment every human being deserves to pay, I've paid the consequences of everybody's wrongdoing.

So in Lent may I suggest that we use the time reflecting on the wrong we have done which took Jesus to the Cross, to say sorry to God for wrong thoughts, words and deeds, and to say sorry for the good we have failed to do. Then we will be ready to see Friday 29 March as "Good" Friday not merely because it is a Bank Holiday, a day off from work and an opportunity to eat Hot Cross Buns but because Jesus finished the ultimate "Good" work that day. So on Easter Day as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection we can do it in the light of the Cross, in the light of what Jesus finished on Good Friday.

During Lent we offer a whole variety of activities to help folk use the time positively. Elsewhere in the Magazine there are notices about Lent Lunches, the Oddments Theatre Company coming on 3 March, Mothering Sunday on 10 March, Activity Day on Maundy Thursday 28 March, the Walk of Witness and Hour at the Cross on Good Friday 29 March, and Easter Day Services on 31 March.

If you want to find out more then why not contact me or my colleague Revd Judith Wells, or my Methodist colleague Revd David Perkins. Alternatively you might want to take part in a Lent Study Group or a Christianity Explored Course to explore the Christian Faith with others – all our contact details are in the beginning of the Magazine. But let's use Lent to reflect on what we're really like and why we need God's forgiveness. Let's use Lent to look forward to the work Christ finished on the Cross and Easter Day to rejoice in that completed task – job done!

IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH

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

Easter at



Purton Churches

Sunday 3 March

10.30am Come and enjoy drama and inspiration with the Oddments Theatre Company suitable for young and old! Coffee and croissants to follow!

Mothering Sunday 10 March

10.30am United Parade Family Communion at St Mary's Church with the uniformed organisations and flowers for your Mum!

Palm Sunday 24 March

10.00am Procession from the Village Hall for ...

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's and Family Service at Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday 28 March

11am - 2.30pm Purton Churches Activity Day at St Mary's Church for children in years 3 - 6

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

Good Friday 29 March

10.00am Walk of Witness starting at Pavenhill Shops

2.00pm Hour at the Cross at St Mary's

Easter Day 31 March

8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.30am EASTER CELEBRATION Holy Communion at both St Mary's and Purton Methodist Churches

6pm Evensong at St Mary's

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Prayer for Purton

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

Just a Thought

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

W.H. Auden

Purton Diary - March 2013

March

2	Sa	1.00pm	Age Concern Annual auction at the Village Hall. (Viewing noon to 1 pm)
3	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Family Service at St Mary's Church with Oddments Theatre Company
		6.00pm	Evensong BCP at St Mary's Church
5	Tu	2.00pm 8.00pm	Silver Threads Club <i>After 8: Holiday Anecdotes</i> led by Janet at her house
6	W	11.45am	<i>to 1pm: Lent Lunch</i> at Methodist Church
7	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
8	F	9.30am	Age Concern minibus to Swindon
9	Sa	10.00am 2.00pm	<i>to 12 noon: Mothers' Day Market</i> at Silver Threads Hall Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall (Guide Dogs)
10	Su		Mothering Sunday
		8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church United Service for Mothering Sunday at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
11	M		Commonwealth Day
		7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
12	Tu	11.00am 1.00pm 2.00pm	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Neighbourhood Police street briefing at Purton Stoke <i>to 4pm: Age Concern Befriending</i> afternoon at the Silver Threads Hal
		7.30pm	Ovarian Cancer information evening in Purton Surgery
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
13	W	11.45am 2.00pm 2.30pm	<i>to 1pm: Lent Lunch</i> at Methodist Church Communion at Ashgrove House Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Ian Taylor – poetry and song
14	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
15	F		Comic Relief Red Nose Day
		7.00pm	Wine Tasting in Silver Threads Hall
16	Sa	2.00pm	Silver Threads Jumble Sale
17	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 5.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Junior Church at the Millennium Hall Youth Service at St Mary's Church
19	Tu	2.00pm 7.45pm	Silver Threads Club Royal British Legion at The Red House

20	W	11.45am 7.30pm	Spring Equinox <i>to 1pm:</i> Lent Lunch at Methodist Church Purton Evening WI, PVH: Annual General Meeting, followed by Members' Favourite Poems
21	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: AGM followed by Paul Booy - <i>Titanic part 2</i>
22	Fri	12.30pm	<i>to 2pm:</i> WI Bangers and Mash at the Dixons (members only)
23	Sa	9.30am 8.00pm	<i>to 1.30pm:</i> Ps&Qs Local Day at Village Hall Children in Need Rock Night at Village Hall

24	Su	8.00am 10.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Palm Sunday Communion at St Mary's Church Palm Sunday Procession from the Village Hall to 10.30am services Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Communion at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
25	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Purton Village Hal
26	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Elaine Horton - <i>Plants for different soils and situations</i>
28	Th	11.00am 7.30pm	<i>to 2.30pm:</i> Activity Day at St Mary's Church Maunder Thursday Communion at St Mary's Church
29	F	10.00am 2.00pm 3.30pm	Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at Pavenhill Shops Hour at the Cross at St Mary's Church Communion at The Cedars
30	Sa	9.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Age Concern Easter market stall outside the Pavenhill shops

31	Su	2.00am 8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Easter Sunday British Summer Time begins (Clocks go forward) Communion at St Mary's Church Morning Worship at the Methodist Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
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Every week

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

Moon Phases

 4 March
  11 March
  19 March
  27 March

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Rainbows have started challenges for the Rainbow Festivals Roundabout badge which link in with the three main themes of the Rainbow programme: *Look, Learn and Laugh*. For *Look* they have talked about Burns Night, tasted shortbread and oatcakes, looked at Jay's family tartan and used paper weaving to produce their own tartan pattern. For *Learn* each Rainbow made a family tree and for *Laugh* they made clown masks.

Festival celebrations feature in the other age groups' activities too: both Guides and 2nd Purton Brownies have made pancakes ahead of Shrove Tuesday and 1st Purton Brownies marked Burns Night with a quiz, a memory game and by making scotch pancakes. Australia Day was celebrated by 1st Purton Brownies and Guides, both units having members who'd previously lived in Australia. The Brownies made koala bookmarks, played Australian-themed games and had a barbecue courtesy of some Guides who came and cooked for them. The Guides played games, learned some Aussie slang and created aboriginal dot art.

2nd Purton Brownies are working on the World Guiding interest badge. They have coloured friendship circles, made jigsaws from pictures of the four World Centres and designed posters about a country where there are Brownies, what they are called and what they wear. They have also learnt the meaning of the various components of the World badge: a badge which every member of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) is entitled to wear.

From last month's magazine you may recall the promise consultation which is currently underway. The Guides have looked at this within the unit and considered the different parts of the promise. They have also held a promise ceremony for Alex, Chloe, Emily, Georgia, Janie and Kennedy.

Teamwork is an integral part of the guiding programme, but caring for the individual is equally important. The interest badges girls work on at home to develop individual talents is one way of doing this. Megan from 2nd Purton Brownies has completed her Agility badge whilst Mia from 1st Purton Brownies has gained her Artist badge. Several members of Purton Guides chose to enter a guiding singing competition, the ultimate prize of which is to be a warm-up act at a guiding concert featuring JLS amongst others. Isobel and Erin were thrilled to be the winners at the Division round of the competition in the 13-16 year old category. They will be competing in the County round in March.

If you'd like to find out more about guiding in Purton, either in relation to 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

A Good Wish

May your troubles be less,
May your blessings be more,
And may nothing but happiness
Come through your door!

Dreamflight

In December 2011 we were notified that our daughter Megan had been nominated by the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford to be a part of "Dreamflight 2012" in recognition for her bravery and determination in dealing with her operations and ongoing complex medical conditions.

In May 2012 we were given the fantastic news that Megan had been chosen. In October, Megan flew to Disneyland, Orlando with 191 other children from all over the UK who are seriously ill or disabled along with a team of medical and non medical helpers.

This was the first time in 14 years that Megan had been away without her family. Megan thoroughly enjoyed her experiences while away and our family benefited from the respite.

In order to say "thank you" to all the many people who made Megan's dream holiday possible, her dad Mark is running the Brighton Marathon on 14 April 2013 to raise funds for another child and family to benefit from this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

If anyone would like to sponsor him on behalf of this fantastic charity you can do so by contacting Sarah on 07774 965276 or sarah@gardner3.freeserve.co.uk. We also have a "just-giving" site which enables you to donate on-line and can be accessed through the following link www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Gardner6. If you would like to see the work Dreamflight do you can also access this on-line at www.dreamflight.org.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have already supported Mark.

SARAH & MARK GARDNER

The Great British Fish & Chips Supper

Supporting Spinal Injuries Association
Friday 17 May 2013

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

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

Registered Charity No 1054097



*Megan at Orlando
with the dolphins*





Launch Of Our New School Web Site After a busy couple of months our new web site is up and running! We have been working with Green Schools on Line (a carbon neutral web design company to go with our own 'green' site) to design and develop the web site. It has evolved as small groups have given us feedback and we have added items that we feel will be of use to them. As you can see from the screenshot, the new web site is aimed at Parents, Prospective Parents and anyone who wants to find out about our school. The consultation process with parents and staff was very helpful and the development group has also valued the input of our web site link governor, Kean Gunton. The development group consists of Mr Wright, Ms Hunter, Mr Winward and myself. Our team has been well led by Mr Wright and Ms Hunter and we all are very pleased with the new style web site which continues to be up to date, relevant and 'Bradon' style but is definitely smarter, quicker and easier to navigate. The student E-Team's research on school web sites locally and regionally has been invaluable providing a clear student perspective. The new splash page with the aerial photograph of Purton shows clearly the superb location that Bradon Forest and St Mary's enjoy i.e. 'Purton's education campus'. Students were adamant that they wanted the site to clearly focus on school activities and opportunities, both in and out of the classroom. They were clear from their research that they did not want a site that resembled a corporate business but reflected a vibrant school and learning community. We have taken the opportunity with our new web site to further supplement our regular Parents' Newsletters with a Bradon Forest Twitter feed and a weekly school blog.

Term 3, although short, has been extremely busy. I am delighted that thus far the snow conditions caused only the loss of one day. The work of our grounds contractors (who grit The Peak, the access roads and the car parks) combined with the support of our site team (who grit the walkways and paths) ensured that the site was open, safe and accessible enabling teaching and learning to continue as normal during all the other snow days. Many thanks to all the staff, both teaching and support, for all their work and cooperation that has minimised the effects of the recent awful weather. If unfortunately there is any further snow fall during Term 4, we will do all that we can to ensure the school remains open for business.

Bradon Forest Internet Radio Station News As well as providing a great experience for our students, the Bradon Forest school radio is part of a ground breaking education research project across Wiltshire. The Inspire, Create, Teach project is researching the impact of technology on students' progress. The project aims to formalise our belief that ICT really does make a difference. Bradon Forest's track record of using ICT creatively and innovatively meant that we have received funding from the Wiltshire ICT team to buy the school radio. In return we are sharing our research and its impact. Nearly a year on from first installing the school radio Mr Wright shared his initial findings with colleagues from 50 Wiltshire schools at a recent LA training session.



Term 3: E-Team Interview Bradon Forest Faculties The theme of Bradon

Forest School radio this term has been our Faculties. Members of the e-team have interviewed teachers from MFL, Humanities and Maths to find out why these subjects are important in school and in later life.

Term 4: AGAT Students Revision Support Programmes for KS3 and GCSE

From February our Able Gifted and Talented students will be involved in a new initiative on the school radio. One of the highest level skills is to show your understanding by teaching others. Our AGAT team will prepare and broadcast a range of after school revision shows so students can carry on their learning at home. The shows will feature Key Stage 3 and GCSE topics in the run up to the examination season. The students will work with Mr Wright to identify areas that their peers find most difficult and prepare resources to explain and help others to understand these topics.

Swindon Young Musician of the Year: Five of Bradon's musicians recently participated in the 17th Swindon Young Musician of the Year. Elliot Gunton, Ellen Cleary, Ania Witka, Jake Painter and Jessy Zhang, all represented the school incredibly well as they performed at the Blunsdon House Hotel. The level of talent was fantastic and each participant was encouraged to enjoy the performance and embrace the audience which all five students did. The standard was incredibly high and each performer had the audience captivated. We didn't envy the job of the adjudicator! Thanks must go to the instrumental/vocal teachers for all their support and preparation for the event. Well done to Jake who was placed 2nd in the Junior section and Elliot who was Highly Commended in the Senior section.



English Schools' National Cup Football: Bradon go out in the last 32 on Penalties:

The Year 10 Football team travelled down to Andover to play in the last 32 in the country against John Hanson Community School. The teams were very



motivated and eager to play but the pitch was very heavy and didn't allow the ball to roll nicely for good passing football - the way we like to play. Bradon Forest had the best team but things didn't go our way and at the end of full time it was 2-2. Extra time was cut short to 5 minutes each way and we scored in the first 5 minutes to lead 3-2. With 4 minutes remaining we gave a free kick away outside the box and they launched the ball into a group

of players and the ball bounced off a defender's back into the goal to make it 3-3. Once again the penalties decided the game and this time it was John Hanson Community School who came out with the victory. This has been a great cup run and the boys deserved to be in last 16 but as they say 'that's football'.

Swindon Schools' Basketball: It has been a disappointing year so far by Bradon Forest's standards, as we had hoped to win all four year groups of the Swindon Schools' competitions. Unfortunately things did not go to plan with the Year 8 team going out in an early round losing by 1 point to Ridgeway. The Year 10 did make it to the Swindon finals but lost 44-38 to Churchfields.

Better news came from the Year 9 team who won their final against Ridgeway 31-16 and thus qualify for the county finals. The Year 11 team also qualified for and won their final against Churchfields 69-22.

For the Year 11 it was their final Swindon Schools' game, leaving them unbeaten in all Swindon Schools' matches during their five years at Bradon Forest.

U14 Girls are Runners Up in Basketball County Finals! As Swindon Champions, the U14 girls Basketball squad were looking forward to competing

against other top schools from across Wiltshire. The tournament was played at St John's School, Marlborough. The first match was against St Edmunds, Salisbury, and we took an early lead which we held on to win 8-2. Devizes were next, and the girls really took hold of this game to win 18-2. Another win came against St Laurence, Bradford on Avon, 12-6. We knew the match against St John's would determine the winners. St John's looked well drilled all tournament, but how would the raw



talent of Bradon Forest match up? Everything started off great with a 6-4 lead, but Bradon were missing quite a few shots despite having lots of possession. In the last minutes the team fouls committed led to a free throw that levelled the scores (how many fouls girls!!!) The plan of aggressive netball was evident! Unfortunately another foul allowed St John's to take the lead, and despite our best efforts 8-6 is how it finished. The learning curve of the girls was huge, and they improved individually and as a team with every game. We all agreed St John's deserved to win, but the effort the girls put in, their enjoyment and the silver medals put a smile on everyone's faces.

L SPIERS, Headteacher

Purton Guide Dogs

This month we will be having our delayed Jumble Sale on the 9th in the Silver Threads Hall and 2 pm start. Hope to see you all there. The Scouts will be doing their Fund Raiser in the hall in the morning, so please, if you are not able to wait till after 12 o'clock to bring your donated items, could you put them round the corner above the parking area, and not in front of the doors, as it is a Fire Exit.



Many thanks for all your support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group

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.



■ PADS PANTOMIME

What a brilliant show the Pantomime was! Everything was perfect from the actors, the costumes, the beautiful scenery, the clever lighting and the sound effects. It was a wonderful afternoon and I didn't want it to end.

All I can say is, "Roll on next year!"

Ruth Mills

■ TRANSFORMING PURTON

Through the columns of the Purton Magazine, can we urge everyone to have a look at the on-line report published by Ps and Qs on "Transforming Purton Parish" which challenges all of us to think about what our village will be like for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are so fortunate to have a group in the village with the skills and expertise to prepare such a professional and thought provoking document. Even if you disagree with some of the points made, Ps and Qs have done the village a great service by highlighting long-term issues and demonstrating the need to plan well ahead. Do go to www.purtoninfo.org.uk for your copy

Howard & Mary Smith

■ JOHN VINCENT

Pat, Guy and Lee wish to thank everyone for the many cards, letters and messages received on their sad loss of John. We have been overwhelmed.

Thanks also to our neighbours, Di and Graham, for their understanding, help and kindness over the last 10 years. Also thanks to Tony for such a lovely write-up in Purton Magazine. How lucky we are to live in such a caring community.

Pat Vincent

■ CARING HANDS

I wish to say a big thank-you to Purton village, my family, clients and friends for all your support and encouragement over the last 4 years.

This has enabled me to move forward to expand my business, Caring Hands (Wiltshire) into a small, purpose-built care home, with pre-bookable respite care.

I shall be re-advertising in a future issue of the Magazine, and I thank you all.

Vicki Fowler

PADS Panto

It was suggested that we do a review of the recent Pantomime 'Sinbad the Sailor' but I think the comments elsewhere in the magazine speak volumes. Lots of new faces and some stars from the past ably directed by two young people resulted in an excellent evening of fun and laughter. Congratulations to everyone at PADS both on stage and behind the scenes.

HELEN DIXON

Transforming Purton Parish

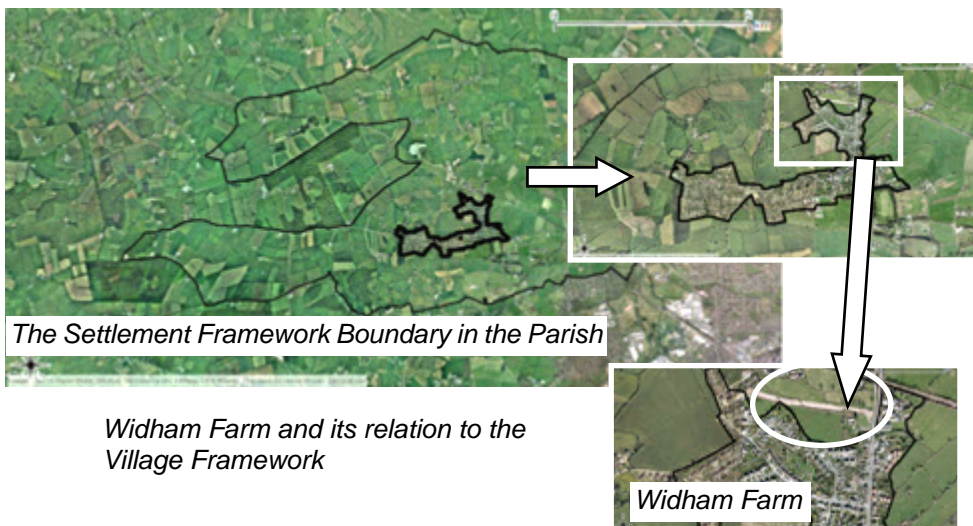
We know that the UK population is already at an all-time high of 60 million with forecasts that add a further 10 million during the next couple of generations. Inevitably, all communities including ours will be forced to change and we should anticipate significant changes to many aspects of parish life. On the bright side, the shape of that future could lie in all our hands – though only if we choose to grasp the nettle.

In January, as a culmination of three years of work, *Ps and Qs* issued the most comprehensive review ever of parish issues that concern us all.

Based on many years' of survey data and thousands of data points, these issues have been analysed and discussed in detail. We hope that those who will be writing the parish plan and the neighbourhood plan will find the report a useful source of information (particularly Appendices 13 and 14 which contain pointers for both of those plans). Our report argues that that short term fixes for some of the seemingly intractable issues that have plagued our parish for years must be carefully designed so as not to compromise the parish in the longer term.

The report is freely downloadable from the *Ps and Qs* web site (www.purtoninfo.org.uk) though it is quite large (at about 5Mb) because it contains some 80+ pages of text supported by 60+ pages of appendices with purpose-designed maps, photographs and diagrams. A hard copy has been placed in Purton Library for all to read. In addition, some of the key findings and messages will be serialised in future issues of the *Purton Magazine*. There is also a leaflet that features the contents page with various examples of the maps, photographs and diagrams, available at various shops and will also be available at the *Ps and Qs Local Day* on Saturday, 23 March (at the Village Hall).

Governments, business leaders and professional bodies (such as the Chartered Institution for Water and Environmental Management) have been trying to develop



systematic ways of assessing vulnerability for some time. The vulnerabilities include the effects on business strategies, on climate change planning, on the security of food chains and so on. One way of looking at this is by computer modelling, specifically using a technique called dependency modelling. That is, modelling that evaluates the interactions between lots of different aspects and assesses what depends on what for its success, and by how much, for how long.

Dependency modelling is well established as a method of looking at vulnerabilities. What Ps and Qs has done is to use this for assessing resilience.

In other words, it looks at something (in this case a house or group of houses) and considers what are the characteristics that determine whether or not a house at a particular location will be resilient (able to withstand shocks such as flooding for instance) or adds resilience to the parish (e.g. is within walking distance to shops).

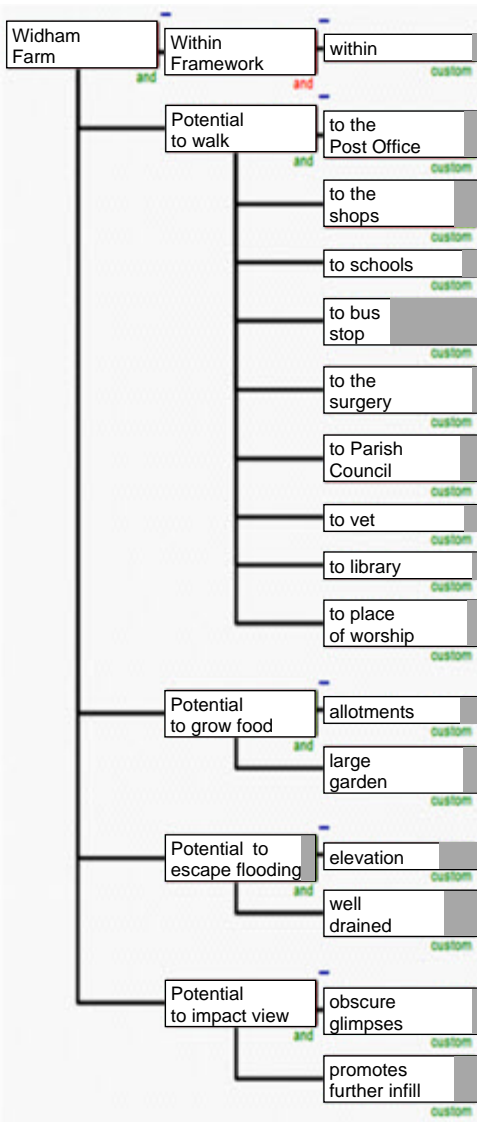
Parish life is becoming ever more affected by its dependency on services and systems, whose interconnectivity are increasingly more apparent.

Consider the following challenges; flooding in the same old places year after year preventing easy access to and from the village, the lack of off-road parking in certain parts of the parish, particularly near to shops, creating nuisance for neighbours, the lack of enforcement for planning breaches which undermines trust, and so on. Each challenge has consequences far beyond its immediate problem.

On the right the modelled output indicates the lack of resilience of the Widham Farm location for housing. The darker it is in each box, the more suitable is the location.

The Ridgeway Farm location was also modelled and indicated even greater lack of resilience.

There are several suitable locations for housing in the parish and the report identifies these.



That robust process enables better and longer term decision-making that avoids difficult compromises in the future that can arise from short term thinking today.

In a ground-breaking exercise, *Ps and Qs* has adopted a web-based approach to dependency modelling, developed by the University of Cardiff, and devised a way of assessing the resilience of a community and how new housing developments may add to that resilience – or even undermine it. During the course of the work for this report, *Ps and Qs* has looked at about twenty different locations in our parish that may potentially come up for housing development. The report then models these locations to assess their various merits in terms of supporting the resilience of the parish (Section 3.8 and Appendix 11). The first example that is included in this article concerns the Widham Farm proposals. The report contains far more detail of course.

RICHARD PAGETT

Appendix 15 of the Report is a *Foresight and Resilience Plan* which summarises a series of potential actions needed (in terms of water, food, energy, waste, health, education, safety, housing, transport, economy, recreation, connectivity and our local democracy) to shape our future in a way that serves us all.

We hope you enjoy reading it and find it illuminating.

Royal British Legion

The lights were switched on the Cenotaph for the birthday of Frank Glass on 12 February.

Frank, together with Michael Hillier (Cricklade), was a great help to us at the Dental & Maxillo-Facial Unit of the old Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon.

RB LAWRENCE,

former employee of the Dental & Maxillo-Facial Unit



Purton Historical Society

On a snowy evening in January we welcomed Mary Bedells from the Swindon Family History Society who talked to us about the fascinating history of shoemaking covering the industry in general, and in particular Rushden, Northamptonshire. What made this talk really interesting was that there was a personal connection for Mary as both her husband's family and her own were involved in the industry.

21 March is the date of our next meeting which is our AGM followed by a talk given by our resident historian Paul Booy 'Titanic Part 2'. Having heard 'Part 1', I am really looking forward to hearing more about this tragic disaster.

We meet at St Mary's Primary School at 7.30 pm. Visitors are most welcome (£3 entrance).



[HELEN DIXON](#), Secretary

As Old as you Feel

Another sign of ageing is when a bright young thing on a tube train stands up to offer you their seat – as recently happened to a Purtonian who was still in his 50s!

MUSIC TIME

Swindon Choral Society

Swindon Choral Society, in Association with the Marlborough Brandt Group, will be performing Bach's St John Passion on Saturday 23 March in Marlborough College Chapel.



The concert will be starting at 7.30 pm (doors open 6.30 pm). It will be conducted by Robin Nelson with professional soloists and orchestra.

Tickets cost £15 (concessions £13). One under-18-year-old free with a full-paying adult. Tickets can be bought from the Society's web site at www.swindonchoral.org.uk, Swindon Information Centre in the Central Library, from choir members or White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge in Marlborough.

For further details contact Kath Danswan. tel 01793 533268.

News from the Cricklade Band

Like the rest of 2012, rain was the main theme of the band's festive carol-playing. Or not ... we managed to avoid the worst of it by sheer chance! We were out and about in Cricklade and all the surrounding villages right the way through December. The response to our 'Wassailing' was thankfully as good as ever. In days of yore the carol-playing money paid for the coming year's rehearsal room rent and anything left over was split between the musicians. Not any more!

Nowadays, we still fund our rehearsal facilities and we also donate a sizeable chunk to a worthy cause. In fact, we decided on two worthy causes in 2012. The Cedars Residential Care Home in Purton and Ashgrove House Nursing Home, also in Purton, shared the 2012 donation. These two care homes provide excellent pastoral, social and medical care, specially in end-of-life circumstances and not only to residents but also with high regard to the families of residents, many of whom are local to Cricklade and Purton. Their efforts remain largely unsung and they maintain a low profile – we thought they needed a bit of recognition for all that they do. So, everyone in the band thanks you for all your kind donations – and also on behalf of the care homes who may look after us one day.

On to 2013 – we hope it's a good year for all of us. The band's event list for the year is almost full and sees us returning to Bath, Bournemouth, Chippenham, Cirencester and Swindon bandstands. We're also waiting for confirmation of other events, Marlborough Jazz Festival and Cheltenham Music Festival being just a couple. We also have our usual listing of local community events.

BandAcademy continues apace with our trainee youngsters and not-so-youngsters taking part in a music festival in Hungerford and also joining the 'big band' in concerts. If you have a New Year's resolution as yet unfulfilled to learn to play an instrument then we would be pleased to see you. Just call into *The Club at Cricklade* on Monday or Thursday evenings and say hello. If learning to play wouldn't quite suit then maybe you'd like to join our Crew instead. Have a look at the website thecrickladeband.co.uk for all the information you might need.

PAUL HEWER



Purton Helping Hand – 50th Anniversary ...

... Quite an achievement with many ups and downs. There will be plenty going on with the Carnival two weeks 14 - 30 June with many other events throughout the year. Below is an idea of events taking place so get weaving and decide what you want to attend – we hope you will support us and make this a special year.

Coffee Morning, Family Skittles, Bingo, Pig Roast, Five-a-Side Football, Round the Houses Race, Under-Fives Party, Crib, Carnival Lunch, Carnival Golf ... Finishing with Procession and Fete on 29 June.

If you can spare a little time to help we will welcome you with open arms.

All enquiries to Pauline.

PAULINE, Secretary

Carnival Procession

I am really pleased to say that the entries to the procession on 29 June are continuing to come in. This month we have agreement from the WI, Parish Council, Guide dogs and the Historical Society to take part. There are some more in the pipeline, but we are going to need a sudden influx of entries if we are going to make the 50 that we are aiming for. So, please, please, please think about whether you could represent your group, job, club, street, family and join in what should be the best procession for many years (if not best ever!) If you can, then please let me know on marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk or 772298.

MARY NETTLETON

Bollywood Night Success!

Many, many thanks to everyone who attended our Bollywood night at *The Maharajah* in February. Special thanks to Khalique for helping us with our first fundraiser for our new Scout Centre. We all had a really enjoyable evening with lively music, and the chance to dress in beautiful traditional Sari, and of course great food!



You may be wondering what the 'new Scout Centre' is all about and why we need to rebuild the old hut when we can meet in the Millennium Hall or the Youth Centre.

Prior to 2000 the Scout and Guide Hut was used on a regular basis for Scout and Guide meetings. It was however deteriorating badly and once the Millennium Hall was completed in 2001 all meetings were transferred to it on a rental basis, administered by the Parish Council.

A lengthy process then ensued to enable the sale of the Guides' share in the building to the Scouts which was eventually completed in 2008. In the meantime the condition of the hut deteriorated further whilst the future ownership was uncertain, as we were unable to refurbish it. Unfortunately this deterioration had progressed too far by the time the Scouts acquired full ownership and its use only continued as a storage facility and the occasional craft/go-cart building – the only

facility available for such activities. Even this is no longer possible.

Scouting remains the most popular voluntary youth movement in the world. Our Group has grown over the past 5 years, now offering scouting to approximately **60 young people** every week and with a leader team of 12 adults. Our 3 sections meet at the Youth Centre and the Millennium Hall.

In the recent Parish Plan survey, the old hut was described as 'ugly', having made the commitment to rebuild; we are now all fundraising in earnest! We do not want to disappoint our young people of the village and look to strengthening the Scouting opportunity for the youth to come!

We would like to provide a purpose-built centre, where it doesn't matter if the young people make a mess from time to time building a 'rocket' for example and where they can display their work and personalise their space. It would bring the potential for an exciting and modern provision, expanding the Scouts' horizon! We could all meet together, under one roof, in the true sense of scouting; 'as a family'.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event: **A Mother's Day Market at the Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 9 March at 10 until 12 noon** where there will be lovely cakes, flowers, crafts, tombola, nail painting and much more!

With thanks again for the generous support and interest we have received to date,
JAN FISHER, Assistant Group Scout Leader

Our Goodbye - Life in a Small Village

I moved to Purton from the States a little over three years ago. When I first arrived, the transition from small town to village life and from the US to England was daunting. I did not know anyone, had trouble navigating (roundabouts are fun!), had trouble being understood (it seems we speak a different language) and I kept forgetting about shop hours on Sundays. That, along with various other differences, made the change to England challenging, but the wonderful village life in Purton made the stress of the change worthwhile. I cannot imagine a place I would rather live than Purton.

It is a beautiful community with lovely local buildings and a wonderful old church. Milk is delivered right to your doorstep and the corner shop is within walking distance. People walk to pick their children up from school and courteous behaviour still exists. Villagers take pride in their residences, working their gardens into floral grandeur and they take the time to stop and admire their neighbour's hard work as well.

Although it took some time for people to warm up to me as another stranger in the village, people were almost always kind and helpful. The staff in the corner shop remember my name and ask after my family, the butcher is always willing to do a special cut of meat for one of my American recipes, and pub and eateries in the area work hard to remember my regular orders. I am impressed at how these shops form the backbone of the village, they are the community gathering places and help to keep us all connected. It seems that you cannot step into one of these places without running into someone you know and using the time there to catch up on the latest news and gossip.



During the recent snow it was also apparent that people still look out for their neighbours. The men took the time to check up on each of the neighbours and helped to dig out drives and cars so people could still get around, while the children all played in the lane. I know as well, when I have been poorly in the past, a few neighbours have stopped by to check up on me.

I know this is not always the Purton that we see as we rush around our busy daily lives, but it is still there and flourishing. There is still a strong sense of community that ties us all together. I think we would all do well to remember life here is very special and should be treasured. I know I will continue to work to make this community a better place, even after *Ps and Qs* has retired.

What a nice tribute to Purton, a fitting end to our series of articles after more than 18 years with what started out as a talk at the Evening WI in 1994. We would like to thank all our supporters and correspondents (and the thousands of emails, letters, calls and conversations) during the years. As a final tribute to all that is good in the parish, *Ps and Qs* will be hosting the Local Day on Saturday 23 March in the Village Hall (9.30 am to 1.30 pm) – we all retire later that day! The Parish Council is taking our display boards and these will be available for use by any parish community organisation. Do come to the Local Day and find out all that our parish businesses and organisations have to offer.

Compiled by Lindsay Hollway for *Ps and Qs*
Ps and Qs stands for Purton's Qualities

Valuing Community Life - campaigning for resilient communities - 1994 - 2013
www.purtoninfo.org.uk

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Technology! It's official ... it got the better of me!

My apologies to you if you have been trying to contact me by email and failed. This could be for 2 reasons – one that my email address was incorrect in my last article (my fault, sorry). It should be: rwbrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk. My phone number remains the same as 07557 110414. Secondly, the server (some clever bit of kit at my main office) got a virus and was being very picky about accepting emails. I am told that this has now been fixed. If only the viruses we catch were as speedily cured!

This leads me to thinking about modern life and how frustrating it can be when we know what we want, but can't make it happen. Sometimes it's because we can't identify who can help or because the people who can help are difficult to get through to on the phone. Other information is only available on the Internet.

Accessing information is one of the ways that I may be able to help. Technology does sometimes get the better of me, but I won't be defeated!

Give me a call on 07557 110414 or (dare I say it) email me on rwbrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk.



ELLEN BLACKER
Good Neighbour Co-ordinator

Spring is in the air!!!

Now the light nights are on their way, why not make the most of them and come and play some social tennis?

The social membership for this year is only £60 for an adult and the family social membership is only £100. This would be a great way of keeping the children entertained over the Easter Holidays. Our membership secretary Mary Turner (01793 771486) would be happy to talk through the options for you.

Please visit our web site purtontennis.net as it makes a good read and keeps you informed of the social events, fee rates, coaching availability and match calendars.

We are also entering many teams into the Swindon and District Tennis League this year, 11 adult teams and 4 junior at all levels. If you are interested in playing for us and would enjoy competing against local clubs then contact Nicola Gardner (01793 770681) or Justin Miller (07881 020002) our captains.

STEPH BROWN, Secretary

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

As the club enters season 193, we are presenting an exhibition on aspects of our history from 1820 to the present day in the Purton Museum during the months of March and April. It will be open to view during library hours which are:- Monday/Friday 2 - 5 pm, Tuesday 2 - 7 pm and Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm.



With the season's start just six weeks away practice in the nets and work on the ground have started in earnest. At the beginning of April (5th, 6th & 7th) the club will take part in the ECB 'Cricket Force' weekend when repairs to the buildings, painting and preparing the square and outfield for play will take place.

On 27 April the club's 'Race Night' will take place at the Red House starting at 8.30 pm. We hope all players and supporters of Purton cricket will there to support us.

From the Archives

In his book 'Sportscrapiana', C.A.Wheeler, who lived in Swindon at the same time as E.H.Budd lived in Wroughton gives some interesting details about Budd's family.

'In accounting for the name Hayward we have heard Mr Budd remark, "My mother's name was Hayward. Her father was Rector of Uley in Glostershire (sic). I have heard her say that my father was the handsomest man she ever saw when, after a runaway match, they married. I can make allowance for a fond wife's opinion of her husband's appearance, who I may at all events say, was a fine specimen of Saxon blood – a powerful athletic man of liberal and gentlemanly character. The result of their marriage was sixteen children, eleven of whom lived to be about forty.

My brother, Captain Hopewell Budd, whom you know so well, is in his eighty-seventh year, my brother William lived to be eighty-eight, my sister Mrs Angell, eighty four and my brother Captain Henry, was seventy-nine, and now, as I am in my eighty-second year, it seems to me there's some toughish stuff in us!'

Edward Hayward Budd, famous England cricketer, and Purton player from 1825-1852, died in 1875 at the age of 90.

JOE GARDNER

Purton & District Darts League



This is the first of what I hope to be a monthly update of the Purton and District Darts League.

So far this season we have seen some fabulous darts with over forty 180s scored so far. We have also had the Leatherbarrow Competition in December and this was won by Martin Richell, James Forty and Hannah Forty who beat off a strong team of Jim McDonald, Andy Bowers and Rosemary McDonald as runners up. It was a competitive evening of darts and we saw some very close games. Thank you to everyone who participated and made it an enjoyable evening and to The Angel for hosting.

Also in December we held the Christmas Darts Competition. Again it was well attended and thanks to everyone who bought raffle prizes and purchased raffle tickets, as we made a grand total of £150.00. This money is being sent to Macmillan Cancer Support and they will be very grateful to your generosity. The overall winners were Martin and Kevin Richell with James and Hannah Forty in second place – well done to you all. Thank you to the Red House for staging the event.

Last week we played the 4-a-side competition and thanks to The Angel, The Red House, The Bell and Purton Club for hosting the teams. Each venue saw some brilliant games with two 180s being registered for Robert Cook and Luke Gough (if there were any others, my apologies but they were not on the sheets). The final four teams who are to play on Finals Night are Purton Club X, Phoenix B, Purton Club B and Red House C. Congratulations to you all and we look forward to some competitive games on the night.

I would like to ask that the dart cards are completed clearly and add your team name to the sheet, you would be surprised how many leave it blank! Also these cards need to be either posted or popped through my door before the following week as I need to update the web site as soon as possible. I would appreciate everyone helping me to do this. Thanks Emoji.

Thanks also to the Committee for their continued support whilst I find my feet and to Alison Evans who still helps me out. Special thanks to all of the darts teams who help make the Purton and District Darts League – thanks guys (and girls) as without you we would not have a league!

If you have anything that you would like me to add to the monthly blog, please contact me either on 0776 499 4933 or pop and see me at 36 Pavenhill, or failing that, drop a note through my door!

LISA MARTIN, Secretary/Treasurer

Wiltshire Celebration of Diversity Event - Registered Charity No: 1096008

Fun-Filled Day for Everybody! Come and experience the wonderful work of groups and services within the county of Wiltshire. It will give you the opportunity to share, taste and hear successes from various organisations and groups in Wiltshire.

Saturday 9 March, from 11 am to 2 pm at Bridge House, Trowbridge.

If you require further information please contact the ECBL team on 0845 872 5641 or email enquiries@ecbl.org.uk or visit our website www.ecbl.org.uk

Culture Food Music Dance Arts/Crafts Stands

Exhibit of the Month: Tithes

Local Tithes

Tithes were a form of local taxation which ensured that the rector of each parish received as part of his income, a tenth of the produce of the lands. The notion which has Old Testament origins, was imposed during Saxon times in England and was embodied in statute law in 1391. It continued despite powerful resistance until 1936.



The exceptional size of Purton's tithe barn (*above*) gives some indication of the wealth of the parish and the prosperity of Malmesbury Abbey into whose coffers the tithes were placed. The Abbey owned most of the land in Purton in medieval times. Great monasteries owned numerous manors, each of which was required to render tithes in kind, on all that they produced. The Abbot appointed the vicar of Purton and no doubt allowed him to take a necessary share of deposited produce. It is also likely that a careful check was kept on an appreciable surplus which would have been taken for use or sale by the Abbey.

A distinction was drawn between the 'great' tithes of corn, hay and wool, and the 'small' tithes related to the stock and the fruits of men's labour. Originally churches had incumbent rectors who received all the parish tithes. When a vicar, or substitute was nominated, the great tithes usually remained part of the rectorial estate and the small tithes part of the advowsement of the Vicarage.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, the great tithes often passed through the Crown to laymen and later could be broken up and sold as they were in Purton. To avoid payment in kind, tithes were sometimes leased to the owner or tenant of the associated lands.

As considerable changes occurred in agricultural practice and new crops were introduced, the system of tithes was constantly questioned. For convenience they were also replaced by annual payments which were agreed and fixed by custom. By the early 19th century the system had become very complex and was bitterly resented by many farmers. It resulted in countless disputes and obstructive practices, of which the following local story is a good example.

Injustice in the Tithe System

In 1809 the advowson of the living of Lydiard Millicent was sold by a Mr Davis to the Reverend Dr Warneford, who then became entitled to the tithe income. "It was common talk in the village that Dr Warneford had been assured that the tithe had not been valued for years and was therefore able to bear a large increase. It had been raised only a very short time before and the farmers were still smarting under the increased tithe. Dr Warneford before even visiting the village sent his agent to re-value the tithe which led to a serious outbreak of indignation."

The farmers compelled him to take the tithe in kind and as the greater part of the parish was dairy land, his tenth part of the milk was put out for him at the appointed place. The man who collected the tithe had a considerable distance to travel to

each of the farms. This resulted in the milk being exposed to many risks before it could be carried to the Rectory dairy and made into cheese.

It was said that greyhounds belonging to the people of the Manor House knew where to find it and feasted on it. The situation resulted in "great ill-will" in the parish and the tithe falling to one half of its value before it reached the Rector's pocket.

Reforms to the System of Tithing and the End of Tithes

The great Tithe Act of 1836 provided for the replacement of tithe payments in kind, by an agreed tithe rent charge, which was undoubtedly a more convenient arrangement for all concerned. During the sixteen years between 1836 and 1852, the Tithe Commission had effected one of the major redistributions of English property.

Some lands must have been sold under the provisions of the Glebe Lands Act 1888, as the Vicar of Purton received a document from the Ecclesiastical Commission in 1907, telling him that he would in future receive dividends on 3% India Stock. This idea was further negotiated and by 1936 a final Tithe Act was passed resulting in the issuing of stock to compensate the Church for the loss of its tithe rents, which were thereby abolished. The tithe owners under this act, paid for the ending of their rent obligation and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners benefited from the acquisition of a considerable investment.

The Rev John Veysey was the last Purton Vicar to receive some of his income from tithes. It is not known how much he received in dividends but he and Mrs Veysey undoubtedly preferred to have a regular cheque, than to endure the alienation of the local farmers which must have worried former incumbents.

This article is drawn from "Records & Recollections of Purton & District" by the late Alec Robbins, the first curator of Purton Museum. The book is still available from Purton Historical Society.

As always, there will be clearer pictures on the Museum's 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 - 5pm

Merchant's House Spring Lecture

The Merchant's House Spring Fund Raising lecture will be given by Jon Cannon, journalist, BBC presenter, architectural historian and author, at 7 pm on Thursday 7 March at St Peter's Church Marlborough.

The lecture is entitled "Continuous Reformation? How the timeless architecture of old English Churches is anything but". The lecture also addresses what happened to our cathedrals during the Commonwealth when Puritan worship was in its ascendancy.

Jon Cannon lives in Ogbourne St George and has become the BBC's 'cathedral man' following a successful TV Series.

Tickets: £14 (£11 MH Friends) available now from The Merchant's House, 132 High Street, Marlborough, in Aid of The Merchant's House Appeal.

JEFFREY GALVIN-WRIGHT, 01672 519338
